

## **AGENDA**

### CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

**January 4, 2007 - 1:30 PM**

ConnDOT Headquarters, Conference Room B  
Berlin Turnpike, Newington

1. Approval of the December 7, 2006 meeting minutes
2. Featured speaker: Brian Maruch, United Technologies Corporation, Fuel Cells Division
3. Comments from the public
4. Comments from operating entities
5. Chairman's report
6. Old business
7. New business

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of December 7, 2006

Union Station, New Haven  
Fourth Floor Conference Room

Vice-chairman Morton Katz called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. and noted that today is the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Three corrections were offered to the minutes of November 2. Peter Richter noted that the new agreement with Amtrak to operate Shore Line East has not been concluded but is still under negotiation. Richard Sunderhauf asked that his reference to the Talcott Mountain route be deleted. Richard Carpenter asked that the November minutes reflect his statement of concern about the side clearance restrictions that will occur at New Rochelle if no modifications are made to the current plans for a new track layout at that station. The minutes were approved subject to these modifications.

**Reports from Operating Entities**

Peter Richter reported that the new running repair shop at New Haven Yard is on target to receive a temporary certificate of occupancy later this month. Metro-North will then begin moving materials and equipment in.

Eight Virginia Rail Express cars have now been received back from Kawasaki. These are now used as two 4-car trainsets. We should have 12 VREs back by the end of the year.

Shore Line East ridership is up 10.3% for the first ten months of 2006 compared to the same period of 2005. Shore Line East handled 1,931 daily riders in October 2006, up 9% from the October 2005 daily ridership of 1,771. On-time performance for October was 94%, and has been 95.6% year-to-date.

New Haven Line ridership was 3.3% higher for October 2006 compared to October 2005, with 3,077,000 riders carried in October 2006. Year-to-date ridership is up 2.8% and stands at 28,925,246. On-time performance was 98% for October and has been 97.2% for the first ten months of the year.

Lastly, 114 MU cars have been overhauled in the Critical Systems Replacement (CSR) Program to date, which has dramatically increased their performance and their mileage between breakdowns. Contrary to some reports, this program is continuing without interruption.

Richard Sunderhauf related that Connecticut Transit is no longer running late day buses into Bowles Park, but is now merely stopping in front of that development on the last few runs of the day. He also mentioned that the Greater Hartford Transit District has begun operating a new ZZ Shuttle route providing hourly service from Manchester to

Rockville on Sundays as part of the Jobs Access program. Sunderhauf reported that the Amalgamated Transit Union has written a letter to ConnDOT Commissioner Carpenter objecting to the use of Greater Hartford Transit District paratransit drivers providing a fixed route service, the ZZ Shuttle, since the paratransit drivers have lower pay and benefit scales than the Connecticut Transit fixed route bus drivers do.

Russ St. John reported that almost all the replacement ties have now been installed on the Willimantic Secondary as part of Providence and Worcester's effort to reactivate that line.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Tom Cheeseman reported good news on Jobs Access transportation in the South Central Region. All operators in the region had been asked to reduce their costs by 10%, which would have necessitated cuts in Jobs Access services. However, additional funding from DSS and the Regional Growth Connection has been found which will allow all services to be continued and will, in some instances, allow increased services.

Cheeseman also related that transit operators statewide feel they are about \$30,000,000 short in operating funds to continue current services under the upcoming budget and have \$70,000,000 in unbudgeted capital needs. Various proposals are floating around for new rail and highway initiatives, but nothing for transit, so the transit operators feel they need to be more vocal in making their needs known.

### **Old Business**

The Northwest Connecticut Transit District has found a new temporary vehicle storage facility, according to Terry Hall. Tom Cheeseman observed that a better working relationship between the District and ConnDOT has developed recently. On a separate topic, Terry noted that soil tests had shown unsuitable soils at the Thames River Amtrak bridge, complicating plans for the installation of new piers to support the new moveable span to be installed at that bridge.

### **New Business**

John Zelinsky noted the difficult parking situation at Union Station and suggested that the Commission locate an alternate meeting site. After other members offered suggestions on obtaining parking, Zelinsky withdrew his motion.

Fred Riese discussed progress on resolving the difficulty Carol Deane of Northwestern Connecticut Transit District cited at the Bantam public hearing about running out-of-region trips to Great Barrington and Waterbury. Fred's calls to ConnDOT indicated that the NWCTD either currently possesses or could easily obtain the authority to operate trips to these locations.

Kevin Maloney attended a meeting of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America in Phoenix and invited Neil Schuster, president of the Society, to address the Commission. He accepted and will speak at the February 1, 2007 meeting.

The Commission then discussed and voted upon the recommendations to be included in the 2006 Annual Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Union Station, Fourth Floor Conference Room  
New Haven, Connecticut

VOTING MEMBERS

Linda Blair  
Tom Cheeseman  
Morton Katz  
Yvonne Loteczka  
Terry Hall  
Richard Carpenter  
Richard Sunderhauf  
John Zelinsky  
Russ St. John  
Kevin Maloney  
Robert Zarnetske

GUESTS

None

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Frederick Riese

ConnDOT STAFF

Peter Richter  
Dennis King