



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Transportation Committee to hold Regional Transit Authority oversight hearing

March 4, 2008, (Boston) – Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) and State Representative Joseph F. Wagner (D-Chicopee) announced today that the Joint Committee on Transportation has scheduled a public oversight hearing on the performance of the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority on Friday, March 7, 2008. The hearing will take place at the Merrimac Senior Center (100 East Main Street, Merrimac) at 10:00AM.

The Committee will hear testimony on matters stemming from multiple complaints from elderly and disabled users. Time and time again we hear reports of passengers being stranded by drivers who do not give adequate time for them to reach the bus, or drivers who never show up at all. The RTA is often the sole method of transportation for its passengers, and allows a great deal of independence to individuals who would otherwise need to rely on family, friends, or a paid service of some kind.

“These reports raise serious concerns about the training and accountability given through the MVRTA,” said Senator Baddour. “These programs are in place primarily for elderly, disabled and lower income residents who rely on a service that should be efficient and responsible. If even one passenger is hindered from leading an independent lifestyle due to ineptitude by the MVRTA, then the organization as a whole has failed in its mission.”

Included among those invited to testify are the directors of all of the councils on aging in the MVRTA coverage area, several constituents who have lodged complaints against the MVRTA, and Jeanette Orsino and Joe Costanzo from the MVRTA.

All local legislators have also been invited to attend.

If you would like more information please contact Eleni Varitimos at 617-722-1604 or eleni.varitimos@state.ma.us.

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