



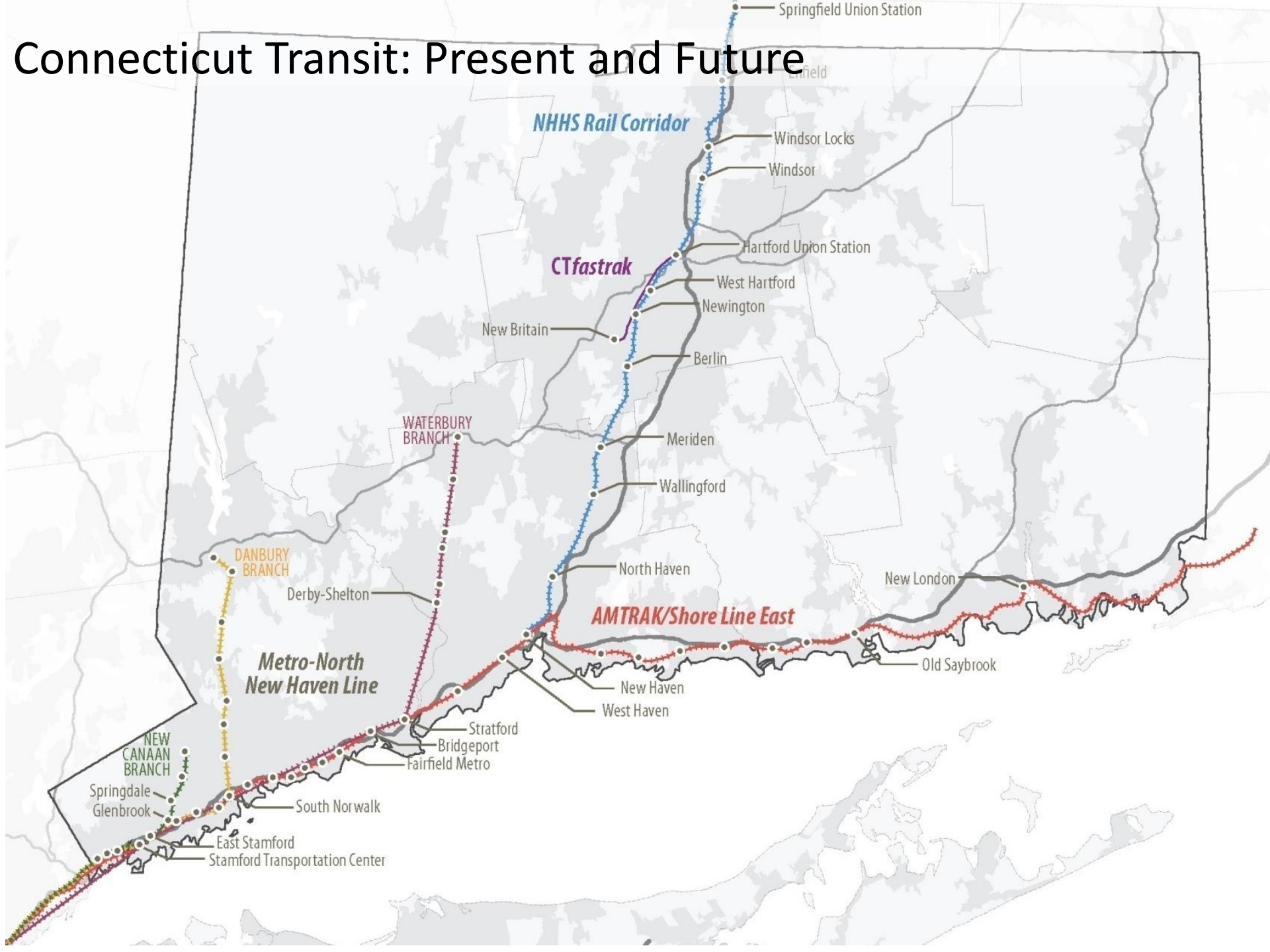
# *Fastrak* to Opportunity – Connecticut's First Rapid Transit Corridor

