

Meeting Minutes

Project: New Britain-Hartford Busway
Date: August 11, 2011
Subject: Public Information Meeting
Time: 6:30 PM
By: Tony Morelli
Place: CCSU – Diloreto Hall, New Britain

The purpose of the public meeting was to discuss the current status of the Busway project and outline the steps going forward through construction, completion and service operation of the system.

A presentation was made by Michael Sanders, Transit Administrator for the Connecticut Department of Transportation, describing how the Busway will operate with various express routes, select local routes, and special shuttle routes followed by a question and answer session. About 200 people attended the public meeting, which consisted of local elected officials and residents.

Many comments/questions were made by speakers. The following are a few:

- Many spoke in favor of the project.
- Many people spoke out against the project.
- Some questioned whether the ridership numbers are realistic. Implying that there will be little demand.
- Some stated that they will use it, and others will too.
- Some support a rail project, not this project.
- Concern about the effect on neighborhoods/residences.
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) not wanted.
- Why two stations in Newington?
- TOD good for the neighborhoods.
- Other alternatives are viable.
- Use Federal Funds elsewhere.
- How does New Starts money come?
- Can we speed up the project?

- State has other priorities ahead of this project.
- Need construction job opportunities.
- Now's the time to move forward with the project because bid prices are low.
- Need Busway as a transit alternative to I-84, especially when major work on the Aetna Viaduct occurs.

Department officials responded in detail to all questions raised at the public meeting, explained the process that resulted in the busway being the chosen alternative, and the rigorous review of the cost estimates and overall project by the Federal Transit Administration.