

Topic: Support for proposed HB 6350 an act concerning expansion of rail service to New Milford.

Dear Honorable Members of the Transportation Committee,

Please allow me this opportunity to express my support for proposed HB 6350, an act concerning expansion of rail service to New Milford from the perspective of a young person wanting every reason to continue to make the Greater Danbury region my home, from an environmentalist committed to seeing CT reduce its GHG emissions, and as the Transportation Planner with the transit district serving Greater Danbury.

I am 27 years old. Fully employed and a contributing member of society. I moved from New York State to CT four years ago and I want to see the state investing in alternative transportation. Dependency on the car is why so many young people are pulled out of the Greater Danbury region to other areas across the state (and out of the state entirely) to places that better prioritize public transportation in a pedestrian/bike friendly environment.

I want every reason to take my single passenger vehicle off the road when commuting to work or for socializing weekend travel. I've done the best I can in this limited environment by biking a 14 mile commute to New York State from Ridgefield, walking a 3 mile commute across the City of Danbury and presently I choose a bus commute.

Look to public transportation to solve the highway congestion issues and to revive downtowns. Promote transit-oriented development and complete the streets. All the while curb greenhouse gas emissions. Remember the Connecticut Global Warming Solutions Act calls for a minimum reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of 80% of 2001 levels by 2050 - not an easy feat, but improving mass transit options will bring results.

The Housatonic Valley Region MPO places great emphasis on this rail expansion in the region's long term transportation plan as do many of the town's plans of conservation and development, such as Bethel, New Milford, Redding, and Danbury,

Get Connecticut up to par for the 21st century. Want to keep young people like myself in the state. Make rail expansion to New Milford a funding priority.

Regards,

Stephanie Scavelli
84 Lake Ave, Apt 3
Danbury, CT 06810