

Nantucket Regional Transit Authority

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AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE NRTA ADVISORY BOARD

JULY 24, 2024

5:30PM

COMMUNITY ROOM, NANTUCKET POLICE STATION
4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
NANTUCKET, MA

YOUTUBE LINK FOR VIEWING ONLY:

<https://youtube.com/live/iR67HhKEIOs>

ZOOM WEBINAR REGISTRATION LINK TO VIRTUALLY ATTEND MEETING:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-OXjeXBhReOxhD8hlyjT9A

- I. Public Comment
- II. Approval of minutes from May 15, 2024, Advisory Board Meeting
- III. Administrator Report
 - 1. Acquisition of VTS of Mass Inc. (Bus Operations Contractor)
 - 2. FARE FREE bus service update, Try Transit 3.0
 - 3. Introduction to WAVE FERRY Service, Innovation Grant
 - 4. FY 24 RTA Capital Expenses
- IV. Other Business
- V. Adjournment



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Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 15th, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting of May 15th, 2024. The meeting took place in the Public Safety Facility Community Room at 4 Fairgrounds Road, Nantucket MA 02554; and, via remote participation using Zoom Webinar. Members of the Board present were Dawn Holdgate, Matt Fee, Brooke Mohr and Dr. Malcom MacNab. Thomas Dixon participated remotely.

I. Approval of minutes from January 17, 2024 Advisory Board Meeting.

Dr. MacNab moved to approve the minutes of January 17th, 2024; seconded by Ms. Mohr; by roll call vote: Chair Holdgate – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes; so voted.

II. Administrator Report

1. Staffing Update

Mr. Roberts reported to the board of the hiring of Tom Kane as the shop supervisor for the Mechanics department. He reported that NRTA has also hired three employees at the Greenhound facility to allow for more operation of hours and to anticipate hiring more employees as needed for coverage.

2. Workforce Housing

Mr. Roberts reported that the NRTA was using RTA Capital Assistance to provide leasing for housing for year-round and seasonal employees. He explained the difficulty of always having to look out six months or more to procure the next season's housing. He explained the lobbying he had been doing with MassDOT to get the funds for leases and explained that MassDOT was approving the purchase of two homes. The homes are under purchase and set to close June 15th and June 30th. Mr. Roberts said there will still be a need to lease houses.

Mr. Fee praised Mr. Roberts for obtaining the housing.

3. Electrification of Fleet

Mr. Roberts announced the testing and performance of the five Ejest buses into the service. Explained that NRTA is extremely impressed with their ability and that after passing DPU testing today, the buses would be ready for scheduling into service.

Mr. Fee commented that these buses are a great attribute to the community and especially the intown neighbors as the noise pollution is at a minimum.

NRTA is still working with the State on a grant for full size electric buses through 53:49 funding. Mr. Roberts reported that the electrical infrastructure is still an ongoing process and that an electrical engineering firm has been brought in to help with the project, but that we have successfully installed a Level 2 charger.

III. FY 25 Budget Discussion

Mr. Roberts announced the rough draft budget is set at \$2,728,095. He said there are three different draft budgets in the Governor, House, and Senate that are different amounts, but the base is set at \$2,728,095 and that if it changes later in the year an amendment will be made by the NRTA. Mr. Roberts asked that the budget be approved. Ms. Mohr moved to approve the FY 2025 budget as presented; seconded by Mr. Fee; by roll call vote: Chair Holdgate – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes; so voted.

IV. Revenue Anticipation Note

Mr. Roberts explained what RAN was and the need for it because the State does not fund the RTA until September, and this is a stop gap that allows the RTA to run until funds are received by the State. He explained that We use LockLord and Hilltop Security to bid for the RAN and Piper Sandler had been awarded the bid with a 4.25% rate and \$84,000 net cost.

V. Public Comment

Ms. Holdgate asked for public comment and Campbell Sutton commented that she was immensely proud of the NRTA for the electric buses as they are quieter, smaller and no pollution compared to the existing fleet.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Fee moved adjournment at 5:45 PM; seconded by Ms. Mohr; by roll call vote: Chair Holdgate – Yes; Mr. Dixon – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Dr. MacNab – Yes; Ms. Mohr – Yes; so voted.

NRTA ADVISORY BOARD

May 15, 2024 – 5:30 PM

**PSF COMMUNITY ROOM, 4 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD
AND REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM WEBINAR
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- I. Draft minutes of 1/17/2024
- II. 1, 2, 3. Memo from NRTA Administrator re: report on Staffing, Workforce Housing and Fleet Electrification
- III. Memo from NRTA Administrator re: FY 2025 Budget; budget spreadsheet
- IV. Revenue Anticipation Notes spreadsheet

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ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1. Acquisition of VTS of Mass Inc.

NRTA contracts with VTS of Mass Inc.(VTS) to operate the fixed route buses and demand response vans for NRTA. In late May I was informed by the principal owner his intentions to sell all ownership stock of VTS to Mercedes Cab located in Truro, Ma. After meeting with Mercedes Cab and their management team and after consultation from NRTA's legal counsel the transfer of the stock was approved and effective June 1, 2024, the primary contact of the contract with VTS dated February 26, 2024, has been changed reflecting Raphael Rickter, principal owner of Mercedes Cab, as the primary contact of the contract. NRTA has worked with the new team to help facilitate needed management changes and policies during this transition of leadership.

