

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
MEETING

Thursday, August 5, 2004 - 1:30 PM

D.O.T. Headquarters, Conference Room B

Newington, Connecticut

1. Approval of the July 8, 2004 meeting minutes
2. Featured speaker: TBA
3. Comments from the public
4. Report from operating entities
5. Chairman's report
6. Old business
7. New business

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CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MEETING ATTENDANCE

THURSDAY, July 8, 2004

Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 1B

Hartford, Connecticut

VOTING MEMBERS

Dorothy Adamson
Linda Blair
Richard Carpenter
Tom Cheeseman
N. Terry Hall
Morton Katz
Yvonne Loteczka
David Reed
Russell St. John
Richard Sunderhauf

GUESTS

Peggy Hetherington
Anthony Savino
Janet McAuliffe
Ann Risen

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Fred Riese
Philip Smith

CDOT STAFF

Cindy Gollareny
Peter Richter

CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes

July 8, 2004

(Meeting convened at 1:30 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 3, 2004

Accepted as written.

FEATURED SPEAKERS – KEY POINTS

PEGGY HETHERINGTON, Vice President of Marketing, MetroPool Inc. The mission of MetroPool Inc. is to deliver transportation demand management solutions to improve mobility and ease the movement of people, improving workforce effectiveness, economic well being and quality of life. MetroPool Inc. encourages the use of transportation alternatives such as carpooling, vanpooling, riding the bus or train, bicycling, walking, compressed workweeks and telecommuting. MetroPool started out as a carpool and vanpool matching service but now spends 80% of its resources on public transit.

In effort to personalize the image of transportation, MetroPool Inc. commissioned "Mobility Matters" a photo-documentary that examines the alternatives to driving alone and the connections between those who commute by train, bus, ferry, car-pooling, bicycling and walking. The black and white photos depict the daily activity used to travel to and from the workplace. In addition, MetroPool Inc. maintains several websites that focus on public transportation with appropriate links. Transportation Guides have been published in CT and NY, advertising for the Commuter Connection and the Shoreline Express has been established as well as press outreach.

Most recently, MetroPool Inc. provided market research as a result of the Services Analysis & Commuter Incentives Study in Hudson Valley, New York. Phase I of the study included employer and commuter focus groups; Phase 2 included a quantitative survey of 640 commuters; and Phase 3 included focus groups to identify likely target groups and necessary support services. The executive conclusions of the study revealed control and flexibility are the primary concerns. However, people are considering other modes of transportation due to increases costs of driving, saving maintenance on their vehicles, traffic, and reducing the stress of driving. The majority reported that their employers do not offer a resolution to their commuting problems. Employees reported that they are interested in alternatives but lack the "human" resources to establish and maintain a program.

Additionally, the programs that offered financial incentives were preferred over those that did not. Pictures of trains, buses and types of vans that show comfort, safety and luxury are needed. Having the Guaranteed Ride Home with every program is an essential benefit. Commuters are willing to try another mode of transportation on a gradual basis rather than a total commitment.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

REPORT FROM OPERATING ENTITIES

Mr. Peter Richter, Office of Policy and Planning, ConnDOT, reported that there was strong support for the bi-state alternatives for the implementation of commuter rail service over Amtrak's Springfield Line at the June 30th New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Commuter Rail Advisory Committee meeting. The bi-state alternatives would provide approximately 30-minute headway's during peak commuting hours in both northbound and southbound directions between New Haven and Springfield. This will be presented in the final recommendation to the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) on August 24th and will be presented at public hearings planned for September.

Mr. Richter also reported that the Rail Station Governance Study would be completed by the end of this month, with public hearings to be held in the fall. The Danbury Branch Electrification Study is also nearing completion, expected in early August.

Mr. Sunderhauf reported that CTTransit Hartford/New Haven/Stamford divisions are still in the process of negotiating a new union contract and are currently working under the provisions of the recently expired contract.

Ann Risen, Housatonic Area Transit District (HART), reported an increase in system ridership, noting that ridership on the Katonah and Brewster Shuttles was particularly strong, and the Danbury-Norwalk LINK ridership is up also.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Cheeseman introduced Under Secretary Philip L. Smith of Bridgeport as an ex-officio member of the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission representing the Office of Policy and Management, in succession of John Radacsi who has retired from state service. Mr. Richard Carpenter recommended writing a letter to Mr. Radacsi thanking him for his service.

A July 3rd Middletown Press article was referenced stating that the federal appeals court ruled that Metro-North workers cannot walk off the job.

The City of New Haven has reestablished bus stops on Chapel Street that were relocated off The Green when the Omni Hotel was sold.

Mr. Cheeseman reported an increase in Jobs Access ridership of 23% in Meriden and 25% in Middletown. In addition, MTD experienced an 8.3% increase in its overall ridership in the month of June.

Mr. Cheeseman also reported that the legislature approved \$1.1 million in funding for Dial-a-Ride transportation above what was recommend by Governor Rowland. Originally, an additional \$2.5 million in increase funding for Dial-a-Ride was approved, but ultimately \$1.4 million of this was reallocated to support ADA services.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred Riese reported that the midday service on the Waterbury Branch has been restored.

Mr. Cheeseman made a motion to approve a letter written by Mr. Riese to Kari Watkins of Wilbur Smith Associates regarding the Commission's support of the bi-state alternatives to the New Haven - Hartford - Springfield Rail Commuter Implementation Plan. Ms. Blair seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously approved the motion.

Terry Hall announced that Amtrak President, David Gunn, released the Amtrak Strategic Plan for FY2005-2009. The Plan can be found at: www.amtrak.com/press/financial-report.html

(Meeting adjourned at 3:10 P.M.)