

**ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
MEETING
APRIL 13, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Estuary Transit District Legislative Committee was called to order by Chairman Joan Gay at 10:09 a.m. at the Estuary Transit Offices, Centerbrook, Connecticut.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance included: Virginia Zawoy and Joan Gay

Staff: Joseph Comerford and Chris Denison

PLEDGE

Joan Gay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Joan reported that after many attempts she had finally gotten a response from Sen. Ted Kennedy's office. She and Joe will be meeting with his aide on Wednesday, April 15 at the Legislative Office Building.

Joe has been in contact with all of the other representatives in the area. The Committee reviewed the contact list of representatives and made several suggestions for corrections. Chris will make the suggested revisions and the list will be distributed to all Board members.

Joe reported that he attended the Connecticut Association of Community Transportation's "Stand Up for Transportation" rally in Hartford on April 9, 2015. The rally was an effort to call attention to the importance of infrastructure investment and the need for a long-term surface transportation authorization bill. MAP-21, which is the federal surface transportation legislation, expires on May 31. Gov. Malloy was the keynote speaker. Sen. Chris Murphy, Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty, and DOT Commissioner James Redker were also featured. The event was well attended and received good media coverage. The Connecticut delegation supports a long-term bill as well as an increase in funding.

Joe reported that all three transportation bills died in Committee. However, he expected there to be "tack-ons" in the future. He noted that Sen. Osten's Proposed Bill

No. 262 which would require all vehicles that provide public transportation to be inspected just as intrastate and interstate bus companies are continues to be a “hot item” and is expected to be a “tack-on”. Joe stated that this bill will need to be followed closely and the District will be speaking with others on the Transportation Committee to express its concerns. Jesse MacLachlan and Devin Carney are aware of the situation. John Forbis will be contact with Sen. Osten regarding this matter.

Joe also stressed the importance of watching the budget and having more conversations with DOT to make certain that the District receives level funding. Joe noted that it is a very delicate matter because while the District, which covers three urban areas, would like to be a direct recipient of federal funds which are appropriated for urban areas , it also does not want to lose rural funding for operating costs.

NEXT STEPS

Together with the Route 81 Committee, the Committee continues to work with RivCog on a federal CMAQ (Congestion, Mitigation, Air Quality) Grant which would provide funding for the Rt. 81 project for 3 years. The District has received approximately 80 letters of support.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR APRIL 17, 2015 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Joan Gay suggested having a thank you breakfast or luncheon for our State Reps. and Senators at the end of the current legislative session in June. The Committee will meet in late May to discuss this matter further.

ADJOURNMENT

Joan Gay made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. Virginia Zawoy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Denison
Administrative Secretary

Joan Gay
Chairman