



Waterbury Area Transit Study Kickoff Meeting Summary

June 25, 2014, 8:30 a.m.

Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley
49 Leavenworth Street, Suite 303, Waterbury, CT

Introductions

Sam Gold welcomed everyone to the kickoff meeting for the Waterbury Area Transit Study. Steering committee members introduced themselves.

Informational Presentation – COGCNV

Pat Gallagher gave a presentation on the background and need for the study. It has been many years since the last comprehensive assessment of the bus system in Waterbury. There have been many recent improvements such as the addition of Sunday and evening service and the UPass partnership with NVCC. Upcoming changes include of CT Fastrak Express Bus service to Hartford in 2015 and a new bus garage in Watertown in 2017. COGCNV completed ridership counts in the fall of 2013 and found that ridership increased by 40% in just 4 years. The increase in ridership has led to new operational challenges such as overcrowding, increasing travel times, and lack of amenities downtown, which has put strain on local business owners.

Gallagher stated that the goals of the study are to propose new or modified bus routes to better serve riders, improve passenger waiting areas downtown, identify alternative feasible transfer points downtown besides the Green, investigate changes to scheduling, and improve connections with other transit modes and neighboring towns.

Steering Committee Responsibilities

The steering committee will review and comment on documents at key project milestones, select preferred alternatives, and provide technical assistance as needed. It is anticipated that there will be a handful steering committee meetings over the course of the study.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Process

Pat Gallagher stated that an RFQs will be accepted for a 30-day period up to July 25, 2014 .He suggested that a subcommittee made up of 3-5 Steering Committee members review and rank RFQ submissions. It was recommended that the RFQ Selection Subcommittee by made up of: Pat Gallagher, COGCNV; John DiCarlo, Waterbury Regional Chamber; Barbara Kalosky, North East Transportation; Kathy McNamara, City of Waterbury; and Anna Bergeron, CTDOT.

A draft scope of work was circulated to steering committee members. It was recommended that the draft scope of work be expanded to include outreach with adult and continuing education providers and to explore transit connections with the Danbury area.

Next Meeting

Pat Gallagher said that the next Steering Committee meeting will occur once a consultant has been selected. He will send out an email notifying every one of the next meeting.

In Attendance

Sam Gold, COGCNV

Pat Gallagher, COGCNV

Jim Troup, Naugatuck Valley Community College

Cathy Awwad, Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board

Kathy McNamara, City of Waterbury

Garo Garabedian, City of Waterbury

Lisa Carew, Town of Watertown

Yvonne Smith-Isaac, Greater Waterbury Transit District

Barbara Kalosky, North East Transportation

Anna Bergeron, CTDOT

Maureen Lawrence, CTDOT

Molly Parsons, CTDOT