Streetcars in Connecticut?

Responding to Mobility, Economic and Environmental Challenges

Friday October 30, 2009
Transportation Challenges Facing Connecticut’s Cities:

- Mitigate Air Quality Impacts and Non-Attainment Zones
- Competition From Other Cities in the Northeast
- Increasing Traffic Congestion and Parking Issues In Downtown Cores and Along Interstates
- Need To Improve Mobility and Connectivity
- Need To Integrate Transportation, Land Use and Economic Development
Response to Challenges

Cities With Potential or Existing Downtown Circulators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population*</th>
<th>Daily Work Tips**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Haven</td>
<td>124,000</td>
<td>56,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middletown</td>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwalk</td>
<td>83,000</td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartford</td>
<td>124,000</td>
<td>55,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* U.S. Census Bureau 2008 estimates
** U.S. Census 2000 Journey To Work data – number of daily work trips into each city.
Norwalk Proposed Circulator – Two Miles Connecting Rail Station to Wheels Hub

Source: Norwalk Circulator: Concept Evaluation Final Report 2009
Free downtown shuttle operates approximately every 12 minutes, Monday through Friday beginning at 7:00AM to 11:00PM, and Saturday from 3:00PM to 11:00PM.
One Mile Circulator System in Downtown Middletown – proposed along Main Street in CBD Parking and Traffic Study

Possible Streetcar?
New Haven Proposed Streetcar Routes
CITY OF STAMFORD

Downtown Light Rail Concept Plan and Engineering Feasibility Study
Regional Context

- Stamford Intermodal Transportation Center - busiest rail station in Metro-North system
- More than 30,000 rail passengers daily
Stamford is a Major Regional Hub

- Major employment center in southwestern Connecticut
- Largest commercial hub between Boston and NY
- Major new development in city’s South End
  - Harbor Point Development and other projects expected to add more than 30,000 jobs
- Largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in CT:
  - UBS, RBS
  - General Electric
  - Pitney Bowes
  - World Wrestling Entertainment
Stamford Ongoing Transit Initiatives

- Upgrade five Metro-North railroad bridges
- Construction of new Stamford Urban Transitway (for BRT East-West Link)
- Improvements to Stamford Intermodal Transportation Center
- “Walkable Stamford” – creating a pedestrian friendly downtown
- Ferry Study linking city to NYC and Long Island
Reasons for Stamford Streetcar Study

- Improve **economic development** potential
- Improve mobility and surface transit circulation in **Downtown Stamford**
- Improve connectivity to **Stamford Intermodal Transportation Center** and Development Nodes
- Reduce **traffic congestion**
STAMFORD STREETCAR CORRIDOR AND ALIGNMENTS
Vehicle Options

Heritage Streetcar

Replica

Modern

Emerging Technology
Potential Development Impacts

• Potential for **10-15% increase** in development above growth already projected

• Close to **$800 million** increase in total assessed value of properties in streetcar corridor

• Up to **$13 million** in additional property tax revenues (Incremental Assessed Value)

• Incremental Assessed Value can help fund the streetcar project
## Capital Cost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capital Cost ($ in millions)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Track, Systems &amp; Stations (5 miles)</td>
<td>$70 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop &amp; Yard</td>
<td>$5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles (3)</td>
<td>$9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Design &amp; Permitting</td>
<td>$12 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>$25 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$121 million</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps

- FTA Compliant Alternatives Analysis
- Develop Financing Plan
- Develop complete streetcar network plan
- Conduct detailed engineering investigation
- Review new developments along alignments to ensure compatibility with City’s Master Plan
Future Challenges

• Need a champion

• Funding

• Engineering challenges
  - Utilities
  - Topography
  - Aesthetics
  - Bridge clearances