



State of Connecticut

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SB 155 -AN ACT CONCERNING RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
Testimony in Support of An Act Expanding Service on the Waterbury Rail Line
Transportation Committee
February 24, 2020

Good morning Chairmen: Leone, Chairman Lemar, Ranking Members Senator Martin, Representative Devlin and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of An Act Expanding Service on the Waterbury Rail Line.

I am writing in strong support of expanding service on the Waterbury Rail Line.

The development of the Waterbury Rail Line will improve transportation options for my constituents, and our friends in neighboring towns, support economic development, and bring much needed relief of highway congestion in the Greater Waterbury area.

This improvement plan identifies strategic projects and actions required to transform the Waterbury Rail Line and make it a catalyst for economic revitalization within the corridor. The purpose of this plan is to improve transportation options, support economic development, and relieve highway congestion in Connecticut by increasing the commuter rail service along the Waterbury Rail Line. The reason behind the proposed improvement program is to finish the work that the CTDOT started, and to take full advantage of the current \$90 million investment.

The Waterbury Rail Station is walking distance from my office but when I commute to our other offices in New Haven or Stamford, I must drive due to the lack of availability of service on the Waterbury Line.

The opportunity to take the train into New Haven or Stamford at more convenient times would not only allow me to increase my personal productivity but would take a single-passenger vehicle off the road -- a benefit for both traffic and the environment. I am sure my colleagues would also take advantage of the increased service expanding both the traffic and environmental benefits.

Waterbury has been working diligently on its revitalization and is the home to multiple higher education facilities such as Post, UConn Waterbury, and University of Bridgeport. The students' opportunities would be vastly improved if they could more easily commute to class, internships, jobs, and even some fun in New York City.

An investment in the Waterbury Rail Line is in investment in moving CT forward.