

## **AGENDA**

### CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

**April 3 - 1:30 PM**

Union Station, Fourth Floor Conference Room  
New Haven

1. Approval of the March 6, 2008 meeting minutes
2. Speaker: Deputy Commissioner Albert Martin, CDOT
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 March 6, 2008

Union Station, Fourth Floor Conference Room  
New Haven

**Attendance: Members:** Tom Cheeseman, Kevin Maloney, Yvonne Loteczka, Mort Katz, Terry Hall, Richard Sunderhauf, Rick Schreiner, John Zelinsky. William C. Kelaher, Susan Simmat **Ex-officio members:** Connie Mendolia **ConnDOT staff:** Dennis King. **Guests:** Al Sylvestre

Chairman Cheeseman opened the meeting at 1:32 pm. He asked for a moment of silence in memory of the late Tony Savino. The minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2008 were approved with no changes. Chairman Cheeseman also advised that Chris Adams could not be at the meeting due to the fact that he was locked into the legislative session. Chairman Cheeseman introduced Connie Mendolia of DEP who was there in lieu of Fred Riese.

**Featured Speaker**

Peter Richter, Assistant Public Transit Administrator from the rail division of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, provided an overview on the state of the Connecticut rail system. Mr. Richter gave a brief history of his rail experience.

Mr Richter provided insight on the large service organization, the operating and capital structure of the Bureau of Public Transportation and the Connecticut Department of Transportation's mission statement.

He went on to discuss the strategic objectives of maintaining the existing systems and equipment to a state of good repair and enhancing system safety and security. (e.g. M8 rail car procurement, M2 major systems replacement, locomotive and coach overhauls/procurements)

In addition, he discussed the expansion of rail services to capture a greater share of existing markets and specific new markets. Mr. Richter reviewed the actual cost of doing business in terms of annual operation expenses and the ConnDOT subsidy needed to do so for the Shore Line East 8 stations and the 35 stations associated with the New Haven line and three Branch Lines.

Mr. Richter spoke of the Capital Improvement Program including the M8 rail car procurement, the New Haven maintenance facility complex, the New Haven Line Overhead Catenary Wire Replacement and the railroad movable bridge rehabilitation and replacement.

In responding to questions, Mr. Richter explained how the Design and Construction unit enlist the services of consulting engineering firms to develop scopes and ensure compliance with FTA requirements. Additionally, he advised of how this group also administers construction contracts, inspections of State-owned railroad bridges and oversees work performed by railroad forces (e.g. track programs and bridge repairs).

Also in responding to additional questions, Mr. Richter discussed security operations, power usage, Penn Station access, the New Haven-Springfield Line, Shoreline East and procedures in terms of managing and administering transit security programs and direct rail emergency preparedness and contingency planning.

He also spoke of the external and internal collaborations with municipalities and the various planning organizations

### **Comments from the public**

None.

### **Comments from Operating Entities**

Richard Sunderhauf reported that several Ct Transit routes had changes and provided flyers showing the changes effective March 2, 2008. He also spoke of assaults on transit workers across the country and Canada.

Rick Schriener reported that the HART's website was up and that the New Milford run had started both effective March 3, 2008.

William Kelaher advised that union contracts were set until 2010.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Cheeseman reported that he attended a CACT/Women in Transit legislative breakfast. Legislators noted that transportation was a priority for this session. With that in mind, it was noted that municipalities must coordinate their services in order to receive additional funding.

Chairman Cheeseman also noted that there was an upward surge in terms of the usage of street car as a tool for economic development across the country. Millions of dollars are being poured into cities for development and street cars are an attractive tool that pays for itself as an attraction.

The Chairman informed the members that the Estuary Transit will be operating a new service from the shoreline to Deep River, Essex and Chester into Middletown along the medical coordinator to enhance public access to the medical facilities in the greater Middletown area.

Chairman Cheeseman addressed the issue surrounding lap belts on CTTransit and Paratransit vehicles. He advised that unlike Paratransit vehicles, you can not make an

individual wear a lap belt, however, he strongly suggest that passengers in wheelchairs do so and gave a very sobering example of why.

Chairman Cheeseman advised the members as to the Spring Public Hearing dates and locations. Rick Schreiner suggested that the fall Danbury hearing be held at the Railroad Museum.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
May 13, 2008 (Tuesday)	Waterbury	Amphitheater Sovereign Bank, downstairs 26 Kendrick Ave. Waterbury, CT 06702
May 21, 2008 (Wednesday)	Fairfield	Independence Hall Conference Room, first floor 725 Old Post Rd. Fairfield, CT 06824
June 3, 2008 (Tuesday)	Old Saybrook	Old Saybrook Town Hall Conference Room, main level 302 Main St. Old Saybrook, CT 06475
June 17, 2008 (Tuesday)	Hartford	Union Station Multipurpose Room One Union Place Hartford, CT 06103

### **Old Business**

Members of the Commission felt that several of the responses by CDOT in reference to the Annual Report were not substantive, which led to a discussion as to whether or not CDOT danced around the issues. Chairman Cheeseman note that the Annual Report was intended to bring the issues to the forefront and have them “out there” to be addressed by the new Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.

### **New Business**

Chairman Cheeseman acknowledged receiving an email from Ms. Glendine Henry of DSS thanking the Commission for recommendation # 10 concerning accessible taxi cabs. Ms. Henry also wanted to invite members of the commission to an event on May 15, 2008 honoring National Transportation Week.

Mr. Maloney advised that there was a transit summit being held in New Haven on March 21, 2008. The chairman requested that Mr. Maloney forward the information to him and he would get it to the members.

Mr. Zelinsky requested a change to the minutes to reflect his attendance at the October public hearing.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.