

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
MEETING

Thursday, February 5, 2004 - 1:30 PM

Union Station, Fourth Floor Conference Room A

New Haven, Connecticut

1. Approval of the January 8, 2004 meeting minutes
2. Jeffrey Beadle, President, Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT)
3. Comments from the public
4. Report from operating entities
5. Chairman's report
6. Old business
7. New business

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE

THURSDAY, January 8, 2004

D.O.T. Headquarters, Conference Room B

Newington, Connecticut

VOTING MEMBERS

Dorothy Adamson  
Linda Blair  
Richard Carpenter  
Tom Cheeseman  
N. Terry Hall  
Yvonne Loteczka  
David Reed  
Richard Schreiner  
Richard Sunderhauf

GUESTS

Mario Marrero  
Anthony Savino  
Stephen Troster

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Fred Riese

CDOT STAFF

Cindy Gollareny

# CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Minutes

January 8, 2004

(Meeting convened at 1:35 p.m.)

Mr. Cheeseman opened with an announcement that Governor John G. Rowland issued Executive Order #30 urging state agencies to reduce the amount of printed material and increase the amount of online publishing.

Therefore, the Department will discontinue the mailing of the CPTC monthly meeting minutes and reports. However, this information will be available online at the ConnDOT website at [www.ct.gov/dot](http://www.ct.gov/dot). In addition, you may register on the website to receive email notification when CPTC publications become available.

In the event you do not have Internet access and wish to continue to receive future CPTC correspondence, please contact Ms. Cynthia Gollareny, CPTC Liaison, at ConnDOT (Unit 7073, Room 1137 NE), P.O. Box 317546, Newington, CT 06131-7546 or by telephone at (860) 594- 2832.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – December 4, 2003

Accepted as written.

### **FEATURED SPEAKERS – KEY POINTS**

None.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Mario Marrero, Jobs Access Project Manager, North Central Region, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), announced that the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Access Program (ECTAP) funds, which provided service from New Britain and Hartford to the casinos for approximately 130 employees, expired on December 31, 2003. However, other funds have become available to extend this service through June 30, 2004. A subcommittee is being established to work with the casinos and job development agencies to discuss solutions for after June 30. The casinos have not been willing to assist in funding the service.

Mr. Marrero reported that Foxwoods casino has eliminated the Work Etc. program, which employed individuals coming off of welfare. Seventy people are effected by the loss of this service. He also reported that Mohegan Sun casino has recently hired a substantial number of employees from Brazil.

## **REPORT FROM OPERATING ENTITIES**

Richard Sunderhauf announced that CTTtransit's new fares went into effect on Sunday, January 4, 2004 and he has not experienced any negative feedback from riders.

Richard Schreiner reported that the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District is currently going through the process of requesting municipal funding.

Fred Riese will be attending a Southeast Corridor Advisory Committee meeting in February which will provide an update on the status of the expansion of I-95.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Cheeseman reiterated his concern regarding the State's deficit and its impact on Transit. Mr. Cheeseman reported that at the December 11, 2003 Quarterly Transit District Meeting, the districts were informed that the Commissioner will have to reduce the Dial-A-Ride funding appropriation by approximately 95%-98%. For Mr. Cheeseman's system, Middletown Transit District, this would create a \$94,000 hole in the budget. The funds will be reallocated to the ADA line item of the budget in order to meet the requirements of the law. As a result, ConnDOT has requested that the Transit District's converse with the political leadership on Capitol Hill in an attempt to reopen the budgetary process to appropriate approximately one million dollars for ADA services. If successful, Dial-A-Ride monies would not have to be reduced. They were also asked to take a close look at the individuals who are Medicaid recipients that ride for a fee of \$1.50. Under Medicaid provisions, the district is entitled to recover the total cost of that ride.

Mr. Anthony Savino, Transit Manager, Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, commented that his ADA budget has been reduced by \$86,000.

Mr. Cheeseman recently met with Representative Nancy Johnson and discussed the National Transportation Fund. Ms. Johnson indicated that since 9-11-01 revenues going into the Fund are approximately 35%-40% less than pre 9-11.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Fred Riese thanked all the individuals who assisted with the 2003 Annual Report and Recommendations.

Anthony Savino reported that since the October 4, 2003 termination of the afternoon factory run and the Southwest Corridor route in Bristol, he receives constant letters and phone calls requesting that service in the Southwest Corridor be reinstated. The concerns have been presented to CTTransit, New Britain division, and ConnDOT and the consensus is that ridership is too low to justify the service. Mr. Savino added that he has not received any complaints associated with the termination of the afternoon factory run.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Terry Hall reported a change in bus transportation in the Northwest corner of the state to New York City since Bananza merged with PeterPan. The route has been altered on Route 7 to accommodate Winsted and Torrington to increase ridership however, the schedule is no longer conducive for day trips to New York City.

Mr. Hall also reported that two experimental freight runs from Washington to New Jersey have been established in a cooperative effort between Norfolk Southern and Amtrak. The first run used Norfolk Southern power and ran at 50mph. The second run used Amtrak power and ran at 60mph. This run also made a route change by going through the center of Washington under the Capitol via a freight track connector.

Richard Carpenter inquired on the status of a letter Mr. Cheeseman wrote to Mr. Harry Harris, Bureau Chief, ConnDOT regarding his dissatisfaction with the cleanliness and odor on a Metro North train car from Grand Central Terminal to New Haven on December 7, 2003. Mr. Cheeseman has not received a response from Mr. Harris to date.

(Meeting adjourned at 2:25 P.M.)