

**ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT  
COMBINED LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE AND RT. 81 COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**March 31, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The combined meeting of the Estuary Transit District Legislative Committee and the Route 81 Committee was called to order by Joseph Comerford at 9:06 a.m. at the Estuary Transit Offices, Centerbrook, Connecticut.

**ROLL CALL**

Those in attendance included: Virginia Zawoy, John Forbis, Joan Gay, Liz Glidden and Darlene Briggs

Staff: Joe Comerford, Ryan Visci and Christina Denison

Guests: Ellen Grant, WRTD Director

**PLEDGE**

Joe Comerford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Joe reported that the two bills Sen. Linares introduced on behalf of the District died in committee.

He also reported that Sen. Osten plans to insert the bill she introduced (Bill 262) regarding the periodic inspections of public transit buses into another bill. Joe noted that DOT and many of the transit districts oppose this bill. Joe asked John Forbis to contact Sen. Osten with the District's concerns focusing on the redundancy of the bill.

Joe also reported that DOT would like to rebrand all transit districts within the state to CT Transit. Joe noted that the District will watch this matter closely.

Joe also reported that the State association is working with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to focus on the urgency of the passage of a long-term, federal transportation bill.

### **UPDATE ON RT. 81 PROJECT**

Joe reported that Rep. Tom Vicino had hoped to introduce a bill in support of the project; however, he was not re-elected. Since the election, the District has been working on developing a relationship with the newly elected CGA members, several of who are on the Transportation Committee. Joe has been in contact with Rep. Devin Carney, Rep. Jesse MacLachlan and Senators Paul Formica and Art Linares. Rep. MacLachlan and Sen. Linares have been very involved and supportive. Joan will continue to pursue Sen. Kennedy and Joe will contact Sen. Joe Courtney.

Joe reported that DOT Commissioner Redeker urged the District to work with RiverCOG to get funding through their CMAQ grant. The grant application is due mid-April. Joe stressed the importance of receiving support letters from “key” parties. The committees reviewed the list of those who have all ready responded with a letter of support and compiled a list of those who should be contacted. Chris Denison will forward contact information and project information to members.

Joe noted that if funding is not available through CMAQ, other avenues could be explored. He noted that the Governor’s budget is a “transportation” budget, but is generally slated for large cities.

Joe also stressed the importance of getting a representative from Madison to serve on the Rt. 81 Committee and to attend Board meetings. John Forbis will pursue this project.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The committees will focus their efforts on the Rt. 81 and shoreline expansion programs and work on getting letters of support.

### **APPOINTMENT OF JOAN GAY AS ACTING CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Virigina Zawoy made a motion to appoint Joan Gay as Chairman of the Legislative Committee. John Forbis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR APRIL 17, 2015 BOARD MEETING**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**John Forbis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. Joan Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Denison  
Administrative Secretary

Virginia Zawoy  
Chairman

Joan Gay  
Chairman