

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

**JANUARY 30, 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 January 30, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Westbrook Town Hall, Multi-Media Room, Westbrook, Connecticut. This was the first of two (2) public hearings to be held. The second hearing will be held on February 4, 2014.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman John Forbis called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Those in attendance included: John Forbis; Judy Potter; Courtney Burks, Westbrook Senior Center; Mary Seidner, Lymes' Youth Service Bureau; and Scott Taylor (alternate), VISTA Vocational

Absent: Jean Mathon

Staff: Joe Comerford, Allison Meshnick 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 explained that the proposed increases are in response to the increases that went into effect on January 19, 2014 by CT Transit. He noted that no changes are being made to the cash price or to the senior fare. The 10-trip booklet price would increase from \$11.75 to \$13.50, and the monthly pass would increase from \$47.00 to \$51.00. Joe stressed the importance of being competitive with CT Transit because we accept each other's transfers. John Forbis reported that the Board approved a 15% discount on the cost of the monthly passes as a means of increasing ridership, while at the same time offering a greater benefit to riders of limited income.

Joe noted that this is the first of two public hearings; the second hearing to be held on February 4, 2014 at the Essex Town Hall. Written comments would be accepted until

that date. After the second hearing, the committee would make recommendations to the Board.

Chairman Forbis opened the public hearing at 5:45 p.m. and asked for public comment.

Public Comment:

David Raffi asked if the cash price would be affected. Joe Comerford said it would not, only the 10-ride booklet price and monthly passes would increase.

**EAST HADDAM SERVICE**

Joe reported that service began on January 15 and has generated a lot of interest. The service has been advertised through various media, including a mass mailing to all residents. Joe and Allison have met with potential “large” users in the area, including the Goodspeed Opera House and Franklin Academy.

**DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 21, 2014 BOARD MEETING**

Joe reported that he recently met with the new area mobility trainer from the Kennedy Center and will forward the contact information to the committee members. The committee discussed various travel training options in the region.

Scott Taylor will discuss VISTA Vocational’s travel training program at a future meeting.

John Forbis recommended putting together a directory of transportation options in the area. Joe reported that the region has gotten funding from the State to hire a mobility manager for the region.

Scott Taylor suggested investigating the connecting times between the Shoreline Shuttle and the Southeast shuttle. Joe noted that the drivers will be instructed to hold the bus at Stop & Shop.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further public comments, John Forbis made a motion to adjourn the public hearing and meeting at 6:30 p.m. Courtney Burks seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Denison  
Administrative Secretary

John Forbis  
Chairman