



**ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**
ETD Offices, 91 N. Main St, Middletown, CT with
Remote Option
March 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order — L. Strauss, Chair
- II. Roll Call — T. Griswold, Secretary
 - [1.](#) Weighted Votes
- III. Visitors' Comments
- IV. Secretary's Report — T. Griswold
 - [1.](#) Acceptance of Board Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2023
 - [2.](#) Acceptance of Special Finance Committee Minutes of February 24, 2023
 - [3.](#) Acceptance of Special Board Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2023
 - [4.](#) Acceptance of Facilities Committee Minutes of February 28, 2023
- V. Communications — T. Griswold
- VI. Treasurer's Report — C. Norz
- VII. Committee Reports
 - [1.](#) Facilities Committee — J. Gay, Chair
 2. Finance Committee — C. Norz, Chair
 3. Marketing Committee — L. Strauss, Chair
 - [4.](#) Legislative Committee — J. Gay, Chair
- VIII. Executive Director's Report — J. Comerford
- IX. Transit Planner's Report - B. Geraghty
 - [1.](#) New RVT Transit Brochure
- X. Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Labor Contract Negotiations
- XI. New Business
 1. Union Contract
 - [2.](#) Microtransit Software Purchase
- XII. Old Business
 1. Name Change
 - [2.](#) Bus Advertising
- XIII. Chair Comments

XIV. Board Members Comments

XV. Next Meeting — April 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM with Remote Options

XVI. Adjournment

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 856 5832 2438

Passcode: 322594

One tap mobile

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Language Assistance is available. If you need assistance, please call Chris at 860-510-0429 ext. 104 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

FOR **10-Mar-23**
(meeting date)

TOWN	Population	# of Votes	Present
CHESTER Leslie Strauss	3749	1.59	
CLINTON Karl Kilduff	13185	5.61	
DEEP RIVER Angus McDonald	4415	1.88	
DURHAM TBD	7152	3.04	
ESSEX D.G. Fitton	6733	2.86	
KILLINGWORTH Joan Gay	6174	2.63	
LYME David Lahm	2352	1.00	
MIDDLEFIELD James Irish	4217	1.79	
MIDDLETOWN Bobbie Knoll Peterson	47717	10.144	
MIDDLETOWN Beverly Lawrence		10.144	
OLD LYME Tim Griswold	7628	3.24	
OLD SAYBROOK Charlie Norz	10481	4.46	
WESTBROOK John Hall	6769	2.88	
*TOTAL	120,572	48.22	

*Durham not included

**Quorum = 24.11
& eight towns represented**

Timothy Griswold, Secretary

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT RVT MEETING

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT
NINE TOWN TRANSIT
REGULAR MEETING
February 10, 2023
Middletown Offices and via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Strauss, Chairman at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was established with the following board members present: DG Fitton, John Hall (left at 10:00 a.m.), Beverly Lawrence (left at 10:09 a.m.), Tim Griswold (left at 10:15 a.m.), Charlie Norz, Joan Gay, Karl Kilduff, Angus McDonald, Jim Irish, Bobby Knoll Peterson, David Lahm (arrived at 9:06 a.m. and left at 10:30 a.m.).

Also in attendance: Joe Comerford, Chris Denison, Lisa Gibson, Brendan Geraghty, Jared Whitcomb, Halyna Famiglietti and Mutez Ennab.

Note that Congressman Courtney will be attending a meeting at RiverCOG this morning. Several Board members plan on attending that meeting.

DG Fitton made a motion to adjust the order of the agenda (moving “New Business ahead of “Committee Reports”). Charlie Norz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VISITOR COMMENTS – None.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

John Hall made a motion to accept the minutes from the Board meeting dated 1/13/23 as presented Joan Gay. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joan Gay made a motion to accept the minutes from the Legislative Committee meeting dated 2/6/23 as presented. Charlie Norz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Joan Gay made a motion to accept the minutes from the Finance meeting dated 2/8/23 as presented. Karl Kilduff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Officers

Angus reported that the current officers have agreed to continue in their respective positions.

DG Fitton made a motion to appoint the following individuals as officers of the Board: Leslie Strauss, Chairman, Joan Gay, Vice Chairman, Tim Griswold, Secretary, and Charlie Norz, Treasurer. Charlie Norz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

AAA Authorizing Resolution

DG Fitton made the following motion:

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, Joseph Comerford, and/or in his absence or inability to act, the Chairperson, Leslie B. Strauss, are hereby authorized on behalf of the Estuary Transit District to negotiate and execute all necessary contract documents required to obtain funds from the Senior Resources Agency on Aging.

