



October 6, 2022

RE: Meshacket Commons

To Whom it May Concern,

Island Housing Trust and Affirmative Investments, developers of the proposed 40 affordable rentals and ownership homes at Meshacket Commons in Edgartown have inquired with the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) regarding any plans to add a bus route to service Meshacket Road in the future. As stated in August, the VTA is evaluating all its routes in order to assess demand as it transitions out of the pandemic, and will include Meshacket Road as part of its assessment and will plan accordingly. Additionally, the VTA included improved coordination between transit and land use as a core goal in our 2020 Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan and we appreciate being involved at this stage of the project for transit planning purposes.

Given the location of the new development, VTA envisions a new in-town Edgartown route, micro transit, or increased headway on existing service as potential solutions. This would allow VTA the ability to offer additional circulator service within Edgartown and connections to additional VTA routes. Any of these options would need to be discussed with the town of Edgartown prior to implementation, as there would likely be an additional cost to the Town. Any new service is still several years away however, as the VTA is still recovering from the pandemic and its associated impacts including severe staffing shortages, supply chain delays, and vehicle delivery issues.

Improved pedestrian access and other forms of mitigation, potentially including annual VTA passes for residents, should also be evaluated, as existing transit service is about a ½ mile in either direction with established successful transit services.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Angela E. Gompert  
Administrator