Garrett Eucalitto, Undersecretary for Transportation Policy and Planning

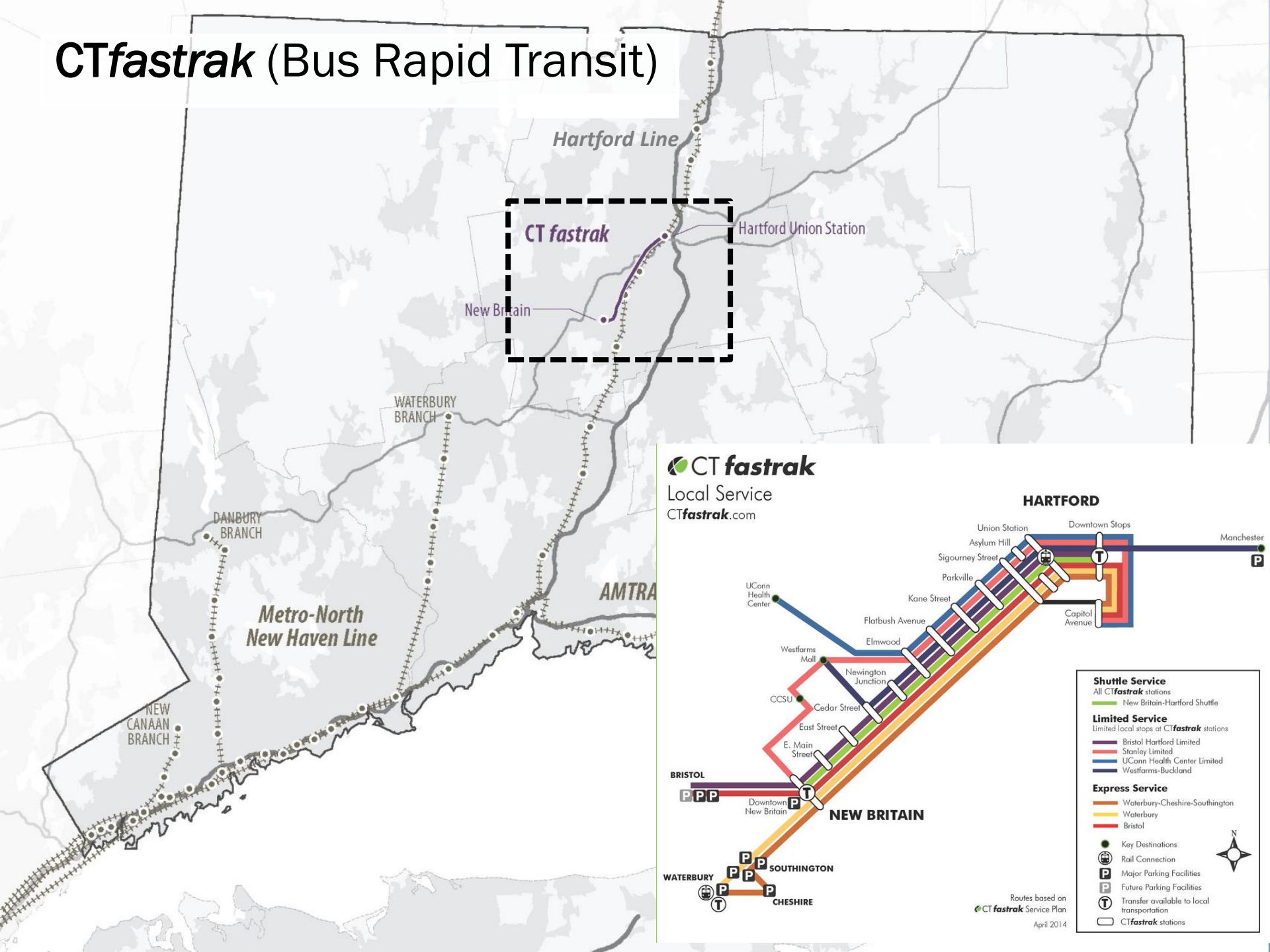
Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management

