

February 11, 2015

Yesterday, the Danbury Line had yet another breakdown. How timely. I realize that a "timely breakdown" is an oxymoron but given the moronic behavior of the CT executive branch in "stealing" funds from the rail system to promote expensive pet projects that benefit relatively few (Hartford-New Britain busway), I thought it appropriate to share my observations with the Transportation Committee.

The Danbury bound diesel engine on our 5:49 from GCT broke down last night just beyond the split between the New Haven and Hudson line. No explanation. My guess is that it's once again a failure to maintain to a reasonable standard. Diesels should almost never break down and certainly are designed to endure the recent, and realistically, normal winter weather.

We were then informed that we would be pushed back to Harlem-125 and start. Our 1 1/2 hour ride to Wilton just became at least a 2 1/2 hour commute.

We should not be surprised when more commuters leave our CT communities due to the consistent unreliability of our rail transportation system. The trickle-down effect of commuters relocating along more reliable corridors could be quite devastating.

Failing to invest in our rail system is an incredibly costly mistake.

I wholeheartedly support these three bills that would dramatically improve the Danbury Branch Line and urge others to do the same.

Walter Kress
142 Hurlbutt Street
Wilton

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