



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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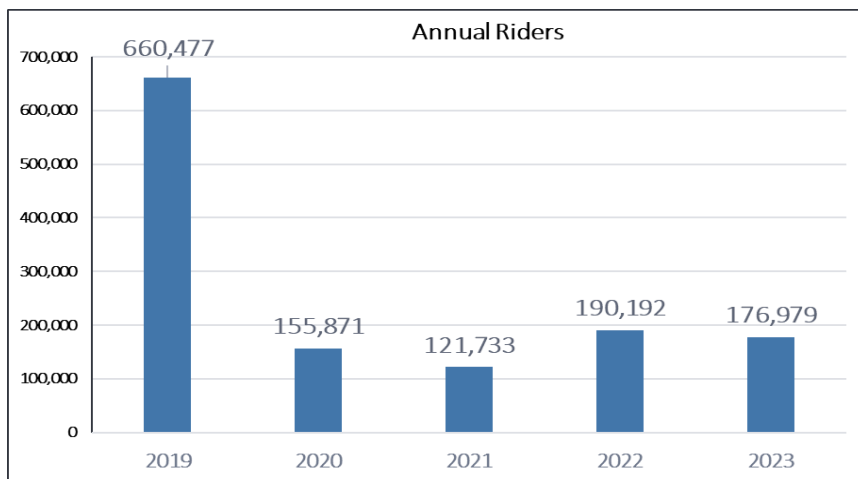
Public Hearing-March 4, 2024
Transportation Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Garrett T. Eucalitto
Department of Transportation

S.B. 277 AAC Restoring Service on the Shore Line East Rail Line.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) respectfully offers the following comments regarding S.B. 277, Restoring Service on the Shore Line East Rail Line.

In 2019 Shore Line East operated 222 trains per week and annual ridership was 660,477. Currently, Shore Line East operates 112 trains per week and annual ridership for 2023 was 176,979. This reflects a 73.2% decrease in ridership between 2019 and 2023, and a slightly less than 50% reduction in service.



This bill requires CTDOT to restore service on the Shore Line East rail line to the same level of service that existed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Shore Line East ridership had already begun to decline prior to the pandemic. The Adopted Connecticut State Budget for FY 2024-2025 does not include the funding that would be required for these proposals, and the Governor’s FY2025 Budget Adjustment proposes no changes to the Adopted Budget. The Adopted Budget includes funding for Shore Line East matching

service levels- reflecting 44% of pre-COVID service for both FY 2024 and FY2025. CTDOT staff have worked collaboratively with customers, the CT Public Transportation Council, and the Shore Line East advocacy groups to develop a customer-centric schedule consistent with the Adopted Budget.

For further information or questions, please contact Anne Kleza (anne.kleza@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation at (860) 594-3013.