

Good morning. I would first like to thank Chairman Guerrerra and Chairman Maynard and the entire Transportation Committee for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Ed Deni. I am a lifelong resident of Enfield, and I am currently a Fire Commissioner with Enfield's North Thompsonville Fire District. I am here today to testify in support of H.B. 6059, An Act Concerning the Construction of a Train Station in Thompsonville.

As a leader within the North Thompsonville neighborhood of Enfield, I cannot overly stress the excitement that I see and feel within my community regarding a potential station in Enfield for the proposed New Haven to Springfield light-rail line. Every local business owner that I have spoken to is thrilled about the proposed station because they see it as a means to grow their own business and the entire local economy. A light-rail station would bring transit-oriented development to our town and better connect us within the New Haven-Springfield corridor.

Furthermore, I am someone who is very active throughout the entire town. I coach youth baseball, and I am also active in local veterans' issues and town politics. This gives me the opportunity to talk to a wide-range of Enfield residents, and I come here today to tell you that everyone I see in Enfield wants a light-rail station. Be it because they want a more efficient way to commute to work or want to travel to New Haven, New York and Boston for leisure, the people of Enfield want this rail station. I should also note that many couples in our town have one spouse who works in Hartford and one spouse who works in Springfield. This proposed station has created such a strong buzz in town, in part, because families like the idea that the line would provide convenient transportation to work for both income earners within the household.

I also agree that the proposed station should be placed in Thompsonville. In my mind, Thompsonville is a hidden gem in town, and the potential for transit-orientated development would greatly help the economic climate within Enfield. Also, Thompsonville is conveniently located near Interstate 91 and Route 5, and I sense that there is a strong consensus in town to place the station in Thompsonville.

In closing, I hope that the entire Enfield legislative delegation will work in partnership with the Department of Transportation and other state leaders to make an Enfield light-rail station a reality. I cannot wait to see the positive economic benefits that will result from an Enfield station. Thank-you.