Friday, February 12, 2016

# Connecticut Transit: Present and Future

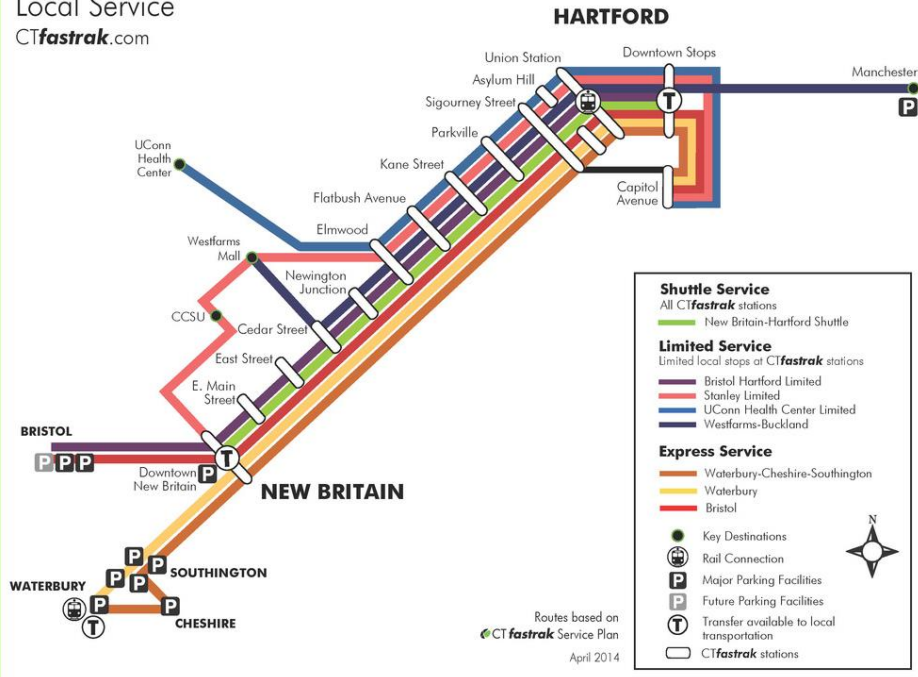


# CTfastrak (Bus Rapid Transit)



**CTfastrak**

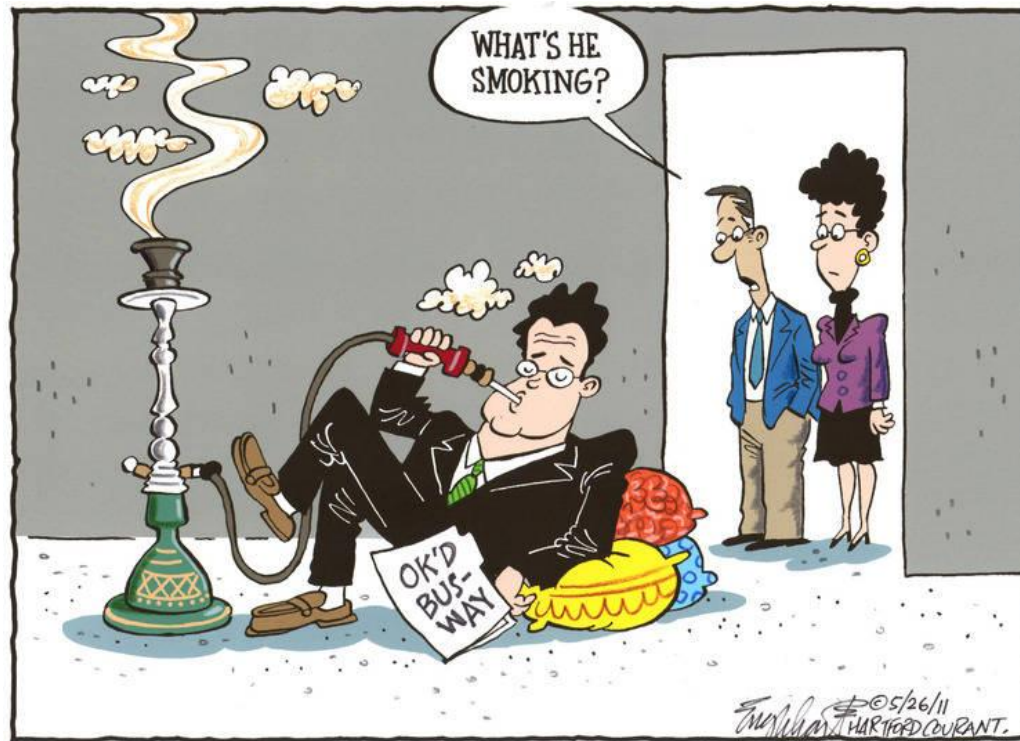
Local Service  
CTfastrak.com



# CTfastrak Bus Rapid Transit System

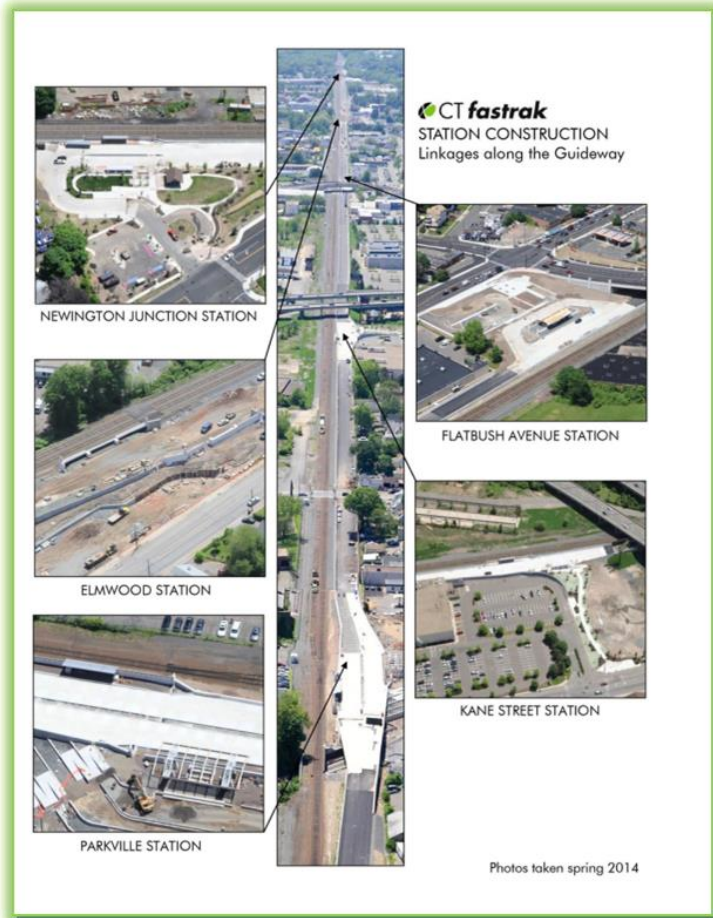
- Connecticut's FIRST bus rapid transit system (BRT)
- Opened March 28, 2015
- 9.4-mile bus-only roadway connecting the City of New Britain, Town of Newington, Town of West Hartford, and the City of Hartford
- Bus service every 3-7 minutes during peak hours and every 5-15 minutes off-peak
- 10 transit stations