Joan Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DOT Authorizing Resolution

DG Fitton made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Estuary Transit District, pursuant to Chapter 103a, Section 7-273k of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as revised, is empowered to enter into contracts for the purpose of subsidizing transit services, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairperson, Leslie B. Strauss, and/or in her absence or inability to act, the Vice Chairperson, Joan Gay, having been since February 10, 2023, are hereby authorized on behalf of the Estuary Transit District to negotiate and execute all necessary contract documents required to obtain funds from the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Joan Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Committees

Chairman Strauss recommended the following appointments:

- Finance Committee – Charlie Norz (Chairman), Karl Kilduff, Joan Gay, Jim Irish
- Marketing Committee – Leslie Strauss (Chairman), David Lahm, Jim Irish
- Facilities Committee– Joan Gay (Chairman), Karl Kilduff, Angus McDonald
- Personnel Committee – Karl Kilduff (Chairman), DG Fitton, John Hall
- Legislative Committee – Joan Gay, (Chairman), Karl Kilfuff, Angus McDonald
- Service Study Committee – Charlie Norz (Chairman), Beverly Lawrence, Tim Griswold, David Lahm
- Nomination Committee - Angus McDonald (Chairman), Charlie Norz, Bobbye Knoll Peterson
- Transit Advisory Committee – Tim Griswold (Chairman), Beverly Lawrence
- Management Contract Committee – DG Fitton (Chairman), Charlie Norz, John Hall

Charlie Norz made a motion to accept the Committee appointments as recommended. Tim Griswold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Advertising Contract

Joe Comerford reported that the current advertising contact expires 6/30/23. The Board discussed the possible continuation of the advertising contract (going out to RFP). The revenue currently generated by the advertisements located on the back of the busses is approximately \$55,000 per year. Note that the Board has limited control over what may be placed in the advertisements. State law prohibits political ads on the vehicles.

Angus McDonald made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to develop an RFP for advertisements on the busses (back only). DG Fitton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Fare Structure

A copy of the Fare Study Public Outreach report was “screen shared”. The goal is to make ridership available to all. The four main policy changes include:

- Simplify the fare structure.
- Affordability – low income and student discount – (eligibility will be determined by state agencies (DSS).
- Fare capping.
- Free fare for ADA eligible riders on fixed routes.

Positive feedback was generated at the Outreach meetings.

Brendan provided an overview of the report and was available to address questions/comments posed by Board members.

DG Fitton made a motion to approve the proposed fare structure as presented, pending DOT approval. Dave Lahm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Change of Name

As discussed at the last meeting, the District’s attorney researched the recommendation to eliminate “Estuary Transit District” as the District’s “official” name. Joe Comerford reported that to do so would require a Board Resolution/Motion to amend the by-laws.

Tim Griswold made a motion to adopt River Valley Transit as the District’s official name, subject to all appropriate procedures. DG Fitton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities – None.

Finance Committee – The Committee met and reviewed the Financial reports as prepared by Halyna. The audit report has not yet been received.

Joan Gay made a motion to accept the Finance Committee Report as presented. Angus McDonald seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Marketing Committee

A copy of the Marketing Committee report was included in the Board packet and “screen shared. Of note:

- The Brand Guide is complete.
- Bus designs are being finalized.
- The Marketing Plan is an on-going task with an anticipated April 1 “launch”.

Joan Gay made a motion to accept the Marketing Committee Report as presented. David Lahm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Committee – Joan reported that the Committee will continue the First Selectman/Legislative Breakfast as a combined event (scheduled Wednesday, 4/29/23, 8 a.m.). In addition, the Committee discussed proposed legislation including:

- Funding of transit districts in urban areas – Joe will develop testimony in support of this Bill.
- Task Force to Study Barriers to Transit – “watching” this legislation.
- Fare Free Public Transportation – The District does not support this Bill as written (we do support a study on budget impacts). Joe and Leslie will develop testimony.
- Micro-Transit – Madison, and possibly other towns, are interested in “joining” the District. We would like the Legislature to support same.

Charlie Norz made a motion to accept the Legislative Committee report as presented. Angus McDonald seconded the motion the motion passed unanimously.

Note that several Board members exited the meeting.

No quorum as of 10:10 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AS FOLLOWS:

Transit Advisory Committee – None.

Service Study Committee – None.

Personnel Committee – None.

COG Update

Brendan reported:

- Comments are open on the COG’s website regarding the Common Development Plan.
- The District provided input on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan currently being developed.

Joe reported:

- The Governor is again proposing combining MPOS. This would not be positive for the District.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A copy of the Executive Director’s report was included in the Board’s packet.

Joe Comerford reported:

- There has been no movement on the electric bus procurement.
- We are awaiting the FY 23 Transit Operating Documents.
- Radio project complete. All vehicles are now on the same radio system.
- MTD grants are closed and are in the process of being re-opened as ETD grants.
- Working on paper fare media for 4/1 fare resumption.
- Met with Gillig to finalize order; delivery expected in September 2023.
- Received 4 new body-on-chassis buses for the Middletown Division.
- The Governor’s budget includes \$700,000 in service improvements for ETD.

TRANSIT PLANNER’S REPORT

Brendan reported:

- New maps of the combined system are being developed.
- Bus improvements (voice announcements, kiosks, etc.) – project on-going.
- Micro Transit RFP being developed. We have an application for state funding of a 2-year pilot program.
- X-mile service is back via a 50/50 match with Wesleyan (services reduced slightly from last semester). A Wesleyan intern is working with the District.
- Talking with drivers to identify areas that need improved lighting.

FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Budget vs. Actual, Statement of Cash Flow

Budget vs. Actual and the Statement of Cash Flow was included in the Board packet. Halyna was available to respond to board questions/comments.

Halyna reported that at the MAT meeting this morning, the board approved the FY end 2022 audit (their last audit). Also, since July, the District has issued almost \$5 million in purchase orders (busses, AVL, radios, etc.).

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Operations Director’s reported included an update on staffing and ridership (growing). Jared reported on some staffing issues. He is now focused on hiring staff.

MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Pat reported:

- A service worker started last week. Duties include cleaning and fueling the buses at night.
- Preparation is being done in anticipation of the start of fare collection.
- A list of “spare” parts has been developed.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Leslie thanked board members for their service and support. She requested that a letter be sent to the Middletown Mayor and Bobbye Knoll Peterson regarding the by-laws specification that if two consecutive Board meetings are missed, the Mayor/First Selectman and Board member are informed, in writing.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – to discuss contract negotiations – None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 10:48 a.m.

Next Meeting – March 10, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. with remote options.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Helchowski
Clerk

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

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
SPECIAL FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MTD GARAGE, 91 N. Main Street, Middletown, CT with Remote Options
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023, AT 9:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Charles Norz, Chair, at 9:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with the following committee members present: Joan Gay, Karl Kilduff and Charles Norz

Also in attendance: Leslie Strauss, ETD Board Chair **Staff:** Joseph Comerford and Christina Denison **Guest:** Tom Partalas, Seward & Monde **Absent:** Jim Irish

PRESENTATION OF FY21-22 COMPLETED AUDIT

Draft copies of the “Estuary District Financial Statements, dated June 30, 2022; Federal and State Single Audit Reports, dated June 30, 2022, and a Directors’ letter, dated February 17, 2023; were distributed in the Committee’s packet.

The completed Audit as presented by Tom Partalas of Seward & Monde. Partalas reported that there were no findings or deficiencies in the financial statements, compliance, or internal controls. As a result, a Management Letter was not necessary this year.

“In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Estuary Transit District as of June 30, 2022, and the changes in its net position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

“In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.”

“In our opinion, Estuary Transit District complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2022.”

“In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major state programs for the year ended June 30, 2022.”

NEW BUSINESS—ACCEPTANCE OF FY21-22 COMPLETED AUDIT

Gay made a motion that the Finance Committee recommend the Board accept the unmodified (clean) preliminary audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, as presented by Seward & Monde. Kilduff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27a.m.

Next Regular Finance Committee Meeting—April 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Denison
Clerk

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE NEXT ETD MEETING

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
February 27, 2023
Middletown Offices, 91 N. Main Street, Middletown with Remote Option

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Leslie Strauss, Chairman at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established with the following board members present DG Fitton, Joan Gay, Tim Griswold, John Hall, Karl Kilduff, David Lahm, Beverly Lawrence, Angus McDonald, Charlie Norz, and Leslie Strauss

Also in attendance: Joe Comerford, Chris Denison, Halyna Famiglietti

Absent: Jim Irish and Bobbye Knoll Peterson

Visitor(s): Tom Partalas, Partner, Seward & Monde

VISITOR'S COMMENTS

Presentation of FY21-22 Completed Audit

Draft copies of the "Estuary District Financial Statements, dated June 30, 2022; Federal and State Single Audit Reports, dated June 30, 2022, and a Directors' letter, dated February 17, 2023; were distributed in the Board's packet.

The Finance Committee has reviewed the document at length and recommends that the Board accept the Audit Report.

Tom Partalas, Seward & Monde, reported that the District received a "clean opinion". There were no findings or deficiencies in the financial statements, compliance, or internal controls. As a result, a Management Letter was not necessary this year. He noted that this was the eighth year that the District had an operational surplus.

Partalas was available to address any questions/concerns posed by Board members.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of FY21-22 Completed Audit

Fitton made a motion to accept the unmodified (clean) completed audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, as presented by Seward & Monde. Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

McDonald made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 a.m. Gay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting – March 10, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. with remote options.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Denison
Clerk

Timothy Griswold
Secretary

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

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MTD GARAGE, 91 N. Main Street, Middletown, CT with Remote Options
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AT 2:00 PM.

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 Karl Kilduff

Absent: Angus McDonald

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

FACILITIES PLAN WITH DOT

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

Architecture & Engineering

a. *Facilities Master Plan* – Curtis reported:

- The Master Plan will begin soon. A Notice to Proceed could be issued within 30 days.
- Regarding electrification, the energy consultant was on site and is working on his analysis. Initial results should be available within 45 days. Based on the power grid and the size of the transformer in the area, a large list of recommendations is expected. A pilot program utilizing one bus under limited service is anticipated.

