

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
ETD OFFICES, 91 N. Main Street, Middletown, CT with Remote Options
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023, AT 2:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Joan Gay, Chair, at 2:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Joan Gay and Angus McDonald (arrived at 2:06 p.m.)

Also in attendance: Staff: Joe Comerford and Christina Denison

Board Members: Leslie Strauss, ETD Board Chair and Charles Norz, ETD Board Member, Old Saybrook

CT DOT: Graham Curtis, Bus Capital Programs, Asst. Administrator and Maureen Lawrence, CT Transit & Transit District Agreements Transit Manager (arrived at 2:06 p.m.)

FACILITIES PLAN WITH DOT

A copy of the Facilities Progress Plan was included in the meeting packet.

Graham Curtis reported:

Architecture & Engineering

Facilities Master Plan –

- CTDOT along with ETD management walked the 2 N. Main Street properties on May 25th.
- A conceptual layout is being developed for both facilities and conceptual plans will be available at the end of July.
- The City of Middletown will conduct a fire flow test on July 10.
- Electrification of buses – A charging strategy for the pilot program is being discussed. The pilot program calls for charging and storing the 2 new BEBs, which will be delivered in 2024, outside using a 50kw charger until fire protection systems are upgraded.

Right of Way Acquisition

Middletown Maintenance Facility –

- The consultant is working on layout schemes which will be available to review at the end of July.
- Fill needs to be balanced in the flood plain to raise the building 4 feet.
- The fire flow study information will be applicable to the new building.
- Title VI and NEPA will be reviewed one last time.

Shoreline Facility –

- The consultant hopes to have a conceptual layout by end of July.
- The water company has conducted a fire flow analysis. A fire pump and a possible underground tank are needed.
- A survey has been completed and the wetlands mapped.
- A septic feasibility study is being done.
- The environmental history looks clean.

Middletown Terminal Renovation –

- Comerford and CTDOT met with the Middletown Mayor and an abutting property owner last week. Although the Mayor supports our mission, he requested the District consider other locations (i.e. the former site of Middletown Plate and Glass located at 40 Union Street in the City’s riverfront master plan).
- In-house resources will be used and an outside consultant will be called only if deemed necessary.
- A test fit will be done to see what the impact and layout would be, and results should be available at the next meeting. Considerations:
 - 40 Union Street is in the flood plain.
 - The property can only be accessed from 2 sides.
 - Places the terminal in the outskirts of the center of town.
 - Timeline will be significantly longer for new construction .
- If we can negotiate on the existing location, the DOT Commissioner is willing to fund the project but does not want to condemn the property if there is not a reasonable or willing seller.
- Further discussion is needed between CT DOT, the DOT Commissioner, the Bureau Chief, and the Middletown Mayor.
- Committee members expressed their concern that the Mayor’s request to consider the 40 Union Street as a location will significantly delay the Middletown Terminal Renovation project.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Comerford reported:

- He had the opportunity to discuss his concerns regarding the challenges of implementing electrification within the current timeframe with the legislative chairs of the Transportation Committee.
- CTDOT and DEEP will hold a press conference on Friday, June 30 at 1:00 p.m. at 340 Main Street to talk about Park Connect.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Next Meeting—The July meeting is postponed. The next meeting will be August 8, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Denison
Clerk