



C E N T R A L
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

1615 Stanley Street P.O. Box 4010 New Britain, CT 06050 - 4010 www.ccsu.edu

**Transportation Committee
INFORMATIONAL FORUM
Thursday, November 19, 2009
2:30 PM in Room 1E of the LOB**

Good afternoon, my name is Richard Bachoo. I am Central Connecticut State University's Chief Administrative Officer. I would like to thank the members of the General Assembly and the members of the Department of Transportation for allowing Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) the opportunity to address the Transportation Committee today.

In my present capacity at CCSU, I oversee two areas that are relevant to today's Informational Forum. First, I am responsible for the University's overall environmental sustainability program and goals and second, I oversee all transportation issues for the University.

Let me be direct and clear. We at CCSU consider the Busway Project an important economic, environmental, and social opportunity for the State of Connecticut. This opportunity can be illustrated in the life stories of the sons and daughters of Connecticut we nurture at CCSU. So I do not want to speak today about mundane policy and technical issues of rail versus bus or about the environmental benefits of reducing green house gases by increasing bus commuters. I am also not going to address the fact that on an annual basis, CCSU already spends tens of thousands of dollars on buses to bring students to and from its campus in New Britain. Further, I will not comment on the fact that buses are far more flexible than rail usage because they have the ability to come off the busway and go through neighborhoods and towns.

What I want to talk to you about today is Shelby Wolfe, who uses the bus everyday to commute to CCSU to study Biology, to interact with her friends and peers, and to participate in numerous activities that are sponsored by the University. Shelby plans to become a doctor and if our statistics are correct, she will probably practice medicine here in Connecticut because over 80 percent of Connecticut State University students remain in the state upon graduation. I also want to talk to you about Joslyn Robinson, who uses the bus system to come to CCSU to study Business Administration in hopes of giving back to his community. Shelby and Joslyn do not see the bus system as simply a means to get from point A to point B. To them, the bus system affords them the opportunity to learn, create, and grow. It is a means for a better future. To them, it is a way to ensure that they contribute to their family, their goals, and their country. In short, I am asking members of the General Assembly to have Shelby and Joslyn's perspective when considering whether to support the Busway Project. It is not a project that simply transports individuals from A to B, but is a project that can transform the lives of the sons and daughters of Connecticut. So I ask you to support the Busway Project, not because of all the policy or technical analysis you have heard or will hear. I ask you to support it because it is a project that will support the dreams of the only true natural resource we have in Connecticut - our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, and fathers.

Thank you again for your time.