

**Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee  
Consideration of Appointment of Susan Prosi Johnson  
to CT Commuter Rail Council  
March 13, 2014**

Good afternoon Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, Senator Fasano, Representative Camillo and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

My name is Susan Prosi Johnson. It is an honor and a privilege to be considered for appointment as a member to the CT Commuter Rail Council by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you to provide you with information about myself and my interest in serving on the CT Commuter Rail Council.

Growing up in New York City, using transit is part of my culture. I moved to CT in 1975 with my husband after receiving a masters in planning at the University of Michigan, and working in Michigan as a social worker. With a masters degree in hand hopeful of planning for change instead of reacting to crises, and that social consciousness penchant to help people and fix things that I probably inherited from my mother, I've subsequently worked as a transportation planner for the Greater Bridgeport Region, the City of Stamford and now the South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA). There was a short venture into the private side with a transportation engineering firm and some family leave. In my hometown of Stratford where I live with my husband and son, I am on the Town's Beautification Committee and the Town's CERT team.

I've been a pass-holding Metro-North commuter since 1984, commuting from Stratford to Norwalk and Stamford. I was also on the previous Commuter Rail Council at two different times: when the Council was first formed, and more recently until the that Council was sunset in July 2013.

I would like to serve on the CT Commuter Rail Council to be involved in conversations and partnerships between CTDOT, Metro-North, and commuters to help, in whatever way I can, to improve communication and transparency for commuters about rail services and status, and potentially work on near-term and longer-term improvements,

programs and priority setting. My planning background, and indeed many of the planning activities I work on at SWRPA, relate to rail, bus and intermodal transportation among other tasks, including emergency management and homeland security. My technical and analytical capabilities as well as knowledge about Connecticut's transportation projects, programs, plans and funding provide knowledge and skill sets that will assist the Council in the mission established by Public Act 13-299. The mission is to:

- *study and investigate all aspects of the daily operation of commuter rail lines in the state, monitor their performance and recommend changes to improve the efficiency and the quality of service of the operation of the rail lines,*
- *work with the Department of Transportation to advocate for customers of all commuter lines in the state,*
- *make recommendations for improvements to such lines, and*
- *annually report findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Commissioner of Transportation, the General Assembly, as well as the New York counterpart to the CT Metro-North Rail Commuter Council, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (NY)*

Thank you very much for this opportunity to meet with you. I am honored by the Governor's appointment and your consideration of approving my appointment to the CT Commuter Rail Council where I believe I can provide valuable insights as a long-time daily commuter and can offer planning and technical skills that will benefit the CT Commuter Rail Council, commuters and decision-makers.