Right of Way Acquisition

- a. *Shoreline Facility* –A walkthrough of the property was held in January. The owner had some concerns about the visual impact of the facility, but seems open to selling. The Title VI evaluation will be added to the scope of the Master Plan.
- b. *Middletown Maintenance Facility* – DOT has completed an updated topographic and property survey. A large diameter drain pipe which runs across the property was located and will need to be taken into consideration. Curtis explained that as part of the procurement process for both the N. Main Street property and the Shoreline Facility, a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) study and a Title VI evaluation will need to be documented. The studies have been added to the scope of work for the Master Plan.

- c. *Middletown Terminal Renovation* – The new Bureau Chief will tour all facilities shortly. Strauss reported that she and Comerford spoke with the Mayor of Middletown regarding the purchase of additional land; the mayor is extremely supportive of keeping the terminal in its current location.
- d. *Environmental Study* – The environmental site assessment/Phase II has been completed. Soil and water samples were taken to determine the ramifications of developing the site.

Curtis was available to answer questions posed by committee members.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at the MTD Garage, 91 N. Main Street, Middletown at 2:00 p.m. with remote options.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Denison
Clerk

FACILITIES PLAN

FACILITIES UPDATE

- ▶ A walkthrough of the Shoreline site was done in January. The property owner appears open to selling. An updated topographic and property survey has been completed for the Middletown Maintenance Facility. A Title VI evaluation and NEPA study for both the shoreline site and Middletown properties have been added to the Master Plan.
- ▶ The Bureau Chief of Public Transit is planning to tour the property. Mayor Florsheim is very supportive of the proposed expansion of the terminal.
- ▶ The environmental site assessment/Phase II has been completed. Soil and water samples were taken to determine the ramifications of developing the site.

FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

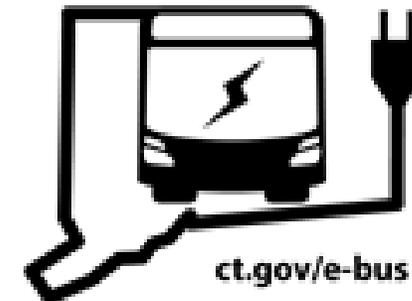
- ▶ The Master Plan will begin soon. A Notice to Proceed could be issued within 30 days.



ELECTRIFICATION

- ▶ The Energy consultant is analyzing data; results are expected in 45 days. Based on the power grid and size of the transformer in the area, a pilot program utilizing 1 bus under limited service is

ELECTRIC BUS



HB 1079 - Written testimony to support.

Act Implementing the Recommendations of the CT Commuter Rail Council

- Restore service to Shoreline East to pre-Covid levels
- Requires the Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of a statewide transit planning and fare payment app

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation

Testimony: ETD, like most of the bus systems statewide, continued full service through the pandemic. While ridership initially declined by 70%, today it has risen above 2019 levels. This underscores the importance of maintaining service levels to ensure that public transportation options are still available as passengers return to their former commute patterns.

A single planning and real-time information app would make traveling between bus systems a more seamless experience. A single fare payment app would erase any barriers to transferring between systems and improve affordability. ETD strongly supports such efforts that remove barriers to using our statewide bus system.

HB1080 - Written Testimony to oppose. Would like to participate in any study to improve public transit services in our region.

Act Concerning Transportation Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

- Provide fare-free public transportation services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who receive services from the Department of Developmental Services.
- Cost shall be paid from funds appropriated to the DOT.
- Districts would be required to install bus shelters for any employer with 10 or more disabled employees on request.
- Study conducted by Commissioners of DOT and Developmental Services and transit districts - the demand and need for state-wide and local transportation services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation

Testimony: Since this bill has no new funding attached, it would have the impact of reducing funding available for provision of service to cover its expenses. This would only further reduce transportation options for the individuals this bill attempts to aide. It also removes the ability for transit districts to control their fare revenue, which is the only means the districts have to raise revenue directly.

The bill also requires transit districts to develop a process to construct bus shelters for employers employing ten or more people with certain disabilities. Transit districts are the only transit providers in the state that have shelter programs. These generally include certain ridership metrics for stop usage to warrant an investment of \$15,000 to \$25,0000 per bus shelter. CTtransit has historically not had a bus shelter program, but is not included in this bill.

While the governor’s budget proposal includes significant service expansions, gaps still exist in the state’s bus system. People with disabilities are disproportionately dependent on public transit for travel and are therefore particularly impacted by gaps in availability of service. We would support section 2 of the bill which would study improving public transportation services for people with disabilities.

SB1082 - Written testimony to oppose and to ask that transit districts created under Chapter 103(a) be specifically excluded

Act implementing the recommendations of the DOT regarding a reduction in blood alcohol limits for impaired driving and boating, **establishing the CT Public Transportation Council**, the Shore Line East study and Motor vehicles in livery service.

Status: Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation

Testimony: This bill would modify the Commuter Rail Council (now to be CT Public Transportation Council) to include the state bus system. While we have no objection to the council’s purview extending to the CTtransit system, we would oppose any inclusion of transit districts.

