



Connecticut Department Of Transportation NEWS RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: November 21, 2011

New Britain – Hartford Busway Project Approved to Receive \$275 Million in Federal Transit Funds

Construction to Begin in Spring 2012

Project will speed access within and beyond New Britain - Hartford corridor

[New Britain, Conn., November 21, 2011] — Governor Dannel P. Malloy and Federal Transit Administrator Peter M. Rogoff today announced the approval of a \$275 million “Full Funding Grant Agreement” to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) for the construction of the New Britain-Hartford Busway beginning in the spring.

The announcement at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain provides funding under the federal “New Starts” program for a dedicated bus rapid transit roadway – the first of its kind in the state – that will not only connect New Britain and Hartford with stops at 11 stations along a 9.4 mile corridor, but will also bring improved access and reduced commuting times for all commuters on I-84 west of Hartford.

“To compete regionally and globally, Connecticut’s transportation system must be multi-modal,” said Governor Malloy. “This project will act as an economic multiplier for this region: interested developers and landowners have already invested time and money into revitalizing areas along this corridor and are eager to move forward. Because of the extensive planning that has already been done, the Busway is a project that is truly shovel ready.”

The Governor estimated that the project will create or sustain an estimated 4,000 construction jobs and 100 permanent jobs.

DOT Commissioner James P. Redeker said the Busway “should be up and running in 2014, providing some 16,000 passenger trips each weekday and cutting bus travel time between New Britain and Hartford in half.”

Total costs for the Busway are expected to be \$567 million. In addition to the \$275 million allocated by the FTA’s New Starts program, the Busway will be funded by other federal and state sources. Connecticut’s contribution to the Busway will be \$112 million.

The Busway will:

- Break ground in early 2012 at New Britain.
- Begin serving the region’s commuters in early 2015
- Create or sustain an estimated 4,000 short-term construction jobs and one hundred permanent jobs
- Provide a projected 16,000 passenger trips per day along the Busway from New Britain to Hartford with direct connections to points west along I-84 and with businesses, hospitals, schools and cultural attractions along the Busway corridor and throughout the region.
- Increase peak hour highway travel speeds by 10 percent in the heavily congested New Britain-Hartford I-84 corridor
- Provide a projected bus city-to-city travel time of 20 minutes, compared with the existing CTTRANSIT bus which takes between 42 and 52 minutes depending on time of day.
- Incorporate a circulator shuttle service from Busway stations to the Central Connecticut State University campus
- Improve access to Elmwood, Westfarms Mall and the UConn Health Center via Busway services.
- Improve service to Bristol by providing 12 minute peak period service frequency, more days of service, more hours of service per day and a faster trip to New Britain.
- Employ 60-foot articulated coaches for Busway shuttle services
- Utilize the latest in clean bus propulsion technology including diesel-electric hybrid buses..
- Accommodate commuters on new CTTRANSIT Express Bus service from Waterbury and an existing route from Cheshire-Southington who seek fast access to New Britain and Hartford.
- Include a five-mile multi-use trail for walkers and cyclists

In April, Governor Malloy announced his full support for the Busway and, at the same time, earmarked \$1 million for a study of the Central Connecticut Commuter Rail Alternative between Bristol and Waterbury.

To learn more about the New Britain-Hartford Busway, visit www.ctrapidtransit.com, or follow the project on Facebook and Twitter (@ctBusway).