

TASK 6 EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

STATE PROJECT 302-008



FINAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2009

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	7
1.1 Study Area Definition	7
Overview.....	7
Towns.....	8
Population and Demographics	11
Activity Centers	14
Major Transportation Features.....	15
Extension to Massachusetts	15
1.2 Review of Previous Studies	18
Route 7 Corridor Travel Options Implementation Plan.....	18
Danbury Branch Line Shuttle Feasibility Study	20
Rail Transit Development Program	22
U.S. Census Journey-to-Work	23
Danbury Branch Line Service Study	24
The Untapped Market for Rail Passenger Service.....	24
Action Plan for Restoring Passenger Rail Service to New Milford.....	25
Congestion Mitigation Systems Plan “Vision 2020”.....	27
Danbury Branch Electrification Project Feasibility Study, Phase I.....	29
Connecticut Department of Transportation Rail Governance Study	35
1.3 Related Projects	36
Danbury Branch CTC	36
Danbury Branch Tie Replacements	36
Rt. 7 & 33 Reconstruction in Wilton	36
Rt. 7 Bypass in Brookfield.....	36
Rt. 15 & Rt. 7 Interchange Reconstruction.....	36
Wilton Station Parking.....	36
Chapter 2: Existing Rail Service	37
2.1 Historical Background	37
Danbury and Norwalk Railroad.....	38
Housatonic Railroad (HRR).....	38
New York & New England Railroad (NY & NE)	39
New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad (NYNH&H)	39
1970 to Today	40
2.2 Passenger Rail Service.....	42
Danbury Branch.....	42
Harlem Line	65
2.3 Freight Rail Service	67
Housatonic Railroad Company (HRRC)	69
Providence and Worcester Railroad (P&W).....	70
Norwalk to Danbury Service	71
Danbury to New Milford Service	72

Chapter 3: Existing Transit	73
3.1 Housatonic Area Regional Transit District (HART)	73
Base Service.....	74
Evening and Sunday Loop Routes	76
Commuter Shuttles.....	76
Regional Routes	77
3.2 Norwalk Transit District (NTD)	78
Base Service.....	78
Evening and Sunday Service	80
Commuter Shuttles.....	81
Regional Routes	83
3.3 Corporate Shuttles	84
3.4 Ride Sharing	84
Chapter 4: Existing Road Network.....	85
4.1 Major Roadways in Corridor	85
4.2 Major Roadways in Vicinity of Danbury Branch Stations	88
South Norwalk Station.....	88
Merritt 7 Station.....	90
Wilton Station	95
Cannondale Station	98
Branchville Station.....	99
West Redding Station	102
Bethel Station.....	103
Danbury Station	105
4.3 Major Roadways in Vicinity of Harlem Line Stations	107
Brewster and Southeast (Brewster North) Stations	108
Croton Falls and Purdy’s Stations.....	109
Golden’s Bridge and Katonah Stations.....	110
Bedford Hills and Mt. Kisco Stations	111
4.4 Park and Ride Lots	112
4.5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	112
Chapter 5: Rail Rider Surveys.....	115
5.1 Existing Danbury Branch Passengers	115
Methodology	115
Findings.....	115
5.2 Potential Rail Passengers	116
Methodology	117
Findings.....	117
Chapter 6: Baseline Train Performance Model.....	119
6.1 Overview	119
6.2 Initial Baseline.....	119
6.3 Revised Baseline	119

