

NEXT STEPS ON IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED CTDOT ENHANCEMENTS ON THE NEW CANAAN BRANCH LINE

Introduction:

The New Canaan Branch Line of the Metro-North Railroad New Haven Line provides critical transportation services for the economic welfare of New Canaan and surrounding areas. Due to the erosion of the commuters' experience on the New Canaan Branch Line, New Canaan has become less desirable for people moving to lower Fairfield County that need to commute into NYC. In order to better understand the commuter experience issues and what should be done to address them, the following Study Team was created:

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Steve Johnson – New Canaan
Paul Pureka – New Canaan
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Ed Vollmer – New Canaan
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This Study Team has completed a study and written a Detailed Report which lists the Commuter Experience Issues and the proposed CTDOT Enhancements for addressing them. The URL link to the report is [New Canaan Study Team Detailed Report](#).

Proposed Next Steps:

The Study Team is mindful that the CTDOT will need to evaluate the funding for the proposed New Canaan Branch Line enhancements in the context of other investment needs across the state's transportation system. While there are CTDOT budget constraints, we are hopeful that there will be enough funds available in 2019 to begin implementing a few of the proposed CTDOT enhancements to the New Canaan Branch Line. To address the potential partial funding of the enhancements, the Study Team has listed the proposed CTDOT enhancements in priority order with the higher priority enhancements at the top of the list.

At this point, the Study Team proposes to begin working with our local state legislators who have constituents that will benefit from the proposed enhancements to obtain some level of 2019 CTDOT funding. Once the 2019 CTDOT funding is determined, the team will then work with the CTDOT, the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council (CCRC), and the legislators to agree on the list of enhancements that will begin implementation in 2019.

Proposed CTDOT Enhancements to the New Canaan Branch Line

The following listing of the Study Team's proposed CTDOT enhancements to the New Canaan Branch Line is organized with the higher priority enhancements at the top of the list and the lower priority enhancements at the bottom of the list.

Talmadge Hill Station

- Add a second platform on the other side of the track so that commuters can access the train on the east and west sides and not just the west side as it currently the case. This will alleviate platform crowding, decrease boarding time, improve passenger safety, and improve the customer experience.

- install full length platform shelters on both Talmadge Hill station platforms similar to those at the Glenbrook Metro North Station.

Springdale Station

- Adding a passing siding would enable multiple trains to operate on the branch at the same time. Make the Springdale Station a Two-platform Station to enable additional service on the branch line and allow reverse-peak trains to pick up and discharge passengers at Springdale while waiting on the passing siding.

New Canaan Station

- Signalization: Extending the signal system from the Richmond Hill Crossing to New Canaan Station and provide remote switch operations to reduce the time required to enter and leave the station.
- Also extend the platforms.

Install a Ticket Machines at the Talmadge Hill, Springdale and Glenbrook Stations

Install TV Displaying schedule as in Darien at all four of the New Canaan Branch Line Train Stations.

Suggested Schedule and Rolling Stock Changes for DOT Consideration

- Members of the New Canaan Study Team identified several suggestions for schedule changes during the Morning Rush Hour Trains from New Canaan to GCT and the Evening Rush Trains from GCT to New Canaan
- In addition, all of the morning rush hour and evening rush hour trains need more cars. At this point, there needs to be more cars or more trains or in a perfect world more of both!

The proposed plan is to work via the CCRC meetings to have this discussion with the CTDOT and Metro North. Tentatively, the CCRC plans to schedule discussion of these items at the next CCRC Meeting that will be held in New York on March 20.

Note:

This document only addresses the proposed CTDOT enhancements to the New Canaan Branch Line as the commuter parking experience is the responsibility of local governments and the New Canaan Town Government is already addressing the customer experience parking issues at the New Canaan and Talmadge Metro North Stations.

Springdale Bypass Enhancement:

The following slide was copied from the Transportation Ramp-Up Dashboard. The slide was last updated on 2/7/2019 and states that improvements to the Springdale Station will begin the design phase on 3/1/2019 and will complete on 3/1/2021. It also shows \$0 in the Ramp-Up Plan. The team was unable to confirm if this CTDOT enhancement will be for funded in the CTDOT 2019 plan.

