

GREATER HARTFORD AREA COMPREHENSIVE TRANSIT SERVICE ANALYSIS

Advisory Committee Meeting #6

November 9, 2016, 10:00 AM

CTtransit Offices

Meeting Summary

Welcome

Cara Radzins, Project Manager for CRCOG, welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting it is the sixth and final Advisory Committee meeting for the Hartford CSA project.

Public Forum

There were no public comments.

Overview of Final Deliverables

Boris Palchik, Project Manager for Nelson\Nygaard, provided an overview of the primary project deliverables that have been distributed to the Advisory Committee, including:

- **A Draft Executive Summary** presenting key recommendations and highlights from the study.
- **Draft Final Report: Volume 1: Overview & Recommendations** providing a high level overview of the study process and recommendations, organized by new recommended bus route numbers.
- **Draft Final Report: Volume 2: Detailed Service Recommendations** providing more detailed background on how decisions were made and presenting recommendations by current route number.

Discussion of Key Recommendations

Mr. Palchik reviewed key study recommendations. These include:

- Organizing all CT*transit* Hartford Division routes into one of five basic service categories based on the market served and route characteristics
- Enhancing strong transit corridors and strengthening the CT*fastrak* brand
- Modifying service design as appropriate to make service more simple, direct and convenient for passengers
- Interlining bus route schedules for efficiency
- Increase route frequency and span where merited and increasing Sunday service hours, as requested by stakeholders during study outreach efforts
- Capital improvements in key transit corridors, such as transit signal priority and attractive passenger amenities
- Enhanced Bradley Flyer service, potentially as part of the CT*fastrak* brand

**Comprehensive Transit Analysis
Advisory Committee Meeting #6 Summary**

- Circulation improvements and an enhanced bus facility in Buckland Hills, potentially as part of a future TOD development
- The potential use of transportation network companies to supplement service in low-density areas.

The study has also evaluated the potential impact of implementing the various recommendations. Boris reviewed the methodology used to estimate cost and ridership impacts, and discussed the Title VI Advisory that was performed. Although this Advisory shows there would be no overall impact to Title VI populations if all recommendations were implemented, individual route analyses were not conducted.

Discussion

- CTDOT had provided some specific comments on the draft materials ahead of this meeting. Many of these have already been incorporated into updated documents. For others, a response has been prepared.
- Specific route recommendations were discussed (e.g. the Bradley Flyer, 66 Farmington Avenue, 56 Bloomfield Avenue, 53 Wethersfield Avenue, 45 Berlin Turnpike Flyer, 55 Middletown, and 84 Tolland-Rockville). The concept of a more prominent West Hartford bus hub was also discussed.
- CT*transit*'s Hartford Division currently maintains a fleet of about 180 or 182 buses. Many of the recommendations would involve additional fleet.
- Several noted concern about the long length of certain proposed routes, particularly Route 99, which would be challenging to find a spot for drivers to take a break (since the benefit of this route is its continuous loop around the region).
- There was a discussion about the current level of Sunday service, which was later confirmed to be about 30% of Saturday service levels (which in turn is about 50% of weekday service levels).
- It would be helpful to identify actions or recommendations that could be easily implemented over the near term.
- The City of Hartford has installed new signal systems that can easily accommodate Transit Signal Priority (TSP). Introduction of TSP could be a near-term action in Hartford. CT*transit* noted they are very interested in introducing this technology throughout the region and hope that CRCOG will work with other communities on this, as well.
- Although not part of this CSA study, a future CRCOG study on downtown bus circulation, congestion, and pedestrian safety would be of interest to the City of Hartford. Greater analysis of the impact of the upcoming commuter rail service is also of interest.
- Recommendations should be linked to other CRCOG initiatives, such as the regional bus stop program and the design of curb cuts and other engineering for bus stops.
- It would be helpful to have a better understanding of the potential ADA and Title VI impacts of the recommendations (e.g. noting whether a route modification would affect the span or coverage of ADA service, and which might involve Title VI impacts).

**Comprehensive Transit Analysis
Advisory Committee Meeting #6 Summary**

- The recommendation to consider use of Transportation Network Companies should be caveated with the fact that these entities are not currently regulated in Connecticut. There may be challenges related to compliance with federal and state laws.
- It was suggested that, for some recommendations, further study will be needed before implementation. The Final Report should clearly highlight how decisions were made and indicate that implementation will be done as a partnership between CTDOT, **CTtransit**, CRCOG, and individual towns. For example, discontinuation of Route 66 service to Tunxis Community College will likely require study and action as part of the ongoing New Britain area CSA or statewide bus transit study.

Next Steps

Cara Radzins, CRCOG, said the next steps are to incorporate Advisory Committee comments, conduct public outreach, and finalize the study deliverables. A series of public information meetings has been set up for November 29th and 30th, and December 1st.

Ms. Radzins thanked the entire Advisory Committee for their participation in the study.

In Attendance

- Advisory Committee
 - Anna Bergeron, CTDOT Policy and Planning
 - Charlie Carson, **CTtransit**
 - Jim Ford, Hartford
 - Philip Fry, **CTtransit**
 - Sandy Fry, Harford
 - Anne Hayes, Travelers
 - Maureen Lawrence, CTDOT
 - Dave Lee, **CTtransit**
 - Michele Lipe, South Windsor
 - Ed Perzanowski, **CTrides**
 - Lisa Rivers, CTDOT Public Transportation
 - Michael Sanders, CTDOT Public Transportation
 - Vicki Shotland, Greater Hartford Transit District
- Study Team
 - Jennifer Carrier, CRCOG
 - Cara Radzins, CRCOG
 - Ryan Visci, CRCOG
 - Boris Palchik, Nelson\Nygaard
 - Anne Galbraith, ASG Planning