

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 6, 2003 - 1:30 PM

D.O.T. Headquarters, Conference Room B

Newington, Connecticut

1. Approval of the January 9, 2003 meeting minutes
2. David L. White, President of the Community Transportation Association of America will discuss public transportation in Connecticut
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, February 6, 2003

Union Station, Conference Room B

New Haven, Connecticut

VOTING MEMBERS

Dorothy Adamson
Linda Blair
Arroll Borden
Dennis Brenner
Richard Carpenter
Tom Cheeseman
Terry Hall
Yvonne Loteczka
Richard Schreiner
Richard Sunderhauf

ABSENT MEMBERS

David Fink
Morton Katz
William Kelaher
John Radacsi
Russell St. John

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Fred Riese

CDOT STAFF

Laila Mandour
Carmine Trotta

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes

February 6, 2003

(Meeting convened at 1:34 P.M.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2003

Accepted as amended to reflect the correction of a typographical error.

FEATURED SPEAKERS – KEY POINTS

Richard Doyle, Regional Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, was unable to attend the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

REPORT FROM OPERATING ENTITIES

Richard Sunderhauf reported that Connecticut Transit will be implementing service changes effective beginning February 16. Mr. Sunderhauf also reported that 26 people spoke against proposed changes at a hearing in Hartford held on January 14. Thirteen of the speakers who spoke were riders of the Unionville Express route. Because of their attendance and input, the decision to stop the service on the Unionville Express route was reversed.

Linda Blair reported that she also attended hearings held in New Haven about service cuts and that there was a good turnout of speakers against the proposed cuts. There was also a public outcry for more service for Jobs Access transportation.

Richard Schreiner reported that Housatonic Area Regional Transit (HART) is redesigning and updating its schedules. Mr. Schreiner stated that Job Links, the Northwestern Connecticut Jobs Access collaborative, produced several television commercials to promote the service. One of the commercials won an award of distinction. The Katonah service ridership increased to over 2,000 trips last month, which is record high since the inception of service.

Fred Riese reported that he is sending a copy of the Annual Report to R. Nelson Griebel, Chairman of the Transportation Strategy Board. Mr. Riese also reported that Bob Hammersley, Transportation Strategy Board Liaison, stated that the Transportation Strategy Board would like to make a presentation to the Commission. Mr. Cheeseman will schedule the presentation in the near future.

Terry Hall reported that Amtrak is still looking for funding for the year October 2002 to September 2003. While the Senate had approved \$1.2 billion for Amtrak, the newly elected Senate reduced that amount. The House gave Amtrak \$700 million, but Amtrak

requires in excess of \$1.2 billion at this time to operate the system. A conference committee will resolve this difference. Amtrak has also begun rebuilding some equipment now, a need which was ignored under George Warrington. On-time performance has also improve under the leadership of David Gunn.

Richard Carpenter reported that he attended some East of the Hudson meetings and that the tunnel study is proceeding.

Carmine Trotta, with the Bureau of Policy and Planning with ConnDOT, reported that the 2003 Master Transportation Plan has been published, is in the printing process and will be distributed throughout February. The Master Transportation Plan will also be on the DOT website in March 2003.

Mr. Trotta continued by noting that data collection is being completed for the New Haven-Springfield Commuter Rail Study, and possible station locations are being discussed with the towns along the corridor. The New Britain-Hartford Busway is proceeding toward design. A draft report for the Manchester Busway should be ready next month.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Cheeseman reported that he met with Rosa DeLauro who told Mr. Cheeseman that her number one priority is the preservation of the current funding formula in the reauthorization of TEA-21, but she also noted that TEA-21 may not be funded in its entirety because some funds may be diverted to Homeland Security. If the allocation formula is changed, Connecticut could lose as much as \$50 million per year, which would be devastating.

A bill to install tollbooths on the exit ramps to the casinos, for a toll of \$10 per car, has been proposed and if implemented, would generate \$241 million per year. However, the bill was killed. Tollbooths at the exit ramps may not work because they would create bad traffic problems to local roads and I-95.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission discussed the responses to the CPTC recommendations and the proposed hearing locations for spring and fall 2003.

NEW BUSINESS

Terry Hall reported that the elevators at the Old Saybrook train station are not working. The responsibility for repairing the elevators lies with Amtrak.

Richard Sunderhauf reported that Connecticut Transit Hartford Division will be demonstrating an MCI double axle over-the-road bus and evaluating it for use on the New Britain Busway.

(Meeting adjourned at 3:07 P.M.)