Each transit district is governed by a board of directors as prescribed by Chapter 103 (a). These boards are made up of members of the participating communities, providing significant local input and control that does not exist in the CTtransit system. In addition, ETD has a Transit Advisory Committee appointed by the board and comprised of system users. This committee informs decisions impacting our riders at a level well beyond that proposed by this bill.

Governor’s Bill 6659 - Written testimony to support and consider further investments for suburbs
Act concerning the state budget for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, and making appropriations therefor

Appendix. Expansion section.

Expand Bus Service to Support Workforce Transportation

Funding will provide for service enhancements in bus networks will expand opportunity for transit-dependent and transit- choice riders. Route expansions are informed by the Department of Transportation Customer Experience Action Plan and outreach that was conducted through 2022. The expansion will enable riders to rely on bus service for employment seven days a week, provide greater access for second or third shift jobs, and focus on expanding access to large business and employment hubs. Impacted networks include Greater Bridgeport Transit, Valley Transit District, Southeast Area Transit, Housatonic Area Transit, CTtransit Waterbury, CTtransit New Haven, Windham Region Transit, CTtransit New Britain/Bristol, CTtransit Meriden, and CTtransit Stamford.

Status: Public Hearing 3/0/2023, Referred to Joint Committee on Appropriations

Testimony:

The governor’s budget includes significant unprecedented new investments in the state’s bus transit system. For ETD, this will mean the addition of Saturday night service and Sunday service in Middletown. These expansions are critical to moving service and retail industry workers. These workers were essential during the pandemic, and buses were critical to getting them to their jobs. Yet today many are unable to perform these jobs successfully because they do not have transportation.

ETD recently conducted a transit study in partnership with RiverCOG. The study recommended Saturday night and Sunday service as high priority areas for service expansion. The governor’s budget supports these recommendations.

HB6743 - Oppose; offer to share our fare-study results

ACT CONCERNING FARE-FREE PUBLIC BUS SERVICE. To require the Department of Transportation to conduct a fare equity analysis to evaluate the proposed implementation of permanent fare-free public bus transportation services in the state.

Public Hearing held 2/27

Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation

Testimony: Written testimony to oppose; would like to share with the legislature and administration our experience as the only district in Connecticut to conduct a recent comprehensive fare study that reviewed fare-free options.

As part of ETD's merger with the Middletown Transit District in July of 2022, a comprehensive fare study was conducted. The study found that the cost of fare elimination, both through loss of revenue and increase in costs, outweighed the benefits. ETD instead chose to implement expanded reduced fare programs to target groups for whom fare prices were a barrier. Over the next year, we will be working with various state agencies to establish criteria for a reduced fare for low-income individuals that utilizes existing programs for qualification. We will also be working with our 15 school districts to implement a reduced youth fare. We feel these programs best balance affordability with expenses.

Any fare-free mandate would have a significant impact on service levels statewide. While fare are not a large portion of our revenue, they do make up around 15% and unlock state matching funds. Without fares, we would be forced to significantly reduce service by as much as 45%.

This bill fails to fully realize the federal requirements for a fare-free program. Each transit district is either a direct or indirect recipient of federal funding from the Federal Transit Administration. As such, each district would be required to go through its own equity analysis and fare change policy as prescribed they their individual Title VI plans. Therefore, the state's equity analysis would not permit statewide fare-free transportation, but only on state owned CTtransit services.

Finally, we believe that transit riders should have a say in any fare-free discussion. If the state were to implement fare free and use state funding to fill the gap in funds, there would be a substantial opportunity cost involved. In our recent fare change public outreach, we heard over and over that riders were satisfied with paying a fare as long as service levels were maintained or enhanced. We believe that riders should get to choose if a new investment of state funds would be best spent on eliminating fares or enhancing bus service.

For these reasons, ETD opposes Raised Bill No. 6743. We are happy to share with the legislature and administration our experience as the only district in Connecticut to conduct a recent comprehensive fare study that reviewed fare-free options.

SB243 - No testimony; watching to make sure it remains a study

Act establishing a tax force to study the barriers to transportation for work-based learning experiences.d
Referred to Joint Committee on Transportation


**VALLEY
TRANSIT**

Dial-A-Ride

Despite having many routes throughout Middlesex County, we know that there are gaps in service. Dial-A-Ride fills those gaps, offering reservation based curb-to-curb service for the general public. Any trip that originates or ends more than 3/4 of a mile from a fixed route is eligible for Dial-A-Ride service.

Dial-A-Ride service is available on a first-come-first-served basis, Monday-Friday 7am-5pm. Reservations can be made up to two weeks in advance, but no later than 4pm the day prior to your desired ride. To schedule a ride please download and use the Ecolane App or call 860-510-0429 option 3 between 8am-4pm Monday-Friday.

