



March 10, 2021

Kathryn Duff
Chair – New Bedford Planning Board
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: Case #21-05: Ordinance Amendment – Waterfront Mixed Use District

To Chairperson Duff:

I am writing in regard to Case #21-05: Ordinance Amendment – Waterfront Mixed Use District on the agenda for the March 10, 2021 meeting of the City of New Bedford Planning Board. The Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) respectfully requests that the Planning Board consider amending the language of Section 4711.A, Paragraph D – Public and Private Infrastructure to state:

*“Streetscapes should incorporate pedestrian and bicycle amenities throughout the District, including shared use paths, encourage on-street parking, **designate bus stops**, ride share zones and areas for ride hailing.”*

To maintain safe and efficient transit operations, we request that bus stops be considered distinct areas within the public right of way that do not share space with ride share zones or areas for ride hailing.

The proposed overlay district is currently served by two SRTA fixed routes: New Bedford Route 2 which operates service every 20 minutes and New Bedford Route 11 which operates service every 30 minutes. Both routes have consistent ridership and carry a significant number of passenger trips in the City of New Bedford. We want to ensure that the needs of transit passengers are codified in the city ordinance and incorporated into proposed development plans as the district redevelops.

We applaud the city for taking measures such as the Waterfront Mixed Use District to promote redevelopment in an area that defines the character and history of the City of New Bedford. We hope that our request will be considered and that development encourages the use of transit as a mode of travel.

Sincerely,

Erik Rousseau
Administrator

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