

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018

FROM THE COMMISSIONER



As we approach the launch of the **CTrail** Hartford Line passenger rail service — the first new passenger rail service to be introduced in Connecticut in decades — I would like to take a moment to thank supporters for their interest, enthusiasm, and

input, all of which have helped shape this important project.

The New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Program began in 2010 as an extensive infrastructure project. Its dedicated team and Program partners have prepared us for the much-anticipated launch of the Hartford Line in May. It will provide a convenient, economic, and efficient alternative to cars and highway driving for commuters and reduce pollution from, and congestion on, Connecticut's highways. A catalyst for transit-oriented development, the Hartford Line will continue to contribute to the transformation of municipal centers that are vibrant, walkable, and have something to offer people of all ages. It will strengthen and solidify Connecticut's economic position, as well as the region's.

As we approach the final months before the launch of Hartford Line service, we have significant progress to report in this newsletter. I am pleased to share that new stations in Wallingford and Meriden officially opened to the public in Fall 2017! Passengers will continue to board Amtrak trains until the Hartford Line service launches in May. All but one mile of double tracking between New Haven and Windsor is now complete.

Another major milestone reached was the launch of the Hartford Line informational website at HartfordLine.com. The new website, launched in January, features information on scheduling, fares, and trip planning.

As we get closer to launch day, please consider sharing Hartford Line news with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers who may be eager to have a new travel option available to them!

Thank you for your continued interest.

We hope you find this edition informative!

James P. Redeker

Commissioner,
CT Department of Transportation



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All Aboard! New Hartford Line Stations in Wallingford and Meriden Open to the Public

On Monday, November 6, 2017 Governor Dannel P. Malloy joined Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Commissioner James P. Redeker, alongside numerous state and local officials, to celebrate the grand opening of the first newly constructed **CTrail** Hartford Line train station, located in Wallingford at 343 North Cherry Street.

The former station, located adjacent to the railroad green at 37 Hall Avenue, will no longer operate as a train station but will remain a hub for town life, anchoring the downtown community. The existing station building houses several organizations, including the Wallingford Adult Education Center and the New Haven Society of Model Engineers Railroad Club.



Governor Malloy officially opening the new Wallingford Station at the ribbon cutting ceremony. (November 2017)

Upon opening, the new station immediately began providing service to existing Amtrak trains and soon will begin serving trains on the **CTrail** Hartford Line service, which is scheduled to launch in May 2018.

"We are getting closer each day to launching a commuter rail line between New Haven, Hartford, and our friends in Springfield, and today's opening of the new station in Wallingford marks a major milestone in the evolution of the much-needed service," Governor Malloy said. "Creation of the Hartford Line will provide those working, living, and traveling along this corridor with fast, safe, and reliable rail transportation – providing greater attraction for businesses, stimulating job creation, and improving our overall quality of life."

In addition to the recent opening of Wallingford Station, on Sunday, November 19, 2017, the new high-level platforms and overhead pedestrian bridge were put into service at the new **CTrail** Hartford Line Meriden Station, located at 60 State Street.

"Amtrak trains are now pulling up to the new platforms and the pedestrian bridge is open to customers," said John Bernick, CTDOT Assistant Rail Administrator.

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“Both platforms opened to allow for the completion of the track work and the removal of the temporary platform.” Subsequently, on December 18, 2017, construction activities were completed at the new station. A formal ribbon cutting ceremony will take place in the coming weeks, following completion of track work by Amtrak.

The station includes a 65-space surface parking lot, with additional parking available in a recently opened garage. Located at the intersection of Colony Street and Church Street, the garage provides approximately 225 spaces reserved for Hartford Line passengers and the general public on a first come, first served basis.

Parking is currently free, but paid parking (\$2.00 daily/\$20.00 monthly) will be phased in at a later date. The CTDOT will make announcements when paid parking is implemented and will provide information on how to use the parking kiosks at the stations.

Construction of the stations, which cost approximately \$21 million each to construct, began in December 2014 and features several amenities aimed at improving the passenger experience for Hartford Line riders. These include high-level platforms on both sides of the tracks, elevators, stairways, canopies covering approximately 50 percent of each platform, ticket vending machines, a passenger information display system, and an overhead pedestrian bridge. To improve passenger safety, the new stations feature automatic platform snow melting systems



The new Hartford Line station in Meriden.

in the platforms, security cameras, and blue-light emergency call boxes.