XtraMile

XtraMile is a same day on-demand service. XtraMile is offered in Old Saybrook encompassing portions of Westbrook and Essex. Riders may request pickups and drops off anywhere in the service area. You may request a ride easily through the XtraMile App available on iPhone or Google or by calling 860-510-0429 option 5.

Flag Stops

Although some stops in the region are marked by a bus stop, buses will also stop on request anywhere on the route where it is safe to do so. To be picked up, a rider must wait in a safe and visible roadside location. Wave to the driver to let them know you would like to be picked up. Do not wait on a curve, near an intersection, on a bridge, or by a guard rail. Buses cannot block a road. When getting on a bus, limit grocery bags and personal items to what you can carry on with you when you board. Items cannot take up seats and make sure to keep the aisle clear of any items. Any carriages, strollers, or shopping carts must also be folded up and secured. There may also be additional flag stop restrictions unique to each bus route. For example, Route 590 has stop restrictions along Washington Street in Middletown. To learn more about these restrictions please reference the individual route schedule accessible by the QR code. To depart from the bus, simply pull the stop request cord about a block before your desired drop off point.

Off-Route Service

For routes in our 642, 643, 644 and 645, off-route service is available for an additional charge. These deviations must be within 3/4 a mile of the bus route and must be scheduled by 4pm the day prior. Reservations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Taxi Voucher Program

River Valley Transit District's Taxi Voucher Program provides accessible transportation outside of the service area. The program offers a 100% match, meaning RVT

will pay for half of the cost of your taxi ride. This service is only available to seniors and persons with disabilities. Anyone with a CT reduced fare ID, a Medicare card, is certified for ADA Paratransit, or is over the age of 60 is eligible for the taxi voucher program. Riders must submit a Taxi Voucher Application form with payment and proof of eligibility to use the program. The taxi will take residents anywhere in Connecticut. To learn more, visit us online or call 860-510-0429.

Accessibility

River Valley Transit is accessible to persons with disabilities. All buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts or ramps that enable persons in wheelchairs or persons who cannot navigate steps to utilize our services. Bus Operators are trained to assist riders in use of lifts and ramps and secure wheelchairs. Passengers may travel with respirators, concentrators, and/or portable oxygen. Service animals are welcome on board our vehicles and in our facilities. Public information is available in alternative formats upon request. If you have a complaint about the accessibility of our transit system or service or believe you have been discriminated against because of your disability, you may file a complaint by visiting RiverValleyTransit.com or calling 860-510-0429 Ext 122 if you need assistance filing a complaint.

Reasonable Accommodations

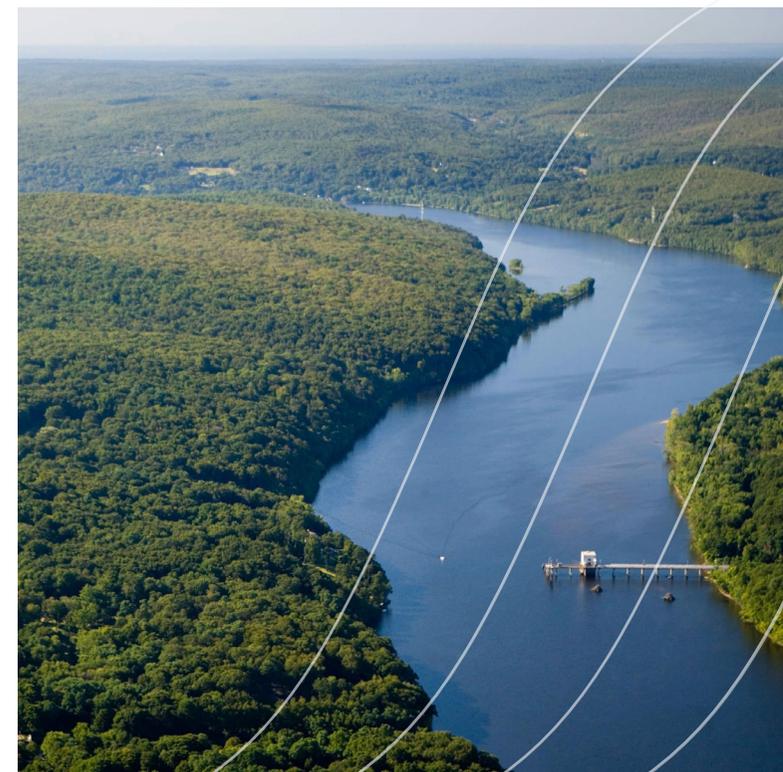
Passengers with disabilities may request modifications to current service procedures to access the service. To make a request, please call us at 860-510-0429 or email us at info@estuarytransit.org. Please submit requests at least two business days prior to the desired ride.

ADA Paratransit

ADA Paratransit is an origin-to-destination service for individuals of any age with a physical or cognitive disability that prevents them from using RVT services. ADA paratransit is only available to residents who live within 3/4 of a mile from a traditional fixed bus route. To register for ADA Paratransit, you must complete an application process to determine eligibility for the program. Applications are available online at www.ctada.com or by calling 860-510-0429 option 2.

