

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
ETD OFFICES, 91 N. Main Street, Middletown, CT with Remote Options
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024, at 9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Timothy C. Griswold, Chair at 9:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with the following committee members present: JoAnn Ewing, East Hampton Senior Center Director (via ZOOM); Will Goble, Program Director, Vista Life Innovations (via ZOOM); Beverly Lawrence, ETD Board Member (via ZOOM); and Laurie McElwee, South Central Connecticut Regional Mobility Manager at the Kennedy Collective (via ZOOM)

Staff: Joe Comerford, Christina Denison, and Brendan Geraghty

Guest: Bonnie Berkovich, Town of East Hampton, Committee on Aging

Absent: Courtney DiMenna, Student Support Manager, Vista Life Innovations; Heather Granja, ACES Early Head Start Program Coordinator; Tim Kellogg, Head of Public Services, E.E. Scranton Memorial Library, Madison, and ETD rider; and Artha Slade, Middletown Resident and ETD rider.

JoAnn Ewing announced her retirement. Bonnie Berkovich will serve in her stead.

REVIEW OF PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING SERVICE CHANGES

Brendan Geraghty, Transit Planner, reported that two public meetings regarding the proposed service changes to take place this Spring were recently held, one in Westbrook and one in Middletown. No negative comments were received.

DISCUSSION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES

Geraghty reported that based on both driver and rider feedback received from the service changes that were made in October, several routes are being “tweaked.” Service changes are planned for May, and the implementation process includes hiring new drivers, updating the website and apps, and revising, printing, and distributing new brochures.

Joe Comerford reported that the district is participating in a State-wide pilot program to train individuals to get their CDL’s and to train current CDL drivers to get the proper endorsements.

DISCUSSION OF OPEN FARE PAYMENT PILOT

Geraghty reported that the district is participating in a state sponsored fare program along with NE Transit District. CTDOT will be installing validators on the buses which will allow for fare capping on the fixed routes. Driver and rider focus groups are planned, and a State-wide rollout is expected in late summer or early fall.

MICROTRANSIT PILOT PRESENTATION

Geraghty reported:

- RVT has received funding for 3 pilot programs in Middletown, East Hampton, and Madison/Guilford.
- Additional drivers need to be hired.
- A marketing strategy is being developed.
- Targeted launch date is May 28.

UPDATE ON PASSIO IMPLEMENTATION

Geraghty reported that many technology upgrades have been installed on the buses with very little issue. Upgrades to the terminal, Madison Gazebo and the Old Saybrook train station are behind schedule.

NEW BUSINESS –

State Bus Shelter Pilot

Geraghty reported that the State is pushing to install bus stops and shelter enhancements across the State and the district has been asked to prioritize 10 stops in the region. The district has received new bus stop signs and Geraghty is working on having them installed.

Taxi Voucher Program

Comerford reported that a RFP has been issued to solicit bidders for a Taxi Voucher program vendor. An update will be available at the next meeting.

Geraghty and Comerford were available to respond to any questions/comments from committee members.

Laurie McElwee and Geraghty will host a program at the Meriden Senior Center later in the month.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Next Meeting—The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Denison
Clerk