Stations that serve the line are located in New Haven (Union Station and State Street), Wallingford, Meriden, Berlin, Hartford, Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Springfield. In addition to Wallingford and Meriden, a new station in Berlin will be completed prior to service launch. Additionally, new stations in North Haven, Newington, West Hartford, and Enfield are currently being designed.

For more information on the new stations visit nhhsrail.com.

Track Construction Update



Construction of new railbed in Windsor. (November 2017)

Track construction nears completion along the rail line! To date, 26 out of 27 miles of track have been installed between North Haven and Windsor. Double track is in service between New Haven and Berlin, with trains running on both tracks. Full double tracking to Hartford is expected to be completed and in service by early 2018.

Furthermore, construction of track support structures from North Haven to Hartford, which includes new railbed, bridges, and culverts, has been completed. These improvements were required to facilitate the

installation of full double tracking by extending, rehabilitating, or replacing structures in order to widen the railbed, allowing additional track to be installed. Additionally, this work accommodates new signal and communications equipment, necessary for supporting double tracking of the line.

The remaining track work in Windsor is scheduled to begin in January, and includes rail resurfacing, as well as installation and wiring of the rail signal system. This work will be completed prior to service launch.

All railroad crossing improvements in Hamden, North Haven, Wallingford, Meriden, Berlin, West Hartford, and Hartford have been completed, with work expected to finish in Windsor by Spring 2018.

Stay informed on construction and other important Program activities by visiting the Program website and social media channels.

Proposed Hartford Line Schedule and Fares Published

From October 23, 2017 to November 27, 2017, the Connecticut Department of Transportation held a public comment period for the proposed fares for the CTrail Hartford Line.

The comment period allowed the public to provide input regarding the proposed fares through email or during several Hartford Line fare hearings held in New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, Massachusetts.

Proposed fares include one-way, weekly, 10-trip, monthly, monthly for students under the age of 18, and UniRail options. Discounted tickets are available for senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and those receiving Medicare. Final fares are expected to be published in the coming months, and will be similar to existing ShoreLine East fares.

During the fare hearings, proposed weekday and weekend/holiday schedules for Hartford Line service were released.

Hartford Line service will include a total of 17 daily round trips between New Haven and Hartford on weekdays. 12 of these trips provide service to Springfield, Massachusetts. Trains run as early as 5:00 AM and as late as 11:00 PM. Service will consist of eight (8) CTrail Hartford Line trains and nine (9) Amtrak trains.

Proposed fares and schedules are available online at www.HartfordLine.com.

HartfordLine.com Website Launched!

In preparation for the May 2018 launch of new passenger rail service, the Hartford Line website made its debut in January at HartfordLine.com. The new website provides future Hartford Line riders a glimpse of what to expect upon service launch.

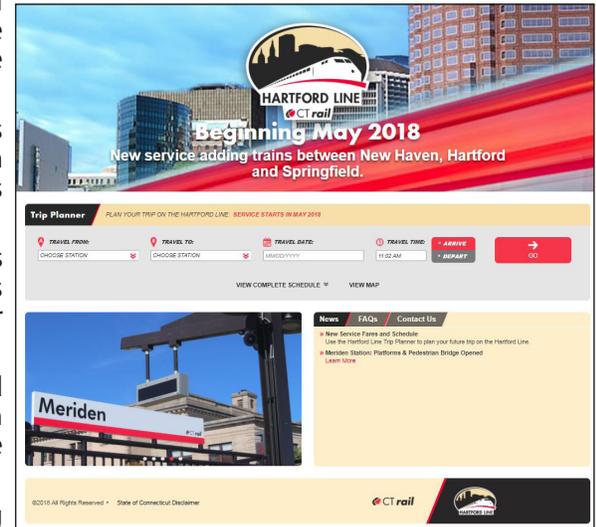
This initial Hartford Line website offers quick and easy access to essential information such as schedules, fares, news, and events. It will offer more comprehensive information and be fully functional when the new rail service launches.

The website features a Trip Planner tool that allows users to review schedules and plan travel. At this time, the Trip Planner serves as a tool for demonstration purposes, and users will not be able to make reservations or purchase tickets until the Hartford Line service launches in May.

The initial website operates on a variety of devices including mobile phones and tablets. It features Hartford Line news and a Frequently Asked Questions section that covers topics ranging from connecting service options, senior discounts, and other service related questions.