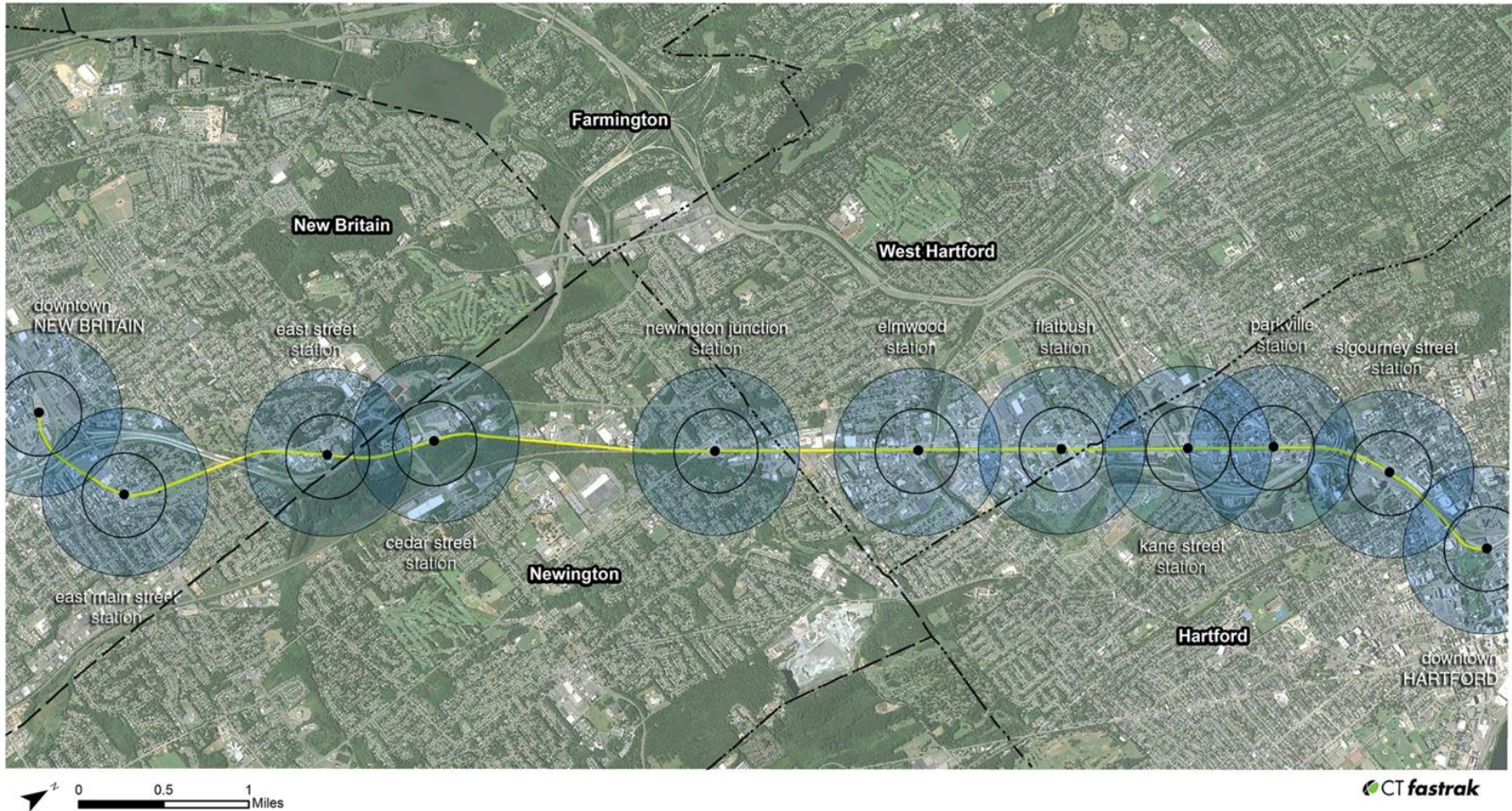
## A QUICK HISTORY OF CTFASTRAK: FROM DOUBTS TO SUCCESS STORY

# Municipal Coordination and Cooperation



- CT*fastrak* started off as a joint study between CTDOT, CRCOG, CCRPA and towns in 1997
- It crossed multiple town boundaries, two regional planning agencies, transit districts, and multiple federal agencies