List of Tables

Table 1: Population and Population Density, Study Corridor.....	11
Table 2: Educational Attainment Levels, Study Corridor.....	12
Table 3: Median Household Income, Study Corridor	13
Table 4: Population and Population Density, Extension to Massachusetts	16
Table 5: Racial Composition, Extension to Massachusetts.....	17
Table 6: Educational Attainment Levels, Extension to Massachusetts.....	17
Table 7: Median Household Income, Extension to Massachusetts.....	17
Table 8: Journey-to-Work: Origins and Destinations	24
Table 9: Morning Passenger Counts, 2000 and 2020.....	32
Table 10: Electrification Costs.....	33
Table 11: Danbury Branch Travel Times.....	46
Table 12: Danbury Branch 2007 On/Off Counts, Summary.....	47
Table 13: Danbury Branch 2007 On/Off Counts, AM Peak	47
Table 14: Disembarking Stations of Branch line AM Riders	48
Table 15: Disembarking Stations by Train and Service Type	49
Table 16: Danbury Branch Fares to GCT: Station Price vs. WebTicket Price	49
Table 17: Sample New Haven Line Fares to GCT.....	50
Table 18: Sample New Haven Line Cost per Mile to GCT	50
Table 19: Intermediate Trip Fares to South Norwalk and Stamford.....	51
Table 20: Intermediate Trip Cost per Mile to South Norwalk and Stamford	51
Table 21: Danbury Branch Line Parking Capacity	53
Table 22: Peak Period Travel Times between Upper Harlem Line Stations and GCT.....	66
Table 23: Fares between Grand Central and Upper Harlem Line Stations.....	67
Table 24: HART Fare Structure	73
Table 25: Metro-North Harlem Line Shuttle Ridership, November 2008	77
Table 26: Average Daily Boardings, The 7 Link.....	78
Table 27: NTD Fare Structure.....	78
Table 28: Average Daily Boardings, NTD Commuter Shuttles.....	82
Table 29: Daily Boardings, Merritt 7 Corporate Park Shuttle, December 2008	84
Table 30: Travel Time and Speed, Norwalk to Danbury (southbound).....	87
Table 31: Travel Time and Speed, Norwalk to Danbury (northbound).....	88
Table 32: Traffic at South Norwalk Station.....	89
Table 33: Accidents Recorded near South Norwalk Station, 10/1/03 to 9/30/07	89
Table 33: Traffic at Merritt 7 Station.....	91
Table 34: Traffic at Merritt 7 Station for Rt. 7/15/719 Interchange Improvement.....	93
Table 35: Accidents Recorded near Merritt 7 Station, 10-1-2003 to 9-30-2007	94
Table 36: Traffic at Wilton Station	96
Table 37: Accidents Recorded near Wilton Station, 10/1/03 to 9/30/07	97
Table 38: Traffic at Cannondale Station	98
Table 39: Accidents Recorded near Cannondale Station, 10/1/03 to 9/30/07	99
Table 41: Traffic at Branchville Station.....	100
Table 42: Accidents Recorded near Branchville Station, 10/1/03 to 9/30/07	101
Table 43: Traffic at West Redding Station.....	102
Table 44: Accidents Recorded near Redding Station, 10/1/03 to 9/30/07	102

List of Tables (ctd.)

Table 45: Traffic at Danbury Station	106
Table 46: Accidents Recorded near Danbury Station, 10/1/03 to 9/30/07.....	106
Table 47: Park and Ride Locations in Corridor	112

List of Figures

Figure 1: Study Corridor	7
Figure 2: Corridor Population by Municipality	11
Figure 3: Racial Composition, Study Corridor	12
Figure 4: College Graduates versus Residents with no High School Diploma, Study Corridor .	13
Figure 5: Study Corridor and Extension to Massachusetts	15
Figure 6: Connecticut Rail Map, Late 19 th Century	37
Figure 7: Danbury Branch Trains Weekday Schedule.....	44
Figure 8: Danbury Branch Trains Weekend Schedule.....	45
Figure 9: Danbury Rail Yards.....	63
Figure 10: Average Peak Travel Times, Danbury Branch and Upper Harlem Line.....	66
Figure 11: Freight Network in the Study Area and Surrounding Region	68
Figure 12: Freight Customers in the Study Area	70
Figure 13: HART Route 3.....	74
Figure 14: HART Route 5.....	75
Figure 15: Norwalk Transit District Route Map.....	79
Figure 16: Connecticut Avenue Shuttle (NTD)	81
Figure 17: Main Avenue Shuttle (NTD)	81
Figure 18: Travel Speed, Norwalk to Danbury (southbound)	86
Figure 19: Travel Speed, Norwalk to Danbury (northbound).....	87
Figure 20: South Norwalk Station Location	88
Figure 21: Traffic Conditions, South Norwalk Station.....	90
Figure 22: Merritt 7 Station Location	91
Figure 23: Traffic Conditions, Merritt 7 Station.....	95
Figure 24: Wilton Station Location	96
Figure 25: Traffic Conditions, Wilton Station.....	97
Figure 26: Cannondale Station Location	98
Figure 27: Traffic Conditions, Cannondale Station.....	99
Figure 28: Branchville Station Location.....	100
Figure 29: Traffic Conditions, Branchville Station	101
Figure 30: West Redding Station Location.....	102
Figure 31: Traffic Conditions, West Redding Station	103
Figure 32: Bethel Station Location	104
Figure 33: Traffic Conditions, Bethel Station.....	104
Figure 34: Danbury Station Location.....	105
Figure 35: Traffic Conditions, Danbury Station	107
Figure 36: Road Network around Brewster and Brewster North Stations.....	108
Figure 37: Road Network around Croton Falls and Purdy’s Stations.....	109
Figure 38: Road Network around Golden’s Bridge and Katonah Stations.....	110
Figure 39: Road Network around Bedford Hills and Mount Kisco Stations	111
Figure 40: Map of Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails in HVCEO Region	113
Figure 41: Map of Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails in SWRPA Region	114

List of Appendices

Appendix A: On/Off Counts, New Haven Line (Spring/Fall 2007)

Appendix B: Total Monthly Ridership, New Haven Line (2008 vs. 2007)

Appendix C: Freight Movements, New Haven Line and Branch Lines

Appendix D: MetroNorth Railroad 2030 Operating Plan, New Haven Line

Appendix E: Rail Passenger Survey Report

Appendix F: Potential Rail Passenger Survey Report

Appendix G: Train Simulation Report for the Baseline Train Performance Model