

Connecticut Department of Transportation
City of New Haven
Project No. 320-0003
State Street Railroad Station Upgrade

Public Information Meeting
New Haven Free Library
133 Elm Street
New Haven, Connecticut
Wednesday July 22, 2015

Minutes

Attendees:

Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)

John Bernick, PE – Assistant Rail Administrator
James Fallon, PE – Transportation Division Chief
Gregory Dorosh, PE – Principal Engineer, Facilities Division
Bruce Olmstead, PE – Supervising Engineer, Facilities Design
Michelle Miller – Property Agent II
Jayantha Mather – Principal Engineer, Rails
Yure Kuljis, PE – Supervising Engineer, Rails
Julianne Chatman – Engineer III, Facilities Division

Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)

Rob Yirigian, PE
Jeff Schultz, PE
Melissa Muszynski,
Nick Gonsalves

Michael Baker International (Baker)

David Tudryn – Project Architect

Public Attendees

Refer to attached Sign-in Sheet.

Meeting Overview:

Attendees were encouraged to sign in and invited to review several exhibits highlighting the New Haven Hartford Springfield Rail Improvement Program (NHHS) and the proposed station improvements. Project team members from Baker, CTDOT and PB were available to speak one-on-one with attendees.

Handouts

Project summary and comment form were available to attendees.

Presentation

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Mr. Olmstead (CTDOT) provided a brief overview of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Program and how the State Street Station fits into the program. State Street station rehabilitation project is currently at a 65% level of design. Mr. Tudryn (Baker) then presented key aspects of the station project. Presentation topics included: project overview; station improvements; station architecture; parking considerations; and budget, funding and schedule. Ms. Miller (CTDOT) provided a summary of the formal right-of-way acquisition process and the anticipated property impacts to City of New Haven Property.

Public Input:

Following the presentation, attendees were invited to ask questions and provide commentary about the project. Several meeting attendees expressed opinions and questioned some aspects of the proposed station improvements and public outreach efforts. Subsequent to the meeting, several additional comments were submitted to CTDOT via email.

The following general comments were addressed at the meeting:

- Public was concerned about the overall timeline of the Hartford Line service launch as well as construction impacts. B. Olmstead stated that Hartford Line service would begin a few months after the completion of program construction. He indicated that State Street Station construction would have minimal impact on commuters.
- Public requested additional information on Hartford Line amenities, including the ticketing system, the procurement of train equipment, the shuttle from Bradley International Airport, and regulating bikes on-board the train. J. Schultz provided details on the Bradley Airport shuttle, the new train equipment, ticketing system and provided CTDOT contact information regarding on-board bikes.

Comments and Questions Presented at the Meeting to be looked at during Final Design:

- A commuter believes that the majority of pedestrian traffic travels north into and out of the existing pedestrian bridge. CTDOT should explore adding a stairway/ramp at the north side of the plaza.
- CTDOT should also consider improving access between the platform and Court Street.
- Make the entrance canopy as deep as possible to provide protection during weather events.
- Designate areas for postings rather than the having items randomly taped to the glass.
- Provide more maps/information at the station to help passengers feel engaged in the community.
- Revise signage to clearly designate which entrance serves which train service (i.e. Shore Line East; Hartford Line; Amtrak; Metro North).
- Clean up the embankment vegetation with better landscaping.
- Improve real time train departure and arrival information at the station. Existing displays are not always accurate.

The CTDOT thanked all for their participation and would look into the above requests in the final design phase.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm