

## SERCCOT Meeting Minutes 12/11/2025

Howland-Green Public Library & Virtual, New Bedford

<b>In-Person:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dan Brogan, SRPEDD</li><li>- Andrea Duarte-Campos, SRPEDD</li><li>- Sisar Botelho, SRPEDD</li></ul>	<b>Virtual:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kerri Victorio, GATRA</li><li>• Angela Constantino, GATRA</li><li>• Mandy Aquino, SRTA</li><li>• Maria Foster, MassDOT</li><li>• Amber Davis, SRPEDD</li><li>• Noah Soutier, SRPEDD</li><li>• Dick Shafer, Taunton</li><li>• Bonnie Roalsen, AECOM</li><li>• Eric Andrade, Groundworks</li><li>• Alan Slavin, SMMPO/Wareham</li><li>• Dr. Gloria Saddler, Fall River</li></ul>
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### **Introduction & Transit Updates:**

- Dan Brogan shared that the Gateway Link, connecting Fall River, Taunton and Brockton, has had increasing ridership. Mr. Brogan highlighted a conversation that occurred on the Gateway Link where a Fall River resident shared that they were able to see their family in Brockton for the first time “in years due to this free service.” Brogan also provided updates on the Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) and shared that the applications are currently being reviewed.
- Dan acknowledged concerns with food insecurity following the policy pause on SNAP, and how SRPEDD responded to this food insecurity by developing an interactive transit-accessible food pantry dashboard.

### **Food Access & Safety in Transportation (FAST) Plan – Noah Soutier**

- Most of the SERCCOT meeting was oriented around food security and food access within the Southeastern Region of Massachusetts.
- Noah Soutier shared a presentation on regional food access in Southeastern Massachusetts. Mr. Soutier emphasized that there is increasing food insecurity in Southeastern MA, and that some communities like Fall River and New Bedford are amongst the most food insecure in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

- In 2024, more than 1 in 3 households (37%) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts reported experiencing food insecurity within the last year (GBFB, 2025). This number reflects a continued upward trend, year over year, in the total number of individuals (roughly 2 million) who have shared concerns about where their next meal would be sourced from.
- Mr. Soutier discussed how for Phase 1 of this plan, SMMPO staff held multiple meetings with a variety of community-based organizations that provide food access-related services to subpopulations within the SMMPO region. These community partners represent a broad constituent base – from at-risk children and families to elderly populations, local farmers, and SNAP recipients. A wide range of priorities and concerns were discussed. The following list provides both the organization contacted and the date of communication .During these meetings, community partners were asked to provide feedback and expertise regarding regional food access and transportation concerns and how their organization helped support regional food access and resiliency efforts.
- Mr. Brogan shared a draft interactive FAST Dashboard, which showed food pantries and free meal services that are within a ¼ mile radius of fixed-route and on-demand public transit routes in Southeastern Massachusetts. This dashboard shows how many pantries are on a certain route and bus stop, the hours of operation, spoken languages at the pantry, and points of contact for the pantries.
- Mr. Brogan stated that most food pantries in the region are accessible by public transit, though there are a few pantries that are along transit routes that operate outside of RTA hours of operation.
- Angie Constantino pointed out that GATRA has some deviations specifically for food pantries in Attleboro.
- Mandy Aquino asked if there are any food pantries along the Gateway Link, and Dan shared that “we are working on adding the Gateway Link Route and any potential pantries along this corridor.”
- Alan Slavin, Director of Damien Food Pantry in Wareham, shared support for this food pantry dashboard and asked when this dashboard would be available. Dan shared that we are trying to get this resource out to the community for “early 2026,” and that we are coordinating with MassDOT to make sure this resource is accessible to all.
- Andrea Duarte-Campos expressed support for the FAST plan and dashboard and suggested partnering with Councils on Aging to broadcast COA-based food pantries. Many of these pantries aren’t advertised online though are a vital source of food security for older adults in the region.

