



Norwalk River Valley Trail

P.O. Box 174  
Georgetown, CT 06829  
www.NRVT-Trail.com

February 10, 2015

Transportation Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB 5926: An Act Concerning Performance Standards for the Operation of the Danbury Rail Line  
HB 6333: An Act Authorizing Special Tax Obligation Bonds of the State to Upgrade the Danbury Branch of Metro-North  
HB 6350: An Act Concerning an Expansion of Commuter Rail Lines to the Town of New Milford

Dear Committee Members,

The five town steering committee of the Norwalk River Valley Trail supports House Bills 5926, 6333, and 6350 advocating improvements to the Danbury Branch Line. The NRVT effectively parallels the Danbury line and seeks to capitalize on this juxtaposition to provide increased opportunities for multi-modal commuting and recreating consistent with the goals established in the Norwalk River Valley Trail Routing Study, 2012.

As planned, the NRVT intersects or comes close to five train stations on the Danbury Line, including its planned north and south terminus' in Danbury and South Norwalk, respectively. In combination, the trail and the rail line have the potential to increase ridership, foster healthier life style choices, improve tourism and the financial benefits that come with it, and reduce local street traffic during commuting hours. This potential can only be realized if improvements are made to the existing line and this potential can be enhanced should the line be extended to New Milford.

Current problems on the Danbury line, including late trains and too few trains, mean potential riders cannot depend on the train to meet their needs when arriving at a destination on-time matters. A focal point of the Norwalk River Valley Trail is to have citizens blend their use of the trail and train to meet business and pleasure travel needs. Presently, the level of service cannot support this vision.

The NRVT Steering Committee respectfully requests the Transportation Committee recognize the value of a versatile and dependable train line in helping to maximize alternative transportation and recreational needs of southwest Connecticut. Please support these bills.

Sincerely,

Patricia Sesto, Chairman

DANBURY

• REDDING

• RIDGEFIELD

• WILTON

• NORWALK