

GREATER HARTFORD AREA COMPREHENSIVE TRANSIT SERVICE ANALYSIS

Advisory Committee Meeting #2
November 4, 2014, 1:00 PM, CTfastrak Offices
Meeting Summary

Introduction

Lia Yim, CRCOG Project Manager and Bethany Whitaker, Nelson\Nygaard Project Manager gave an overview of the meeting agenda which includes a brief update on project activities and a group bus tour of the **CTfastrak** guideway and stations.

Project Update

Bethany Whitaker shared the project schedule which is anticipated to go through December 2015. The project team is currently finishing up some of the early project activities, such as stakeholder interviews, a market analysis and a review of relevant studies/projects recently completed in the region. The Advisory Committee should expect to see an *Existing Conditions Memo* and *Stakeholder Interview Summary* towards the end of the year. Also, Bethany shared a link to the project website which is now up and running (<http://hartfordtransitstudy.com>). Documents and updates be added to the website as the study progresses.

Bethany shared a series of maps from the recent Market Analysis, which will be incorporated into the *Existing Conditions Memo*. These include maps of population and employment density throughout the region, which are two of the strongest indicators of transit demand. A Composite Transit Index map combines these two indicators to provide an idea of the level of transit frequency that might be supported by existing demographic patterns. Although the City of Hartford has a dense urban center which can support high levels of transit, demand throughout the rest of the region is relatively dispersed with a few strong clusters in outlying areas.

A second series of maps showed other factors that affect transit demand, including persons with disabilities, older populations, households without access to automobiles, and low income populations. Although these show similar patterns to the overall population map, Bethany pointed out that populations of people aged 65+ are the most dispersed.

Next Steps for Project Team

The project team has collected existing service and performance data from CTtransit on all Hartford routes. This data is now being processed and will be used to produce detailed *Route Evaluations* for every route in the system. A sample of the analysis that will be included in each of these evaluations was shared with the committee, such as ridership by stop and time of day on each route.

Lia Yim noted that CRCOG, CTtransit and CTDOT will be reviewing these *Route Evaluations* as Nelson Nygaard produces them. CRCOG would like to structure these reviews to cover individual communities or areas at one time, and to invite local planners or other stakeholders to help with the review. These small committee meetings would likely occur in early 2015.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is expected to be scheduled for January.

Tour of CTfastrak Guideway and Stations

Maureen Lawrence of CTDOT-Transit shared a “video tour” of CTfastrak (available for viewing at <http://www.ctfastrak.com/visuals/animated-tour>) and then she and Mike Sanders, also of CTDOT-Transit, took the Advisory Committee on a live bus tour of the guideway. Due to paving on the northern part of the guideway, the tour traveled the between Elmwood and New Britain stations. Nearly all station infrastructure has been installed, and landscaping and ITS crews were on site along the guideway working on finishing touches such as the installation of real time customer information signage.

Mike Sanders explained how individual stations will also be served by new or modified local bus routes, and pointed out numerous opportunities for potential Transit Oriented Development. The group also saw Newington station, which will someday be served by an adjacent stop on the New Haven Hartford Commuter Rail service. Flatbush station has also been designed to potentially accommodate an adjacent rail station in the future.

The tour then left the guideway to see individual stations closer to downtown Hartford, and culminated with a walking tour of the Flatbush station.

In Attendance

- Jennifer Carrier, CRCOG
- Jeff Cormier (for Thom Deller), City of Hartford
- Philip Fry, CTtransit
- Anne Galbraith, ASG Planning
- DJ Gonzalez, GHTD
- Anne I. Hayes, Travelers
- Maureen Lawrence, CTDOT Public Transportation
- Michelle Lipe, Town of South Windsor
- Boris Palchik, Nelson\Nygaard
- Molly Parsons, CTDOT Intermodal Planning
- Mark Pellegrini, Town of Manchester
- Michael Sanders, CTDOT Public Transportation
- Vicki L. Shotland, GHTD
- Peter Souza, Town of Windsor
- Rebecca Townsend, MCC
- Ron Van Winkle, Town of West Hartford
- Bethany Whitaker, Nelson\Nygaard
- Lyle Wray, CRCOG
- Lia Yim, CRCOG