2. FARE FREE bus service update, Try Transit 3.0

NRTA received a Try Transit grant in Fiscal Year 2024 from MassDOT to provide fare free transportation on all buses and vans operated by NRTA. NRTA applied for a six month grant to run from April 1 through September 30, the intent was to increase the use of public transportation leading to less cars on the road and helping with parking issues in Town. It would also speed up the boarding process of passengers, reducing wait times in traffic as passengers pay their fares. This helps keep the flow of traffic and maintains on time performance of the routes. To date the pilot program has been an immediate success with ridership increases compared to 2023. Ridership numbers increased from the start on all routes in April. Ridership increased 53% to 10,322 passenger trips. The month of May saw an increase of 81% with 27,202 passenger trips. June increased by 83.4% with almost 65,000 passenger trips. July has seen an increase of around 60% through the first twenty days of the month and is on pace to provide 96,000 passenger trips. Due to the overwhelming success of this program NRTA has also been awarded a TRY Transit 3.0 grant that will allow NRTA to continue Fare Free service through December 31, 2024.



3. Introduction to WAVE FERRY SERVICE, Innovation Grant

NRTA has been awarded an Innovation Grant by MassDOT for expanded service for a new Ferry Shuttle from the Fairgrounds Parking Lot. As stated in the Grant application, the Shuttle is intended to provide transportation from an outlying parking lot to help mitigate traffic and parking concerns at the Ferry parking lots. The Ferry will also benefit workers who arrive daily to get to the parking lot. The grant provides for year-round funding to run this Shuttle Service and associated marketing and labor costs. NRTA has leased two new shuttle vehicles to operate this service and is awaiting the arrival of these vehicles. NRTA will need a dedicated spot for drop off and pick up at the Hyline lot and suggests the space on Easy Street adjacent to Vineyard Vines. An existing spot at the Steamship Lot will be discussed to use the existing space. Staff are finalizing the schedule, but a sample schedule is included in the packet. Adjustments will be made as boat schedules adjust throughout the year.

4. FY 24 RTA Capital Expenses

In Fiscal Year 2024 NRTA expended \$6,850,000.00 on Capital projects. Several much-needed projects were funded through the RTA Capital program that has greatly benefited NRTA. Highlights of the projects include the purchase of five Battery Electric Buses that have been in service since Spring of 2024. NRTA also invested in its workforce housing initiative, purchasing two houses for employee housing. NRTA has also purchased two new Battery Electric vans to complement the three vans received from Mass DEP funding. Other projects include bus stop amenities, preventative maintenance parts/supplies and shop equipment for Maintenance Facility. Upgrades to the vehicle tracking system and communications. Electrical Infrastructure projects have begun to tie in the ten Level 2 chargers and two Level 3 chargers that have also been purchased. This funding was integral in the ongoing modernization of the Transit Authority.

Ferry Route 1

TRIP # P&R Town

1	7:00
3	8:30
5	9:20

TRIP # Town to P&R

2	7:35-wait for other bus behind to push you out.
4	8:50

Steamship to P&R

6	10:00 AM
8	10:40 AM
10	11:20 AM
12	12:00 PM
14	12:40 PM
16	1:20 PM
18	2:00 PM
20	2:40 PM
22	3:20 PM
24	4:00 PM
26	4:40 PM
28	5:20 PM
30	6:00 PM
32	6:40 PM
34	7:20 PM
36	8:00 PM
38	8:40 PM
40	9:20 PM
42	10:20 PM

P&R To Steamship

7	10:20 AM
9	11:00 AM
11	11:40 AM
13	12:20 PM
15	1:00 PM
17	1:40 PM
19	2:20 PM
21	3:00 PM
23	3:40 PM
25	4:20 PM
27	5:00 PM
29	5:40 PM
31	6:20 PM
33	7:00 PM
35	7:40 PM
37	8:20 PM
39	9:00 PM
41	9:40 PM

Hyline Schedule

7:10
9:30
10:30
12:20
1:45
3:25
5:15
6:40
9:00

Steamship Schedule

9:15
11:30
12:00
3:00
5:00
6:00
10:15

Ferry Route 2

TRIP # P&R Town

1	7:20
3	8:50

P&R to Steamship

5	9:40 AM
7	10:20 AM
9	11:00 AM
11	11:40 AM
13	12:20 PM
15	1:00 PM
17	1:40 PM
19	2:20 PM
21	3:00 PM
23	3:40 PM
25	4:20 PM
27	5:00 PM
29	5:40 PM
31	6:20 PM
33	7:00 PM
35	7:40 PM
37	8:20 PM
39	9:00 PM

TRIP # Town to P&R

2	AT 7:35 PUSH FIRST BUS OUT OF SPOT AT THE HYLINE
	DEPART -LEAVE ONLY WHEN AREA EMPTY-wait for boat
4	9:25 SSA -wait for boat to unload and leave after get pax or other bus pushes you out.

Steamship to P&R

6	10:00 AM
8	10:40 AM
10	11:20 AM
12	12:00 PM
14	12:40 PM
16	1:20 PM
18	2:00 PM
20	2:40 PM
22	3:20 PM
24	4:00 PM
26	4:40 PM
28	5:20 PM
30	6:00 PM
32	6:40 PM
34	7:20 PM
36	8:00 PM
38	8:40 AM
40	9:20 PM

Hyline Schedule

7:10
9:30
10:30
12:20
1:45
3:25
5:15
6:40
9:00

Steamship Schedule

9:15
11:30
12:00
3:00
5:00
6:00
10:15