



## NEWS RELEASE

### NVCOG Takes Public Comment on Plans for Rail and Bus Improvements

The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments is set to release the draft final report on its on-going study regarding enhancing transit services in the Route 8 and Waterbury branch line corridors. The key finding of the study calls for improvements along the Waterbury branch line, new rail equipment and rehabilitation of the station buildings and their surrounding areas. The primary goals of these improvements are to reduce congestion along the heavily used Route 8 and incentivize transit-oriented and supported developments in the nearby downtowns. The NVCOG will open a 30-day public comment period and will be holding an information meeting to present the study's recommendations. The draft final report for the "Route 8 & Waterbury Branch Line Corridor Transit-Oriented Development & Alternative Modes Assessment Project" has been posted on the NVCOG website.

Easing congestion on the traffic-packed Route 8 with options for taking mass transit instead of driving has been an important focus of the region in recent years and the reason for conducting this study.

In addition to improvements to the Waterbury branch line, the study team assessed opportunities for higher-density, mixed-used developments in vicinity of the rail stations to attract residents and workers who could travel conveniently by train, instead of driving. In the long-term, the plan envisions creation of a new Bus Rapid Transit system along Route 8 to provide a high-quality transit service in the corridor not accessible to the rail line. The proposed actions would provide mass transit options for people who now drive on Route 8 on their way to Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford, and other destinations in lower Fairfield County.

The next step is getting public comment on the draft plan before final approval. The NVCOG invites the public to attend a hybrid public information meeting on Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m. People wishing to attend the meeting in person may attend the meeting which will be held at the Valley Transit District (VTD) offices in Derby, located at 41 Main Street. The meeting will also be streamed via Zoom. Participants will be able to ask questions and voice opinions either in person or online. The comment period on the final draft report will run between December 15, 2022, and January 15, 2023, and all comments will be addressed in the final report to be released early in 2023.

Interested individuals may send comments to the NVCOG at [contactus@nvcogct.gov](mailto:contactus@nvcogct.gov) at any time within the comment period. For those taking public transportation, Waterbury Line trains arrive at the Derby-Shelton station, which is adjacent to the VTD Offices, just before the meeting starts. The VTD office is also accessible by GBT bus route 15 and CTtransit bus route 255.

For those wishing to join virtually via zoom may use the below information:

Meeting ID: 893 4585 3035

Passcode: 123456

or dial in 1 929 205 6099

For language assistance or other accommodations, contact NVCOG at least five business days prior to the meeting at [info@nvcogct.gov](mailto:info@nvcogct.gov).

Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con NVCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al [info@nvcogct.gov](mailto:info@nvcogct.gov) .