River Valley Transit Title VI Policy Statement

The Estuary Transit District is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation, denied benefits, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, on the basis of race, color or national origin. Any person who believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination or retaliation based on their race, color or national origin may file a Title VI complaint. For more information about this policy and the complaint process go to RiverValleyTransit.com or call our Civil Rights Officer at 860-510-0429 Extension 101.



From **A** to **B** for most of **CT**.

2023 SYSTEM MAP

Individual Route Schedules and detailed maps, including evening and weekend service are available on our website



RiverValleyTransit.com

Exciting Changes to Public Transit in Middlesex County

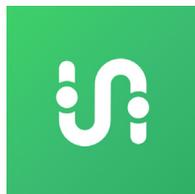
River Valley Transit was formerly two separate transit districts, Middletown Area Transit (MAT) and 9-Town Transit (9TT). MAT served the northern portion of Middlesex County and 9TT served the southern Shoreline Division. For a variety of reasons including simplicity, resource pooling, larger staff and vehicle capabilities, the districts officially merged as of July 1st 2022. RVT now represents the one unified system. As part of this merger a series of exciting changes are coming including updated routes for better efficiency, new routes, new fare discounts and new branding. Be on the lookout for more exciting changes. Want to learn more or comment about our proposed route changes, please go to RiverValleyTransit.com.

Bus Schedules

Schedules for the Middletown and Shoreline Division bus routes can be found by using the QR Code located on the front, back and on the map. These schedules not only show information related to the weekday routes, but in addition show evening and weekend routes. If you have a smartphone, simply open your camera and hover over the QR Code. A link will pop up directing you to our website with the schedule information.



For help planning out trips throughout the state of CT, make sure to download the free Transit App on your smartphone by using the QR Code below.



Fares

Fixed Route	
Single Ride	\$1.75
Off-Route Ride	\$3.50
All Day Pass	\$3.50
Senior/Disabled Ride	\$0.85
ADA Eligible Ride (fixed route)	FREE
Children Under 5	FREE
Demand Response	
Dial-A-Ride Reservation	\$3.50
ADA Paratransit	\$3.50
XtraMile	\$1.75
Pre-Paid Fares	
Ten-Ride Ticket	\$15.75
Senior/Disabled Ten-Ride Ticket	\$7.65
Monthly Pass	\$52.50
Senior/Disabled Monthly Pass	\$26.25
Dial-A-Ride Ten-Ride Ticket	\$35.00

Fares may be paid on-board the vehicle at the time of the trip. Exact fare is required, and no change can be provided. The Token Transit App for IOS and Android offers a cashless way to pay, along with discounted pass options.



RVT is committed to reducing financial barriers for riders, with money saving multi-trip passes and monthly passes available at the Downtown Middletown Terminal, Clinton, Madison and Old Saybrook Stop & Shop stores, the Deep River Adams Market, online at RiverValleyTransit.com and in the Token Transit App. Payment of a one-way ticket also enables riders to make free transfers to another bus in the system.

About River Valley Transit

River Valley Transit (RVT) is a transit agency operated by the Estuary Transit District. RVT provides a variety of transit services including traditional fixed routes, ADA Paratransit, Dial-A-Ride, and our On-Demand XtraMile service. Our service area encompasses most of Middlesex County and serves 17 municipalities. All services are open to the general public with no age or disability restrictions.



RIVER VALLEY TRANSIT

River Valley Transit

91 N Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
860-346-0212

Middletown Terminal
340 Main Street, Middletown
860-510-0429

RiverValleyTransit.com

Individual Route Schedules and detailed maps, including evening and weekend service are available on our website:



