



**Connecticut Commuter Rail Council**  
**Minutes: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – 7:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

The following Councilmembers were in attendance: Jim Gildea, Zell Steever, Sue Prosi, Doug Hauslauden, Blaize Levitan, Jeff Maron, Greg Burnes, Julia McGrath, and Kate Rosen.

The following also attended: The following also attended: Ben Cornelius, MNRR; Rich Jankovich, CDOT; Angelo Lluberes, CDOT; Eric Bergeron, CDOT; Jim Carlson, CDOT; members of the public.

**Council Business:**

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm.

The July meeting was cancelled due to technical issues.

**Public Comments:**

Comments from Miriam Gross, and Tanner Thompson. With recurring theme of issues raised, Jim Gildea is trying to create an open issue list and will trackable establish written record of issues. He echoed that masking is not being enforced and at some point, MTA needs to stop pretending to be a masked railroad. MTA should consider a masked car. The Council will officially request the return of the quiet car. There is a growing number of commuters seeking better schedule design on HL and SLE.

**HL Work & Outage Update**

See attached PPT provided by CDOT and presented by Angelo Lluberes. The bussing during the week is going better than expected.

**NH to GCT Express Details**

There was no presentation and few details. CDOT will follow up with more information on performance. Council members asked questions regarding how success will be evaluated. CDOT is not sure at this time.

**WBL Branch Update and Ridership**

Metrics were not available for the meeting. CDOT will follow up.

**Service Provider Roundtable/Line Issues**

The HL bus substation is going well. Even with fighting some traffic, the bus is 35-45 minutes faster. The system is getting folks where they need to be and CDOT has few complaints. Ridership is down about 3,000 people, fewer than expected.

For SLE, M8s, running since 6/23 and CDOT considers it a success. Summer travel is boosting ridership. CCRC asked about THRU express service, what is realistic time frame for return. There is no time frame to return to 100% pre-Covid or for THRU express service.

For the NHL, multiple serious accidents caused canceled trains and delays in service. MTA has seen an increase in trespassing and suicide. Also, seeking how to improve cell service and 5G on NHL. CDOT owns the line, and the State can receive funding for leasing tower space. Does not seem wise to invest in Wi-Fi with cell tech.

**Old Business/New Business**

None.

The September meeting will be held in person and will focus on SLE.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:21PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Blaize Levitan, Secretary

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