

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
MEETING

Thursday, May 1, 2003 - 1:30 PM

Department of Transportation, Conference Room B

Newington, Connecticut

1. Approval of the April 3, 2003 meeting minutes
2. John Hanlon, President of the Housatonic Railroad, will speak about Housatonic Railroad operations
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, April 3, 2003

Union Station, Conference Room B

New Haven, Connecticut

VOTING MEMBERS

Dorothy Adamson  
Linda Blair  
Dennis Brenner  
Richard Carpenter  
Terry Hall  
Morton Katz  
Yvonne Loteczka  
Russ St. John  
Richard Sunderhauf

GUESTS

Rodney Chabot  
Charles Langley

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Fred Riese

CDOT STAFF

Laila Mandour  
David Balzer  
Ray Cox  
Mike Donnarumma  
Bob Hammersley

# CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2003

(Meeting convened at 1:35 p.m.)

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 13, 2003

Accepted as written after Richard Sunderhauf clarified that the labor practice appeal referred to the March minutes dealt with the union's right to invoke binding arbitration.

### FEATURED SPEAKERS – KEY POINTS

RAY COX, Assistant Rail Administrator of Operations for ConnDOT, reported on a potential problem with the Shore Line East service east of Old Saybrook. Amtrak is currently running 37 trains per day between Boston and New York, although they only have approval to run 34 trains under an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Amtrak hopes to increase its level of operations to 40 trains per day. This raises issues with the five moveable bridges in southeastern Connecticut concerning the windows for openings for boating traffic. In order to achieve a resolution of this issue, Amtrak approached ConnDOT and asked ConnDOT to accommodate Amtrak and not run trains east of Old Saybrook to New London. ConnDOT is agreeable if Shore Line East monthly ticket holders can have free access to corresponding Amtrak trains. A tentative agreement along these lines has been reached.

BOB HAMMERSLEY, Manager of the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB), reported as background, that the TSB was created by public act in 2001 and was given the mandate to create an overall transportation strategy, including a set of individual recommendations for the State of Connecticut for consideration by the General Assembly and the Governor. The TSB was also mandated to list a series of initiatives that would implement its strategy over a period of 10 years. Further, the TSB was mandated to create a way to fund the strategy and to oversee the implementation of some projects.

The Transportation Strategy Report recommends strategy for the movement of people, movement of goods, for land use, and for funding and implementing the strategy.

The 52 projects that are the focus of the TSB are contained within ConnDOT's Master Transportation Plan and are the projects determined by the TSB to be those that would most benefit the citizens of Connecticut.

### COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

### REPORT FROM OPERATING ENTITIES

Richard Sunderhauf reported that the three union locals of Hartford, New Haven and Stamford have ratified another one-year contract with Connecticut Transit. The contract

was ratified for only one year due to the rising cost of healthcare and uncertainties about where these costs are going.

Mr. Sunderhauf that there are changes in the works for service refinements for Connecticut Transit to go into affect on May 26, 2003. Also, there are going to be cuts on 11 Connecticut Transit routes in an effort to save money.

Chuck Langley, sitting in for Richard Schriener from Housatonic Area Regional Transit (HART), reported that through March, the Ridgefield-Katonah shuttle has had its highest average daily ridership since it began in April of last year. In addition, the shuttle had the second highest monthly ridership total. The Danbury-Norwalk link is doing well and continues to grow, along with the Brewster shuttle. Lastly, one new route service and two reconfigured services, which are evening, holiday and weekend services, went into effect on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March. While it is too early to tell what the ridership is on those routes, it appears that they are doing very well.

Linda Blair gave a presentation on the website that she has been developing for the CPTC. The site is still in progress, and while there are a few glitches, it is on its way to be completed soon.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Fred Riese, presiding over the meeting for Chairman Tom Cheeseman reported that Mr. Cheeseman had suffered a mild heart attack but that he is on the mend and doing well.

Mr. Riese reported that the first of four scoping meetings that ConnDOT is holding in Fairfield County for the I-95 shoulder project was held in Stamford on April 2. In addition, Mr. Riese noted that the State is offering a qualified transportation fringe benefit that will allow State of Connecticut employed commuters to pay for transportation expenses on a pretax basis.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Riese noted that the spring public hearing schedule was previously distributed and that for the April 28<sup>th</sup> public hearing in Rocky Hill he will be moderating the hearing since Mr. Sunderhauf will be out of state.

Next meeting will be held in Newington on May 1.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

(Meeting adjourned at 3:36 P.M.)