

**ESTUARY TRANSIT DISTRICT  
RT. 81 COMMITTEE MEETING**

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

**September 20, 2013**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Estuary Transit District Route 81 Committee was called to order by Virginia Zawoy at 10:03 a.m. at the Estuary Transit Offices, Centerbrook, Connecticut.

**ROLL CALL**

Those in attendance included: Virginia Zawoy, Joan Gay and John Forbis

Guests: Ralph Eno and Liz West Glidden, East Haddam Town Planner

Staff: Joe Comerford, Halyna Famiglietti and Christina Denison

**PLEDGE**

Virginia Zawoy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BUILDING A COALITION and GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ROUTE 81 BUS  
ROUTE**

Joe introduced Liz Glidden, East Haddam Town Planner. He reported that Liz and Joan will be officially appointed to the Committee at the next Board meeting.

Joe stressed that the District's main priority is getting onto the State's capital plan schedule for a new facility. He informed the Committee that he, Halyna and several Board members would be meeting with the CT DOT later in the day to discuss this matter. Rep. Phil Miller and Rep. Tom Vacino would also be in attendance. Liz Glidden noted that the DOT facility in Higganum will be vacated within the next few months and might be worth investigating due to its proximity to mixed income housing, schools and retail outlets.

The Committee discussed the benefits of the proposed route, noting the abundance of housing, businesses and schools along the route. Joe reported that the route would make Killingworth, inland Clinton, as well as the western part of Haddam and western Westbrook, more accessible. The proposed route would provide good direct access from Middletown to the shoreline's beaches, outlet malls and downtown Clinton. John Forbis noted that with the building of the new clinic in Westbrook, more and more

people will be going to Middletown for health services. The route would also provide Madison with greater access to Middlesex Community College. Joe noted that the route is highly attractive because it offers connections to New Haven.

Joe stated that importance of involving Madison in the coalition, as Madison connects New Haven to Middletown. Ridership surveys illustrate that this connection is strongly needed. Ralph Eno feels that the District has certainly filled a gap not filled by the State by connecting these two areas. Joe indicated that the Town of Madison's First Selectman was invited to attend the meeting, but had not responded. Virginia Zawoy offered to contact the First Selectman.

Joe stressed the importance of getting local politicians involved. He noted that Rep. Art Linares has taken an interest in the project. He also suggested recruiting support from Sen. Maynard, and Reps. Guerrero and Meyer. Ralph Eno feels it would be beneficial to meet one-on-one with each of the aforementioned representatives.

Joan Gay suggested keeping Sen. Joe Courtney and Sen. Rosa DeLauro informed of funding matters. John Forbis recommended meeting with Sen. Courtney as the proposed route opens up new avenues for growth in jobs and in education, two interests of Sen. Courtney. Joe volunteered to contact Sen. Courtney's representative.

In addition to politicians, Joe asked the group for suggestions for businesses that could advocate for the proposed route. Virginia offered to contact Middlesex Community College and Joe will speak with Darlene Briggs of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce transportation division. Liz Glidden suggested contacting local Boards of Education and veterans' groups. Joe reported that Haddam-Killingworth High School uses 9TT services to bring students to internships; other schools may benefit as well. John Forbis suggested contacting the head of Middlesex Hospital and others on the "Trip Generators" list to get their input.

Joe suggested contacting VISTA, as the route could benefit their students in finding affordable housing and jobs.

Joan recommended doing presentations in small groups at the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce.

Joe will draft a short synopsis of what the District is proposing. Ralph Eno suggested meeting with RIVERCOG at a division meeting after the briefing paper is completed. He also suggested inviting the State Representatives to this meeting.

**TRIP GENERATORS ALONG RT. 81**

A list of Route 81 trip generators was distributed at the meeting. Suggestions as to other generators along the route, including Middlesex Community College, Middlesex Hospital, Higganum Rehabilitation and the medical facility on Saybrook Road, were made.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Virginia Zawoy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 p.m. John Forbis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Denison  
Administrative Secretary

Virginia Zawoy  
Chairman