River Valley Transit Weekday Routes

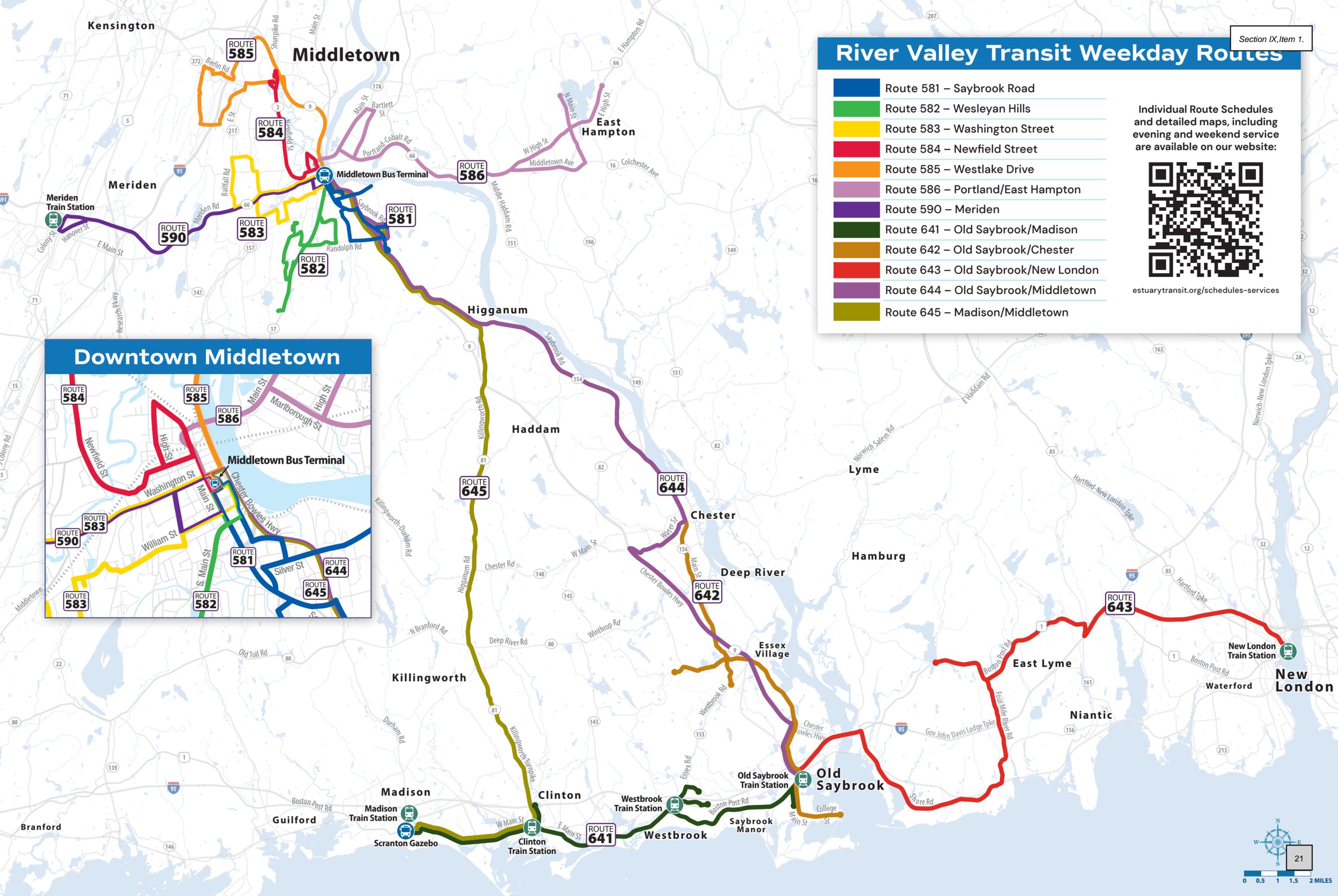
- Route 581 – Saybrook Road
- Route 582 – Wesleyan Hills
- Route 583 – Washington Street
- Route 584 – Newfield Street
- Route 585 – Westlake Drive
- Route 586 – Portland/East Hampton
- Route 590 – Meriden
- Route 641 – Old Saybrook/Madison
- Route 642 – Old Saybrook/Chester
- Route 643 – Old Saybrook/New London
- Route 644 – Old Saybrook/Middletown
- Route 645 – Madison/Middletown

Individual Route Schedules and detailed maps, including evening and weekend service are available on our website:



estuarytransit.org/schedules-services

Downtown Middletown



STATE OF CONNECTICUT)
)
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX)

SS: ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
March 10, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-006
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION
ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT**

CERTIFICATION:

I, Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary of the Estuary Transit District, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at its meeting on March 10th, 2023, in which a quorum was present and acting throughout and that the resolution has not been modified, rescinded, or revoked and is at present in full force and effect.

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, Joseph Comerford, is authorized on behalf of the Estuary Transit District to negotiate and execute all necessary contract documents by and between Via Mobility LLC and the Estuary Transit District required to purchase Microtransit Software for the Estuary Transit District in an amount not to exceed \$86,226.00 in initial fees exclusive of annual licensing, maintenance agreements, and hosting, upon final approval by the Chairman, Leslie Strauss, Treasurer, Charles Norz, and the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned has affixed his signature, the 10th day of March in the year 2023.

ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT
SECRETARY

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary

I, Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary of the Estuary Transit District, certify that the resolution noted above is still in force and effect as of this 10th day of March 2023.

Bus Advertising

Creative Promotions etc.



Buenos Aires Dog Food Ad



Snickers in New York City



Community First Credit Union in Sydney



Keep Holland Clean



British Opticians * Specsavers



FedEx or photoshopped bus?



Anti-Smoking Campaign



A MAT Bus on Facebook * Funk 'Em



Copenhagen Zoo Ad



River Valley Transit Pest Control Giant Rat

Considerations for NO ADVERTISING on RVT Buses

We cannot control content or colors.

We risk losing our brand (FedEx bus?).

Our new buses identify who we are- an important and beautiful statement.

Advertising may cause confusion- too many statements (Essex Savings Bank bus?)

Pride in ridership (a rat?).

Why not paint all the buses all the way around for even more money?

If the back of the bus is the best place to advertise, let's advertise ourselves.