



August 28, 2018

Mr. Dennis W. Farias
City Clerk/Clerk of the City Council
City of New Bedford
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Mr. Farias:

We have received your letter dated August 21, 2018 regarding the request made by Councillor Gomes to extend service to Fort Taber. We received a similar request from the New Bedford City Council on June 4, 2018 and responded with a letter dated June 18, 2018. At the time of the initial request, SRTA was in the process of evaluating service use and demand for the segment of the SRTA New Bedford Route 1 – Fort Rodman route south of Cove Street. At the time of our previous correspondence the study had not been completed, which is why no action was taken. The evaluation has been completed and possible service alternatives have been developed, however due to a change in our budget projections for 2019 Fiscal Year, no action to implement a service change is anticipated.

SRTA appreciates the consideration that New Bedford City Council and the Traffic Commission have given to the issue of service on the peninsula. The Route 1 – Fort Rodman is the busiest route in New Bedford and one of the busiest in the SRTA system; the volume of passengers combined with the route alignment make schedule adherence a constant challenge for this route. Our reservation to extending the current route alignment to Fort Taber is that it will exacerbate the challenge of maintaining the route schedule with an acceptable level of reliability our customers have come to expect. Absent any significant changes in route alignment or service plans for the south end, we are unable to implement the alignment as suggested.

We remain committed to improving and expanding transit service options for the residents of New Bedford and are continuing our evaluation and service planning efforts for the Route 1 – Fort Rodman. We will give full consideration to the suggestion for service to Fort Taber as the planning process proceeds.

Thank You,

Erik B. Rousseau
Administrator

Cc: Brian K. Gomes, New Bedford City Councillor at Large

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