

**ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING AND
MEETING MINUTES**

February 4, 2014

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

The Estuary Transit District Transit Advisory Committee held a meeting and Public Hearing on February 4, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the Essex Town Hall, Room A, Essex, Connecticut. This was the second of two (2) public hearings to be held. Written statements will be accepted until February 4, 2014.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Forbis called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those in attendance included: John Forbis; Mary Seidner, Lymes' Youth Service Bureau; and Scott Taylor (alternate), VISTA Vocational

Absent: Jean Mathon; Judy Potter; and Courtney Burks, Westbrook Senior Center

Guests: Leslie Strauss and Ralph Eno

Staff: Joe Comerford, Allison Meshnick, Halyna Famiglietti and Christina Denison

PLEDGE

John Forbis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

FARE INCREASES

Joe stated the purpose of the hearing is to receive public input on the District's proposed fare increases. He noted that this was the second of two public hearings; the first held on January 30, 2014 at the Westbrook Town Hall, and the period to receive written comments would end on February 4, 2014. After the hearings and written comment period, the committee would make recommendations to the Board.

Leslie Strauss questioned the proposed increase of the monthly pass. John Forbis explained the Board approved a 15% discount on the cost of the monthly passes, rather the industry standard of 10%, as a means of offering a greater benefit to riders of limited income.

Chairman Foribs opened the public hearing at 1:15 p.m. and asked for public comment.

Public Comment:

None

Written Comment:

Patricia Martin wrote in opposition to any and all fare increases. A copy of Ms. Martin's comment is available upon request.

NEEDS OF MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mensimah Shabazz, Director of Academic Initiatives, Middlesex Community College, was unable to attend the meeting. She will be re-scheduled to speak at a future meeting.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2014 BOARD MEETING

Joe reported that the Kennedy Center has assigned a mobility trainer to the region. The committee reviewed and discussed the list of "Travel Training Options" which was distributed at the meeting. Allison Meshnick indicated that the dispatchers are aware of training options and make suggestions to riders, if necessary. Mary Seidner suggested sending the list of training options to the senior centers and social service directors in the area.

The committee also briefly reviewed the guide "Getting Around Eastern Connecticut—A Mobility Guide", which was compiled by the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium, Inc. ("ECTC") Leslie Strauss recommended that ECTC be contacted regarding updating the District's information. Joe reported that Betty Jones from VISTA Vocational has been working with the South Central COG on developing a mobility manager in the region similar to ECTC's.

ADJOURNMENT

Joe Comerford announced that the written comment period was now closed. There being no public comment, John Forbis made a motion that the Transit Advisory Committee recommend that the Board of Directors approve the proposed fare increase of a 10-Ride ticket booklet from \$11.75 to \$13.50, effective April 1, 2014. The Transit Advisory Committee also recommends that the Board of Directors approve the proposed fare increase of a monthly pass from \$47.00 to \$51.00, effective April 1, 2014. Cash fares remain unchanged.

Mary Seidner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**John Forbis made a motion to adjourn the public hearing and meeting at 2:30 p.m.
Mary Seidner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Denison
Administrative Secretary

John Forbis
Chairman