

## **AGENDA**

### **CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, February 6, 2003 - 1:30 PM

Union Station, Fourth Floor Conference Room B

New Haven, Connecticut

1. Approval of the January 9, 2003 meeting minutes
2. Richard H. Doyle, Federal Transit Administration Administrator invited
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 9, 2003

D.O.T. Headquarters - Conference Room A

Newington, Connecticut

VOTING MEMBERS

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

GUESTS

Brooke Hoberman  
Mario Marrero  
Stephen Troster

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

John Radacsi  
Fred Riese

CDOT STAFF

Laila Mandour, James Boice, Harry Harris, Richard Hollis, Michael Sanders

# CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Minutes

January 9, 2003

(Meeting convened at 1:30 P.M.)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – December 12, 2002

Accepted as revised by a correction to the Chairman's Report.

### **FEATURED SPEAKER – KEY POINTS**

James Boice, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Policy and Planning of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, gave an overview of the 2003 Master Transportation Plan to be released later this month.

Mr. Boice outlined the organizational structure of ConnDot and listed some of the major projects proposed for each mode: highways, transit, waterways, airports, etc. He also listed some of the major studies either currently under way or recently completed. Other air quality, land use and economic development initiatives are also discussed in the Master Transportation Plan, along with current and future transportation issues such as travel delays, funding issues, priorities, land use, the aging population, and the environment.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mario Marrero, with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), reported that CRCOG received notice from the Department of Social Services that Jobs Access funding cuts would be in the amount of \$55,000 to 58,000.

### **REPORT FROM OPERATING ENTITIES**

Harry Harris, Chief of the Bureau of Public Transportation, reported that on the rail side D.O.T. has signed an agreement for the construction of a new parking lot and commercial development, tying economic development to transit in the Town of Fairfield. A new train station and a fifteen hundred car parking lot for commuters will be constructed at Commerce Drive. While it will take a few years to complete, the new station will be a major new commuter facility on the New Haven Line.

Michael Sanders, Bus Transit Administrator for the Bureau of Public Transportation, reported that service refinements and subsidies are being worked on relative to Dial-A-Ride due to the budget cuts. The transit districts were sent a letter cutting their growth rate to two and a half percent over the previous fiscal year. Public hearings will be held in Hartford, New Haven and Stamford next week on Connecticut Transit fixed route

service reductions. Private operators in the other five operating divisions have been asked to come up with two percent to five percent reduction plans.

The fiscal picture is fairly grim and caused by increases in operating expenses, predominately insurance. Health insurance over this two-year budget is up 30 % and is the second largest cost item in the bus budget. Liability insurance provided to the transit districts is up approximately 70 %, over the two years of this budget. Other than Dial-A-Ride, there have been no cuts in any other bus appropriations.

Richard Sunderhauf provided handouts describing the service refinements that are being worked on. Mr. Sunderhauf noted that some of the reductions are substantial.

Richard Schreiner reported that Housatonic Area Regional Transit (HART) has taken delivery of 20 small buses that are replacements for their paratransit vehicles. Some of the vehicles will be used for Jobs Access and shuttle services. HART is working on starting a new Jobs Access service and they will be expanding evening, weekend, and Sunday service. The Brewster shuttle is doing well, with over 200 trips a day. The Katonah service is doing well also, with over 100 trips a day recorded several times per month.

Linda Blair reported that progress continues on the website.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Cheeseman reported that Middletown received four of seven new buses, which have been integrated into their fleet. They also have new schedules reflecting the new buses.

In response to the current budget crisis, the Middletown Transit District initiated a public hearing on December 16<sup>th</sup> for fare increases that will be implemented effective March 1, 2003. The basic fare in Middletown is proposed to increase to \$1.25. Another public hearing will be held for further public comment. The increases have been supported by the City of Middletown and approved by the Board to go forward.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Richard Sunderhauf reported that Fleet Bank employees have no more bus pass subsidies for direct purchase and that the Double A shuttle service has been eliminated.

Fred Riese reminded Commission members to submit their reimbursement forms to him for review.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Fred Riese inquired of Mike Sanders the reason why the Unionville Express bus service has been proposed for complete elimination. Mr. Sanders explained that it was felt those

commuters had other options, either to use the local service or other commuter expresses. He also cited low ridership. Mr. Sanders noted it is possible that the service could be cut to one bus each peak, down from the current two, rather than be completely eliminated.

Fred Riese reported that the 2002 Annual Report and Recommendations was released on time and delivered to the Governor, Transportation Committee and the Commissioner on December 31. He acknowledged the valuable cooperation of Laila Mandour and of the ConnDot print shop in producing a quick turn-around of the report.

(Meeting adjourned at 2:35 P.M.)