



CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

In Cooperation with
SWRPA
South Western Regional Planning Agency



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**



FTA ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS
DRAFT/FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DANBURY BRANCH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TASK 5

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM
TECH MEMO I - EXISTING CONDITIONS

STATE PROJECT 302-008

JANUARY 2011



INTRODUCTION

Data Collection is necessary to provide baseline information on the locations, types, and significance of environmental and community resources and constraints throughout the study corridor of the Danbury Branch Improvement Program. The study corridor is defined as 1,000 feet in width, specifically, 500 feet measured on each side of the Danbury Branch rail right-of-way centerline, from the existing South Norwalk station to New Milford center. It is assumed that potential station sites, electrical substations, sidings, and other facilities will be located within the corridor, and no data collection has been conducted for areas outside the corridor.

As part of Task 5: Environmental Data Collection and Evaluation, data collection efforts have been conducted and will be used for a screening level evaluation of biological, physical, and community resources within the study corridor. The Environmental Technical Memorandum includes mapping and text for the following eighteen sections:

- Topography, Geology, and Soils
- Noise and Vibration
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Biological Diversity
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Wetlands
- Floodplains and Floodways
- Historic Resources
- Archeological Resources
- Prime Farmland and Active Farmland
- Land Use
- Hazardous Contamination
- Surface and Groundwater Resources
- Public Recreational/4(f)/6(f) Lands
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Scenic Roads
- Visual Resources