

SUBMITTED TESTIMONY OF  
KEVIN B. MALONEY, 4016 MOUNTAIN RD, WEST SUFFIELD, CT  
SUPPORTING  
H.B. No. 5954, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 18, 2011

My name is Kevin Maloney and I reside at 4016 Mountain Road in West Suffield. I am here today in my capacity as Chairman of the Connecticut Public Transportation Commission (CPTC) to testify in support of H.B. No. 5954, "An act concerning the report of the Public Transportation Commission".

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with our work, the CPTC is a statutorily established body charged with the annual task of presenting a list of recommendations which, if undertaken by the State, would further the policy set forth in Section 13b-32 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Our ranks are filled by eleven gubernatorial appointments and eight legislative appointments, and in addition to our twelve monthly meetings we also conduct an average of eight public hearings annually throughout the state. The information that we gather at these meetings and hearings is distilled into an annual report containing about ten recommendations and submitted to the Department of Transportation, the Governor and the Transportation Committee for their review.

In 2003, the Legislature passed Special Act 03-04 which made several changes to our statute, one of which deleted the D.O.T. Commissioner's requirement to respond to our recommendations. However, because neither the D.O.T. nor the CPTC was aware of these changes, the Commission continued to respond to our report through 2007. It was not until we had submitted our 2008 report when the change came to light, and it was then that the D.O.T., short on resources, declined to respond. To this day, no one seems to know who sponsored those changes or why. However, I am here today to hopefully convince you of the importance of re-establishing this dialogue.

The CPTC serves as an important bridge between the various regional planning authorities throughout the state and the D.O.T., and we are the primary conduit for comments from the general public regarding transportation policy. In truth, we have our finger on the pulse of public sentiment unlike any other state commission. To illustrate that, I'd like to call your attention to two proposed acts that are on your agenda today. H.B. No. 5942 calls for the development of an accurate inventory of available parking on the New Haven line and its branches. In our 2007 report we recommended, and I quote, "That CONNDOT prepare a strategic plan to address the shortfall of parking capacity along the New Haven Line". Our Commission would like to go on record as supporting this bill. You also have before you H.B. No. 6128 calling for a bus route connecting Manchester and Hartford with the Storrs campus of UCONN. This was contained in our 2008 recommendations and came out of one of the most heavily attended and spirited public hearings that I have participated in during my three years on the Commission.

We were instrumental in expediting the re-opening of the Wilton train station and we played a pivotal role in the review of the initial plans for the Waterbury Transportation Center, particularly with regard to the movement of the pulse point for Waterbury's fixed route bus system. Incidentally, all the bus stops in the Waterbury area now have adequate signage thanks to our efforts. We've taken testimony on the New Britain Busway, the taxi industry, Bradley International Airport and a whole host of other issues that resonate with both the providers and the users of our public transportation systems.

As Chairman of the CPTC, I am blessed with a dedicated group of folks who contribute significantly to the dialogue about public transportation in Connecticut and travel to the four corners of our fair state soliciting the views of the public with no compensation other than paid mileage. We owe them at minimum the courtesy of a response to their hard work on the State's behalf. Thank you for your attention.