

# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

## FROM THE COMMISSIONER



Forward Thinking.  
Best-in-Class.  
Economic Catalyst.

All three phrases describe our future regional rail transportation system when the CTrail Hartford Line service launches in May 2018.

Until then, the NHHS Rail Program showcases 2017 as one of the most active, milestone driven years to date! This spring, design and environmental permitting efforts commenced for new Hartford Line stations in North Haven, Newington, West Hartford, Windsor, Windsor Locks and Enfield. These efforts are scheduled for completion in 2020.

In July, CTDOT officials joined Governor Malloy to announce the State's selection for the Hartford Line service provider. The joint venture of TransitAmerica Services and Alternate Concepts is the newest member of a team committed to delivering faster, more frequent and reliable rail service to Connecticut and beyond.

This summer, the mammoth, state-of-the-art Track Construction Machine returned to install nine additional miles of track from Meriden to Newington. We'll see it again this fall, as it installs the remaining four miles from Hartford to Windsor.

I am also pleased to report the final stages of Hartford Line station construction. Wallingford and Meriden stations will be completed this fall with State Street station following by years end and Berlin station in early 2018. Existing Amtrak service passengers will be able to utilize the new stations prior to Hartford Line service launch next spring.

Over the last five years, the NHHS Rail Program has played a critical role in developing Connecticut's transportation future. On behalf of the CTDOT, I am pleased to present you with a newsletter full of recent developments and major milestones.

Thank you and we hope you find this edition informative!

**James P. Redeker**  
Commissioner,  
CT Department of Transportation



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## Gov. Malloy Announces TransitAmerica Services and Alternate Concepts Selected as Service Provider for the Hartford Line

On July 24, 2017 Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that a joint venture of TransitAmerica Services and Alternate Concepts had been selected as the service provider that will operate and manage service on the CTrail Hartford Line – the passenger rail service currently under construction that will provide more frequent train service between New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield.

When service begins, the line will more than double the daily round trips currently offered in the corridor, providing more frequent, convenient, and faster rail service to those living, working, and traveling through central Connecticut. Since the start of his administration, Governor Malloy has been working to develop commuter rail service along the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield corridor, saying that a more active rail line in the region is crucial to making more livable communities, attracting businesses and job growth, and keeping the economy moving.



Gov. Malloy making Hartford Line announcement at the future Wallingford Station.

“We are getting closer each day to launching commuter rail service between New Haven, Hartford, and our friends in Springfield – a service that we’ve needed in the central Connecticut area for decades and will finally allow an option to move people, goods, and services with greater ease,” Governor Malloy said. “Creating the Hartford Line is just one part of our efforts toward building a best-in-class transportation system for Connecticut residents that drives growth, attracts businesses, and stimulates job creation, all while improving the overall quality of life for our residents. For the sake of our economy and our future, we cannot sit and let our infrastructure deteriorate – we are stepping up, moving forward, and getting this project done.”

The Hartford Line will act as a regional link with connections to existing rail services, including Metro-North, Shoreline East, and Amtrak Acela high-speed rail services on both the New Haven Line to New York and on the Northeast Corridor to New London

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and Boston. There will also be direct bus connections to the Airport Express, formerly known as the Bradley Flyer, and to CTfastrak.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) conducted a thorough service procurement process for the Hartford Line service and selected TransitAmerica Services and Alternate Concepts, which are forming a joint venture solely for the purpose of serving the Hartford Line. This marks the first time that CTDOT has been able to select and contract a service provider for a major transportation program, which is a more cost-efficient alternative to the agency creating a separate internal unit and hiring employees to operate the Hartford Line.

The Joint Venture of TransitAmerica Services and Alternate Concepts (TASI/ACI) – as the provider will officially be branded for the purposes of the Hartford Line – entered into a \$45 million contract with CTDOT for five years, plus approximately ten months of preliminary mobilization work that is required to prepare for the launch of the service. As the Hartford Line service provider, TASI/ACI will be responsible for operating trains, maintaining stations and parking facilities, and performing various customer service functions.

