

# Southeastern Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2025 - Hybrid  
Microsoft Teams/Fall River Library, Fall River, MA

<b>In-Person:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dan Brogan, SRPEDD</li><li>- Andrea Duarte, SRPEDD</li><li>- Noah Soutier, SRPEDD</li><li>- Gloria Saddler, Fall River</li></ul>	<b>Virtual:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Amber Davis, SRPEDD</li><li>- Alan Slavin, Town of Wareham</li><li>- Rebekah Rose, SRPEDD</li><li>- Martha Reed, Fairhaven</li><li>- Jessica Diaz, Triumph Inc.</li><li>- Bruce Webb, Fairhaven</li></ul>
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## Introduction

- Dan Brogan invited SERCCOT members for community presentations on topics of interest related to transportation obstacles and opportunities within SRPEDD's region
- RIPTA plans to participate in the March meeting.

## Improved Virtual Accessibility for Future SERCCOT Meetings

- Future SERCCOT meetings will have a wide camera and room mics to ensure that virtual SERCCOT members will be able to engage meaningfully and hear/see things clearly

## Transit Updates

- South Coast Rail will be open to ridership on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Free fare and free parking will be available on weekends through the end of April
- Regular fare will be \$12.25 with an option to apply for a reduced fare (\$6).
- MBTA will be providing train shuttle services between the Taunton, Fall River, and New Bedford stations.
- SRTA now has a 25-minute express route between Fall River and New Bedford.
- GATRA service extensions, multiple routes running until 8:00 pm.

## Food and Transportation Access Plan

- This initiative aims to assess the regional landscape of healthy food access across 27 municipalities by identifying key barriers, facilitators, and other influencing factors.

- primary focus is to uncover disparities in the availability of diverse food options and ensure equitable access for all communities
- Additionally, the project will explore transportation network improvements and funding opportunities to enhance community food resources and strengthen overall resilience
- Gloria Saddler asked for clarification on the plans focus, staple food or explicitly healthy foods. Noah Soutier replied that ensuring access to high-quality, nutritious, and affordable food is a key priority, alongside addressing broader food insecurity through education and resource identification. The Food and Transportation Access Plan will assess existing resources—such as food pantries, farmers' markets, and retailers accepting SNAP/HIP—while recommending transportation improvements to enhance healthy food access across the region.
- Dan Brogan discussed seasonal availability to food, i.e. farmers markets and free lunch programs. Are they accessible by transit? Possible options for mobile food pantries or food pantries at transit stations.
- Gloria Saddler mentioned a pilot program for aging adults to use EBT cards for prepared meals. Daily Table program in Boston. She asked about finding funding for soil samples for Fall Rivers community gardens.

### **Age and Dementia Friendly Regional Program**

- This initiative aims to develop a work plan outlining specific actions SRPEDD will take to support its 27 communities in meeting the needs of aging residents.
- A key focus is integrating age-friendly initiatives across SRPEDD's departments and projects, aligning with the AARP livability framework, which includes transportation, housing, health and social services, outdoor spaces, communications, and social participation.
- The approach will emphasize multigenerational solutions to create inclusive, accessible, and supportive environments for residents of all ages.
- Alan Slavin commented that Warham has an age friendly plan that was put together with assistance from AARP and the City of New Bedford.
- Dan commented that this project gives people the choice and opportunity to be in and participate in public spaces. SRTAs Dial-a-Ride offers pickup and drop off to any location within their region.
- Gloria noted that her neighborhood is aging and that benches along the side roads would provide resting places for those people as they make their way to the main road. Dan suggested the possibility of community sponsored benches, similar to little libraries or pantries.

### **Public Participation Plan Update**

## **Community Updates**

- Gloria asked if there will be bus services provided to the new MBTA stations.
- Dan responded that SRTA will provide micro services with direct service to the stations beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Additionally there are 2 current routes that will also service the stations. GATRA will have service from the Taunton bus terminal to the MBTA station.
- Jessica Diaz asked about flyers or brochures that are available with route information and time slots for the Taunton commuter rail. She also stated that bus schedule information would be helpful.
- Dan responded the MBTA would release the schedule in early March, and it would be available on the MBTA website. It will also be posted on the SERCCOT SRPEDD webpage.

**Next Meeting:** March 27<sup>th</sup> 3:00-4:30

[Microsoft Teams Link](#)