



# TOWN OF GROTON

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Members of the Transportation,

I am submitting testimony in support of Proposed Bill No. 5937, "An Act Concerning A Study of Extending Passenger Rail Service from the City of New London."

Groton has interest in the expansion of rail service to the Mystic station and in establishing a station stop in downtown Groton. Expanded rail service would provide the opportunity to connect to:

- The MBTA with connections at TF Green Airport, Providence and Boston
- The MTA via Shoreline East and Metro North with connections to New Haven, Stamford & NYC
- The Central Corridor Line with connection to Norwich, Willimantic (University of Connecticut), Amherst, MA, Brattleboro, VT & Montreal
- The possibility of an Electric Boat Express connection with station stops in North Kingstown, RI, Groton and New London, Connecticut, which would service all three EB facilities.
- The possibility of linking the main campuses of the University of Connecticut or Eastern Connecticut State University to their satellite campuses here in Groton

According to census data, there are 11,000 commuters into Groton on a daily basis. While many travel within the region, there are a sizeable number that travel from further afield, including upwards of 50 miles each way. With enhanced transit connections, ridership growth would easily be achieved. Additionally, riders who currently travel to other stations may consider using a Groton station in order to save on gasoline usage in their vehicles. While Shoreline East recently increased the number of daily stops in New London, many still drive to Old Saybrook to take the train to New Haven and further to the West. With a connection to the MBTA, residents could consider taking a train to the airports in Providence or Boston.

Additionally, the traffic along the Interstate-95 corridor is notoriously bad during summer months as visitors travel to Mystic and beyond for weekend excursions. With a complete transit system, travelers would have the option of taking train and shuttles to the area and eliminating their traffic headache.

I ask you support for Proposed Bill No. 5937 and support growing transportation options for Southeastern Connecticut.

Thank you.

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