Together, TransitAmerica Services and Alternate Concepts currently serve approximately 57 million riders and provide 318,000 trips annually across the United States. Both entities have provided Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Federal Transit Administration



Commissioner Redeker answering press questions at a July 2017 press event.

(FTA) compliant services for 20 rail clients, including 11 new train service startups. Their combined operations and maintenance experience includes commuter rail contracts in San Francisco, Santa Fe, Denver, Boston, and New Jersey, as well as light rail, heavy rail, and streetcar contracts throughout the country.

Amtrak will remain responsible for maintenance of the railroad infrastructure, including track, signals, train dispatching, and right-of-way security. CTra<sup>il</sup> trains will operate together with Amtrak trains on the rail line to provide seamless Hartford Line service.

## Hartford Line Service Launching May 2018



A new date has been set for launch of the CTra<sup>il</sup> Hartford Line service. Previously scheduled for January 2018, the service will now launch in May 2018. This is a result of the recent allocation of \$50 million in state funding to install four additional miles of track between Hartford and Windsor.

Postponing the service launch until this additional construction is complete will ensure a seamless launch for the new service and its riders, without the need to implement service outages or other schedule disruptions.

When the Hartford Line service launches next year, 17 round trips between New Haven and Hartford will operate each weekday; 12 of these 17 roundtrips trains will continue on to Springfield. Travelers in New Haven, Wallingford, Meriden, Berlin, Hartford and Windsor will board trains every 45 minutes during the morning and evening peak hours, and approximately every 90 minutes during off-peak periods. Hartford Line trains will operate at speeds up to 110 mph, reducing travel time between Springfield and New Haven from an average of 89 minutes to 81 minutes, a savings of 8 minutes. The service provides direct or connecting service to New York City, Boston and Vermont.

With this level of direct and connecting service linking the region, municipalities along the Hartford Line will become magnets for growth – ideal places to live and to relocate businesses that depend on regional markets and travel.

### QUICK TERMS

**High-level Platforms:** A platform constructed to be four feet above the top of the rail, at the same height as the passenger car door sill. It allows level boarding and unloading of trains.

**Overhead Pedestrian Bridge:** Enables passengers to safely access both sides of the high-level platforms without having to cross at track level.

**Snow Melting Systems:** A system of pipes embedded in a passenger platform through which heated fluid is conveyed to melt snow and ice on the platform surface.

**Passenger Information Display System (PIDS):** A system consisting of electronic devices at a station that display schedule and other important passenger information.

**Ticket Vending Machine (TVM):** Kiosks located in stations and on platforms for riders to quickly and easily purchase tickets before boarding the train. Passengers will also be able to pay for parking using the new TVM's.

## Design Continues for New Hartford Line Stations

2017 marked the start of design and environmental permitting for new CT*Trail* Hartford Line stations in North Haven (intersection of State and Devine Streets), Newington (intersection of Willard and Francis Avenues), West Hartford (intersection of Flatbush and Newfield Avenues), and in Enfield (between Main and River Streets). Windsor and Windsor Locks are current stops along the existing rail line, however station facilities will be relocated. Design for all new stations is scheduled for completion in 2020.

Planned improvements at stations generally includes high-level platforms on both sides of the tracks, as well as the installation of elevators, stairways, an overhead pedestrian bridge to cross the tracks, canopies covering approximately 200 feet of platform length, and surface parking for approximately 100-200 vehicles. Specific to Windsor, a two-level parking deck will be constructed, located behind Town Hall to accommodate approximately 100 rail customers.

Additional enhancements include platform snow melting systems, a passenger information display system, security cameras, and ticket vending machines. Design and environmental permitting efforts for these stations is estimated to cost approximately \$20 million. The CTDOT continues to explore federal funding options with the intent of securing construction funding prior to completion of design.

