

Southeastern Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation Meeting Minutes

April 30th , 2026- Hybrid

Microsoft Teams/Howland Green Library, New Bedford, MA

In-Person: - Dan Brogan, SRPEDD - Sisar Botelho, SRPEDD	Virtual: - Noah Soutier, SRPEDD - Alan Slavin, Town of Wareham - Maria Foster, MassDOT - Laura Bermol Diaz, Mass in Motion Fall River - Cristina Raposo, Southeastern Mass Jobs for Progress - Angela Constantino, GATRA - Kerri Vitorio, GATRA - Dr. Gloria Saddler, Community Development Agency Fall River - Pat Foster, Elder Care City of New Bedford - Andrea Duarte Campos, SRPEDD - Dick Shafer, Taunton Task Force - Lawrence Sylvia, Southeast Center for Independent Living - Mandy Aquino, SRTA Outreach Manager - Dorothy Mahoney-Pacheco United Way Fall River - Shir Lovett Graff (AAIC) - TDC - Kim Smith, United Way FR
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Introduction

- People introduced themselves
- Went around with various people from various agencies and community members
- Reintroduction for the SERCOTT group and its purpose

- Basic demographics about the region

Survey Feedback Key Points

- Future Meeting Topics
 - Gaps in Transit
 - Age friendly
 - Rider Education
 - Grants
 - Community Spotlights
- Future Meetings in different parts of region
- Having an Email/Contact List
- Community Resources presentations, grant info, rider education should be addressed

Transit Reminders

- Fare free services
 - GATRA fixed route and ADA service (areas within ¾ mile of a bus route), **NOT dial a ride (60 and older/disability)**
 - SRTA Fixed Route and Demand Response – SRTA’s paratransit service will take people anywhere within SRTA’s towns, which is unique for a regional transit authority to have.
 - South Coast Rail is up and Running (Connections to Fall River, East Taunton, New Bedford, Freetown, Middleboro and Beyond)
 - Pay with card or cash on the train
 - Fare Free Fridays during the summer
 - Gateway Link Monday-Friday Fare Free (Fall River, Taunton, Brockton) through the 3 terminals. This service connects the Brockton VA, Stonehill College, Bristol Community College and the bat, GATRA, and SRTA Terminals with hourly service, and express service every 2 hours. Ridership is approaching ~5,000 monthly riders and continues to grow.
 - Intercity Express from Fall River and New Bedford has been extended which connects the two gateway cities every 40 minutes and takes ~25 minutes between terminals. This express service takes about the same amount of travel time as driving a car.
 - 24L expansion of time from RIPTA expected to start at the end of Summer with peak headways of buses running every 30 minutes, and off-peak headways of ~90 minutes. The service will likely run until 9:00 PM and have midday service. The current service only runs 6 total trips with no midday service.

Safety Concerns at the Fall River and New Bedford Terminals

- Dr. Saddler and Laura raised safety concerns with the SRTA Terminals, and Angela Constantino from GATRA also raised similar concerns occurring at the GATRA terminals. Gloria, and Laura brought up concerns with fights breaking out, and drug use in particular. Dr. Saddler had also raised a question about the design of bus shelters and maintenance of these shelters for safety and accessibility. Dan highlighted that SRTA does have a bus stop consolidation plan, but the plan has not been implemented due to SRTA having a vacancy in their director of Transit Operations. Other concerns around the Terminal are provided below:
 - Security contractor installed in May
 - Interest in mobile case management between SSTAR and other attendees
 - Partnerships and orgs for the terminals for more wrap around services
 - SSTAR, Steppingstone, Southcoast Health
 - Fall River Street Homeless Coalition
 - Coordinator Stephanie Perry perryst@southcoast.org
 - Posters from Citizens for Citizens Peer Mentors
 - Fall River Arts and Culture Coalition
 - Tracy Barbosa tbarbosa@onesouthcoast.com
 - GATRA also hiring a security contractor
- Concerns over ownership of Bus Stop Shelters, who will own who will maintain?
 - Question about Shelter Design (what kind?)
 - Bus Stop Signage Design?
 - Getting Diman Students involved in building shelters and maintaining them, Durfee construction CTE
 - Bus Facility Grant applications?

GATRA Updates

- Fare Free is continuing through September and beyond through the Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment, which is a millionaire's tax that provides funds for transit and education throughout the Commonwealth.
- Sunday Service is starting for GATRA in June specifically for Attleboro and Taunton routes. GATRA is expecting that Sunday service will be available for Plymouth and Wareham sometime in August.

- New GATRA/RIPTA hub to be constructed at the Market Basket, given the amount of affordable services at the area, MBTA will increase service levels to the area as well. The South Attleboro MBTA station had been closed for multiple years and has been running limited service. The MBTA is expecting to increase service frequency at this station again in the near future.

SRPEDD Commission

- Andrea brought up that the SRPEDD Commission is looking for new members and provided available seats for the upcoming year. The following available seats are provided below:
 - 6 seats available for at-large commissions
 - Attleboro 1 seat
 - Taunton 1 Seat
 - Fall River 2 Seats
 - New Bedford 2 Seats

SRPEDD Plugs

- Noah plugged food access plan and transportation Tuesday posts
- Andrea plugged Healthy Living plan/Age-friendly plan

Transit Tool Showcase

- [Transit Accessible Food Pantry/Service Map \(TAFA\)](#)
 - o Created after SNAP shut down post in the fall of 2025
 - o Food Insecurity is growing, 1 in 6 in MA use SNAP
 - o 1 in 10 have no car access
 - o 75% of people have no car in NB census tract 6518 Block Group 2
 - o Shows which pantries are along transit lines or bus stops/demand route service
 - o Videos of tool and hopeful release date of next week
 - o **GATRA asked to have their routes identified as flag-stops in the Dashboard**
 - o **Question to add which Stops have Bus Shelters within the dashboard**

Nighttime Service

- Question from Lawrence Sylvia regarding recreational services, specifically for paratransit options in the evening. Mr. Sylvia addressed concerns with a lack of paratransit options in Southeastern Massachusetts and the few that are available are quite cost-prohibitive. Dan Brogan acknowledged that this gap in service deeply impacts

and limits peoples' mobility in the region and highlighted the possibility of using a future CTGP application between towns and orgs to expand paratransit services that would be able to run in the evening and nighttime.