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**Connecticut Commuter Rail Council**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

**Via Video Conference**

The following Council Members were in attendance by video conference: Jim Gildea, Zell Steever, Sue Prosi, Melissa Kane, Marcellus Edwards, Doug Hauslauden, Blaize Levitan, Jessica Bremner, Julia McGrath, and Jeff Maron.

The following people also attended by video conference: Rich Jankovich, CDOT; Eric Bergeron, CDOT; Angelo Llubres, CDOT; Yure Kuljis, CDOT; Tom Aparo, CDOT; Bruce Olmstead, CDOT; Jim Carlson, Amtrak; Tom McCarthy, CT Rail; Mike Donnarumma, MNRR; Ben Cornelius, MNRR, Kevin Kurian DesegregateCT, Peter Harrison DesegregateCT.

**Public Comments**:

Miriam Grossman addressed the CCRC about masks, waiting rooms and restroom availability.

**Council Business**:

The January 2022 minutes were approved. Blaize Levitan moved for a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Doug Hauslauden.

**Fares and Service Update**:

MNR indicated that beginning in March, the peak fare costs will also return to pre-COVID rates. Previously, peak fares were lowered to off-peak rates due to the economic hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. They also indicated that they will be adding addition service with the March 27 schedule change.

**Reorganization of the Office of Rail**:

Eric Bergeron, CDOT, Angelo Llubres, CDOT and Yure Kuljis presented to the Council the Reorganization of the Office of Rail. This presentation is on the CCRC website (<https://ctcommuterrailcouncil.org/ct-dot-office-of-rail-reorganization/> )

**DesegregateCT**:

Kevin Kurian DesegregateCT and Peter Harrison DesegregateCT reviewed DesegregateCT’s their proposal on the need for more transit oriented development. This presentation is on the CCRC website ( <https://ctcommuterrailcouncil.org/desegregatect-presentation-to-ccrc/>).

**Main Line Issues**: Ben Cornelius said December was a good month up until Omicron in mid-December. Ridership has since rebounded as of last week and is heading towards a favorable trend.

**Branch Line Issues**:

It was noted that the WBL and HL continue to have the best returning ridership numbers out ap all the branches and lines.

**Hartford Line and Shoreline Issues**:

It was noted that while the HL continues to have the best returning ridership numbers, SLE continues to struggle and there some hope wrapped around Yale returning to in person work status, would help ridership.

**Old Business/New Business**:

We discussed future meetings and our NYC Meeting which would be April or May and whichever date was not selected, we will have an electrification discussion as part of agenda and potential legislative piece.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Blaize Levitan moved for a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Doug Hauslauden.