Over the next several months, the Hartford Line website will be enhanced with additional information and features, including detailed information on connections to other local transit options; interactive, 360-degree views of the train stations that will serve the line; and milestone events.

Additionally, users can request a CTDOT presentation about the upcoming Hartford Line rail service for their neighborhood group, workplace, or school and or submit questions at HartfordLine.com.



CTDOT Ramps up Operation Lifesaver in Connecticut!



CTDOT is gearing up its Operation Lifesaver (OL) outreach campaign to increase rail safety awareness for Connecticut's pedestrians, drivers, bicyclists, and rail passengers in advance of the launch of the Hartford Line.

OL is a national public safety education and awareness organization dedicated to reducing collisions, fatalities, and injuries at highway-rail crossings and trespassing on or near railroad tracks.

Since OL's founding, train collisions with pedestrians and motorists have declined by 83% in the United States, from over 12,000 in 1972 to 2,087 in 2013. The efforts of Operation Lifesaver have been a major contributor to this decline.

The Connecticut Operation Lifesaver campaign focuses on targeted outreach to populations across Connecticut, specifically to schools and children. "Safety is always our first priority at the Connecticut Department of Transportation," said CTDOT Commissioner James P. Redeker.

"Our goal is to reach all who may encounter rail tracks—children, pedestrians, drivers, transit users, bicyclists — and make them aware of the best practices for safety," said Deputy CTDOT Commissioner Anna Barry.

Free rail safety presentations are available for any group, business, or organization, including schools, parent-teacher organizations, youth groups, truck and bus companies, civic clubs, utility companies, and public safety professionals.

More information regarding Hartford Line safety and Operation Lifesaver is available in the Safety Factsheet, available at www.nhhsrail.com.

For more information or to request a presentation, please contact Kevin Burns with the Connecticut Department of Transportation at Kevin.Burns@ct.gov or at (203) 497-3381.

Hartford Line Gains Positive Momentum in the News

As we rapidly approach service launch, the CT rail Hartford Line has been prominently featured in news outlets across the state. Several news outlets have featured the Hartford Line over the past few months, including the Hartford Courant, Meriden Record-Journal, CT Post, the Hartford Business Journal, and others. Many of these articles focus on the economic benefits of the new service to towns along the Hartford Line.

On November 6, 2017, the Hartford Courant published a featured article, "Communities On The Line: Town Centers With Hartford Rail Stops Are Being Reinvigorated", which stated that "Tired, struggling towns like Wallingford, Meriden and Berlin are poised to reinvigorate their often forgotten centers as walkable, vibrant Main Streets, capturing the best of both worlds: small-town New England living and easy access to the big city." Economic development in towns along the Hartford Line is gaining prominence as TOD efforts ramp up in communities across the state.

Keep an eye out in your favorite publication — many news outlets are increasing their coverage of significant CT rail Hartford Line milestones, such as the opening of new stations, fare and schedule publication, and service launch.

Website Photo Gallery

To showcase construction progress, photos are posted regularly in the Media Gallery on the Program's website. Photos range from station construction, to railroad crossing improvements, to track construction. Visit www.nhhsrail.com/gallery to view the latest photos.



Platforms at Berlin Station nearing completion.



Passengers utilizing the newly completed platform in Meriden.



Construction at the Hall Avenue railroad crossing in Wallingford.



Construction continues along the rail line in Meriden.

Did You Know?

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) efforts are being expanded across the state, maybe even in your community! TOD is relatively high density, pedestrian oriented, mixed-use development located within a short walk of transit stations. TOD aims to reduce reliance on cars, promote walkability, enhance economic development opportunities, and increase land value. Core components of TOD include the creation of an active and well defined center, innovative parking strategies, as well as compact and well-designed pedestrian oriented environments.



New Transit-Oriented Development in Meriden.

Many municipalities along the Hartford Line, including Meriden, North Haven, Wallingford, Berlin, West Hartford, Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield, continue to explore opportunities for TOD within their communities. To learn more, check out the TOD Factsheet on the Program website!

GET INVOLVED & STAY INFORMED

NHHS Contact List

Over 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 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

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[New Hartford Line Website - Service Starts May 2018](#)
[Plan Future Trips - Easy Access to Fares & Schedules](#)

Questions & Comments

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

- www.twitter.com/NHHSrail
- www.facebook.com/NHHSrail