Visit the Program's website at [www.nhhsrail.com](http://www.nhhsrail.com) to stay informed and view the recently updated Interactive Program Map, shown at right, which provides additional station specific information.



## State-of-the-Art Track Construction Machine Returns to Install New Track



The photos above showcase the TCM installing new track in Berlin

The Track Construction Machine (TCM), which debuted in October 2016 to double-track portions of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield (NHHS) rail corridor, returned this summer to install nine additional miles of track in the Newington and Berlin area. It will return this fall to install the remaining four miles of track between Hartford and Windsor.

One of only three such machines in the United States, the TCM assembles up to 1,000 feet of track per hour (500 rail ties) in ideal conditions, totaling over one mile of track per day. Prior to use of the TCM, it took months to complete this type of work using either track panels (which require offsite assembly and transportation to the site) or manual installation using traditional track construction equipment.

The primary benefits of a TCM over other track construction methods are its swift production capability and that it safely lays track without disrupting train operations on adjacent tracks. However, the machine cannot be used in all locations; it cannot fit in restricted spaces and it cannot install track at grade crossings.

Upon completion of the TCMs work this fall, the rail corridor between New Haven and Windsor will be entirely double-tracked with the exception of the rail line between West Hartford and Hartford's Union Station. This section of track will be updated as part of the I-84 Hartford Project. For more information visit [www.i84hartford.com](http://www.i84hartford.com).

In July, video crews were able to capture the TCM in operation, utilizing innovative technology to film and provide a "bird's-eye" view as new track was laid in Berlin, Connecticut. The video is available to be viewed at [www.nhhsrail.com/gallery](http://www.nhhsrail.com/gallery).

## Website Photo Gallery

To inform the public of construction progress, photos are posted weekly in the Media Gallery on the Program's website.

Visit [www.nhhsrail.com/gallery](http://www.nhhsrail.com/gallery).



Construction at Berlin Station



Track Construction Machine laying new track in Berlin



Construction at State Street Station in New Haven



Welding along the track in North Haven

### Did You Know?

Approximately 158,405 feet of new rail tracks will be installed from New Haven to Windsor.



That equates to the length of either 440 football fields, 3,960 transit buses or 10,560 cars!

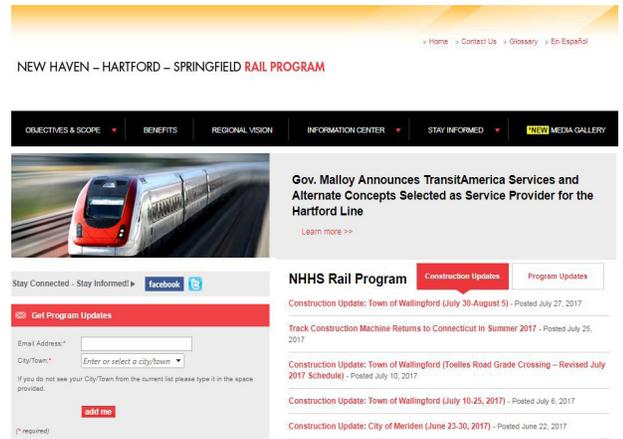
## GET INVOLVED & STAY INFORMED

### NHHS Contact List

Nearly 4,000 residents, businesses, local groups and public agencies have already subscribed to the NHHS contact list! Subscribing to the contact list on the [www.NHHSrail.com](http://www.NHHSrail.com) website takes only a few minutes and ensures that you will receive:

- E-alerts with Program updates, including station construction
- Construction impacts
- Future issues of the Program newsletter
- Notices of upcoming public meetings

[Subscribe>](#)



## Questions & Comments

The Program website ([www.nhhsrail.com](http://www.nhhsrail.com)) provides an easy way to ask questions or provide comments to the Program team and receive a response via email.

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