

Connecticut Public Transportation Commission
Minutes of December 5, 2013

ConnDOT Headquarters, Conference Room A
2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington

Attendance: Members: Kevin Maloney, Richard Schreiner, Mort Katz, Russ St. John, Richard Sunderhauf, Yvonne Loteczka, Robert Rodman, Chris Adams, Alan Sylvestre. **Ex-officio members:** David LeVasseur (OPM), Fred Riese (DEEP). **ConnDOT staff:** Sherry Osterling. **Guests:** Stephen Troster.

Chairman Maloney called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. The minutes of the meeting of November 7 were approved as written. Due to the discussions of the recommendations for the Annual Report, there was no scheduled speaker for this meeting.

Comments from the Public

None.

Reports from Operating Entities

Rich Sunderhauf mentioned that route changes for the CT Transit Hartford Division went into effect the week of November 17. The most significant change is that there is now interlining of the routes from Wethersfield to Buckland Hills and from Buckland Hills to Copaco in Bloomfield, meaning that the entire trip from Wethersfield to Buckland Hills to Copaco can now be done as a one-seat ride.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Maloney expressed his sympathy for those who were killed or injured in the December 2 Metro-North derailment in the Bronx and said that our prayers are with them and their families.

Old Business

Fred Riese provided an update on a topic raised at the Commission's Bristol public hearing on May 22. The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency was not successful in its application for a TIGER grant for the operation of bus service between Bristol and Waterbury.

New Business

Chris Adams inquired about commitments for speakers for the meetings of early 2014. He was told there are two potential speakers for January at this point, and a commitment from Jon Foster of the ConnDOT Office of Rail to provide an overview on Shore Line East at the February meeting. Speaker slots are available beyond that point.

Discussion and Voting on Recommendations for Annual Report

The principal topic for this meeting was the consideration and acceptance of the draft recommendations for the Annual Report. Drafts of six recommendations and of a synopsis of six other issues which were prominently mentioned at the Commission's 2013 public hearings were

distributed for review. The topics of the six draft recommendations, all of which had been discussed at the Commission's annual work session in New Haven on November 21, were: funding for and overcrowding on the Coastal Link bus service, restoration of funding for the State Matching Grant Program for municipal paratransit services, more pro-active public outreach for major public transportation projects, the diversion of funds from the Special Transportation Fund for use for non-transportation purposes, the Housatonic Railroad's proposal for passenger rail service between Danbury and Pittsfield, and marketing efforts at a local scale for Connecticut's transit and paratransit services. All of these recommendations were approved unanimously for inclusion in the Annual Report with the exception of one vote in opposition to the recommendation on increased public outreach for major transit projects.

The other six issues discussed in the Annual Report, which are not the subject of formal recommendations but were raised by multiple speakers at the 2013 hearings, are: bicycle usage and amenities, inter-regional bus transit, designated and signed bus stops, track announcements for arriving trains, uncollected train fares, and the increasing demand for bi-state services.

Following these discussions, Chairman Maloney closed the meeting at 3:07 pm and extended his holiday well-wishes to all.