



Serving Connecticut's Rail Commuters

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2022

Clinton, CT – The Connecticut Commuter Rail Council is excited to announce that we will be meeting in-person on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 6:30PM to discuss the current state and future plans for the Shore Line East (SLE). SLE is a vital component to improving Connecticut's economy, quality of life, and environment. However, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated issues relating to ridership and scheduling. As a result, both the immediate and long-term future of the SLE is unclear.

The primary focus of the meeting will be on the current schedule, which stands at only 66% of pre-covid service. SLE is the only rail line in Connecticut that has not been returned to 100% of the pre-covid schedule. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) will be present to review the SLE schedule, ridership numbers, and potential for increasing service. The discussion will also include a review of the single trip to NYC status and existing service expansion possibilities to the East.

Connecticut Commuter Rail Council Chair Jim Gildea said “this is a pivotal time for the Shoreline East as its future success, viability and long-term health is at stake. We encourage the public, legislators, and commuters to attend and have their voices heard”.

After discussing the current state of the rail line, the conversation will focus on the future of the SLE and the status of the *HB 5423 - Expansion of Rail Service for SE CT* study and other potential expansion possibilities. All commuters and members of the public are encouraged to attend. In addition to the Council and CDOT, representatives from Amtrak are expected as well. All local State legislators along the SLE corridor have been invited to attend, as well as key municipal officials and other stakeholders.

This meeting will be a hybrid meeting that will be held both in-person at Clinton Town Hall, 54 E Main St, Clinton, CT, and with a remote link posted at <https://connecticutcommuterrailcouncil.org/>. The Shore Line East is a vibrant line that has much in the way of possibilities. We are hopeful that by aligning commuters, legislators and interested stakeholders, and connecting them with the Department of Transportation, this grassroots effort may help SLE realize the attention and service level it deserves.

Connecticut Commuter Rail Council Secretary Blaize Levitan added, “We’re excited to arrange and coordinate this meeting regarding the Shore Line East, and to bring it to a centrally-located area in Clinton. A viable Shore Line East is critical not only to employers and commuters along the line, but also to the economies of every town the line runs through.”