

Dear friends interested in advancing public transportation in Connecticut:

I am writing to invite you to attend one of the very important public meetings in December that will help shape the future of train and bus service in the state. The Connecticut Department of Transportation is inviting the public to comment on the feasibility study titled "**The Eastern CT Corridor Rail and Transit Feasibility Study**" for possible expansion of both rail and bus service in Eastern Connecticut. It is so important that the public respond to this invitation with positive feedback on the study, as expanding rail and bus service could have major positive effects on our economy, the quality of life and travelling. Specifics listed below.

**DATES:**

**DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> 6-8 P.M.**

**KELLY STEAM MAGNET MIDDLE SCHOOL, 25 MAHAN DRIVE, NORWICH**

**DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> 12-2 P.M.**

**SUBMARINE FORCE MUSEUM, NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE, GROTON**

**DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 P.M.**

**Virtual Meeting - Zoom Webinar info**

at: <http://us06web.zoom.us/j/89150988000?pwd=RWJvbDZPRW5FZTlycidZZFlwdy81Zz09>

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/899150988000?pwd=RWJvbDZPRW5FZTlycidZZFlwdy81Zz09>

I strongly encourage you to show up in person, if at all possible.

**The study is investigating the feasibility and market for the following:**

- Extending the *Shore Line East* rail line to the **State of Rhode Island**
- Establishing a new passenger rail service from the **City of New London** to the **City of Norwich**
- Establishing a new passenger train station in the **Town of Groton** and the **Borough of Stonington**
- Extending other ground transportation systems in the eastern region of the state and providing interconnection between such systems and rail

**THE BENEFITS OF EXPANDED RAIL AND BUS SERVICE TO ALL OF US**

- **REDUCES** traffic congestion on I-95 and I-395 while improving travel time for commuters and weekend travelers. Current daily average speed on I-95 is 35 mph, according to

CTDOT observations. Also reduces accidents, injuries and deaths and improves public safety;

- **PROMOTES** and makes possible Transit Oriented Development around rail and transit stations in communities such as Groton, New London, Norwich, City of Groton, Stonington and Westerly, R.I.;
- **IMPROVES** air quality in Eastern CT and Southern New England, as rail and bus are far less polluting on a per passenger per mile basis;
- **LINKS** regional rail from NY through CT to RI and makes possible future linkages to Providence, Greene Airport, Boston, Springfield and Worcester.
- Because rails are already in the ground and used for freight, **SECURES ECONOMIC CONNECTIONS** between Electric Boat, Pfizer, U.S. Navy Base and the larger community work force;
- **REDUCES** greenhouse gas emissions as rail and bus service emit much less CO2 on a per passenger basis than cars and trucks. **Thirty-eight percent** of CT's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation, our largest contributing sector.
- **CREATES** a much more pleasant commuting experience for both workers and visitors to our tourist attractions.
- **ADD YOUR PERSONAL REASONS WITH A STORY TO THIS LIST**

**This feasibility study will consider:**

- Existing and future market and environmental conditions
- Equity and environmental justice issues
- Preliminary engineering
- Ridership
- Service operations
- Equipment needs and system requirements

A **CTDOT Study Webpage** with more information on the study can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/Eastern-CT-Rail>

I look forward to seeing you on December 12<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> at these public meetings to support the potential of expanding public transit in Eastern Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Zell Steever, Chairman, Groton Resiliency and Sustainability Task Force

12/5/22

PS: Feel free to contact me with questions at: [zsteever@aol.com](mailto:zsteever@aol.com)