

## **AGENDA**

### CONNECTICUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

**August 3, 2006 - 1:30 PM**

DOT Headquarters  
Conference Room B  
Newington

1. Approval of the July 13, 2006 meeting minutes
2. Speaker: Patricia Douglas, Executive Director, Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority
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 July 13, 2006

Legislative Office Building, Hartford Ct.  
Conference Room B

Chairman Tom Cheeseman called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. The minutes of the meeting of June 1, 2006 were approved subject to one correction offered by Linda Blair in reference to a series of lift deployment problems. The Chairman introduced Mr. John R. Zelinsky of Stamford as the newest member of the Commission.

## **Featured Speaker**

Gloria Mills, Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT), was the guest speaker. Ms. Mills thanked Cynthia Gollareny of CDOT for her assistance in preparation for the presentation. Ms. Mills spoke in great detail concerning the state of public transportation in the state. Updates were provided on various topics from dial-a-ride, bus operational deficits, the Handicapped Access Program (HAP) the paratransit program, transit-oriented development, and the loss of Federal funding.

Ms. Mills applauded the collaboration of efforts between the General Assembly and the Office of Policy and Management addressing the Federal fiscal shortfalls in public transportation. Ms. Mills elaborated on the State matching grant program for elderly and disabled demand responsive transportation as described in Sec 13b-38bb of the Connecticut General Statutes.

In summary, Ms. Mills felt that in order to maintain existing transit customers and entice new ones, substantial state investment is needed to maintain existing bus services, make needed improvements, develop better service connections, and add capacity to increase the mobility options of residents and visitors in Connecticut's communities. However, the economic costs to the state of not maintaining and increasing the capacity of public transportation are much greater than the cost of investment when unemployment, congestion, invasive medical and institutional care are the alternatives many residents will face when riding the bus is no longer an option.

## **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

## **Reports from Operating Entities**

Eugene Colonese, from the CDOT Office of Rail, answered questions and provided information and updates on Metro North and the New Haven Line. Mr. Colonese also spoke about collaborative efforts between the Office of Rails and HART in reference to the Danbury Branch.

## **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Cheeseman read into the record a letter from the Transportation Strategy Board. The TSB has asked the Commission to review portions of the 2003 TSB report which deal with their areas of responsibility and to provide them, by September 1, 2006, with (1) any changes in, or additions to, the 2003 strategy and recommendations which the Commission believes are needed, and (2) a list of projects which the Commission believes are needed in order to carry out the state's transportation strategy. The commission members were also invited to attend a series of public hearings to receive suggestions and comments concerning both exchanges to the strategy and specific projects which should be recommended.

Mr. Cheeseman thanked the members of the Commission who attended the regional CPTC public hearings. The Chairman advised that locations for the fall public hearings would be announced at the August meeting.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

None.

Chairman Cheeseman adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.

The next meeting of the Commission will be August 3 at 1:30 pm at the DOT headquarters in Newington, Conference Room B.