# Municipal Coordination and Cooperation



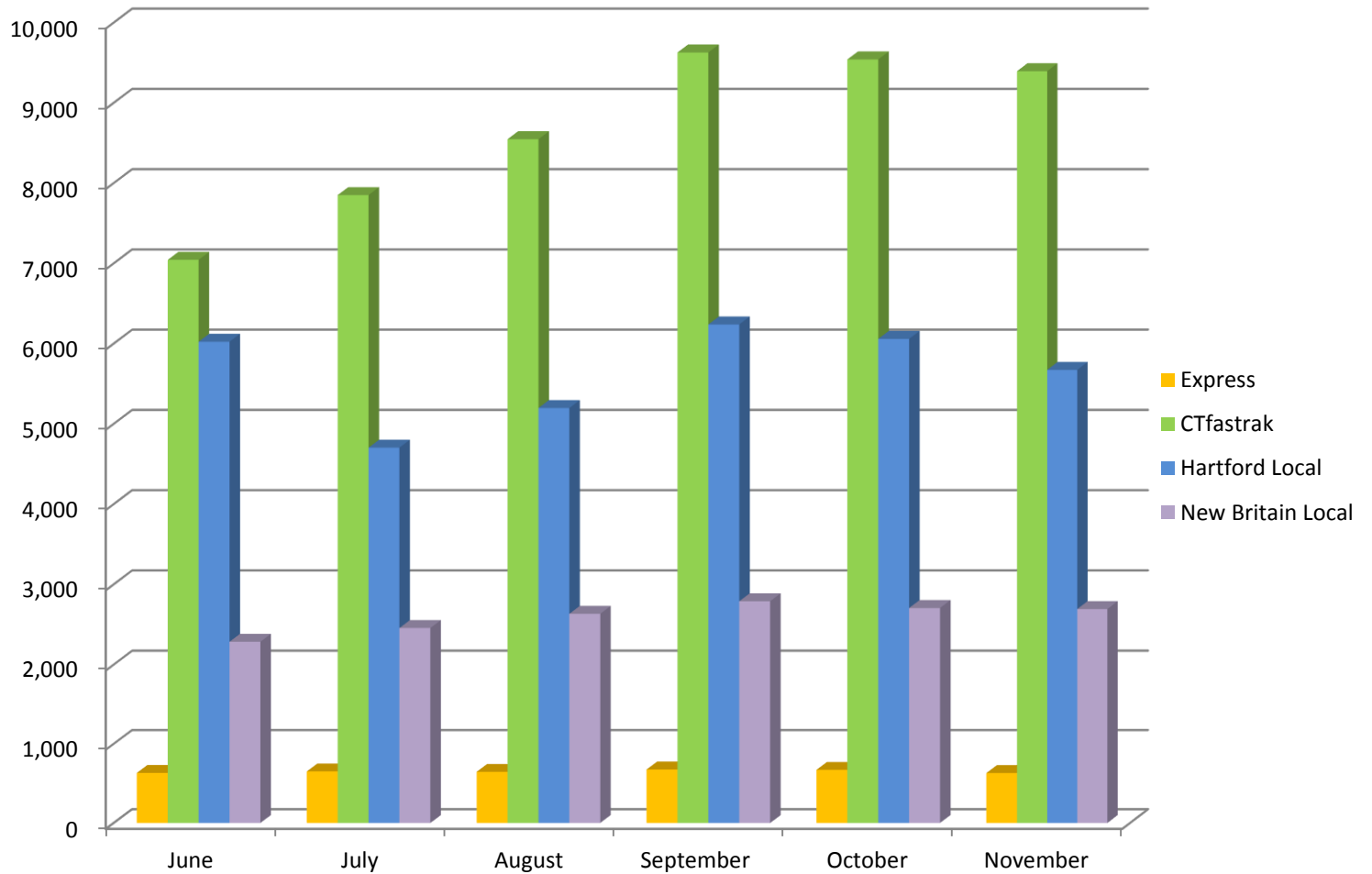
# From Doubts to Success Story

- 1997-1999 – Major Investment Study in the I-84 Corridor West of Hartford
- January 2000 – Approval to Enter Preliminary Design
- February 2002 – EIS – Record of Decision
- October 2006 – Entered Final Design
- December 2009 – Submitted Full Fund Grant Agreement request to FTA
- November 2011 – Full Funding Grant Agreement signed
- Spring 2012 – Construction Begins
- March 28, 2015 – Opening Day





# CTfastrak Ridership

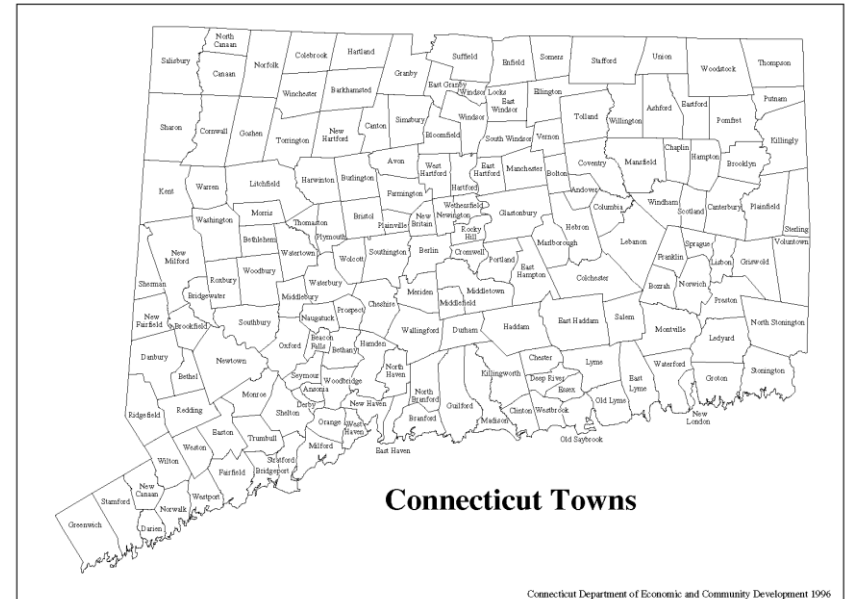




# TOD COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

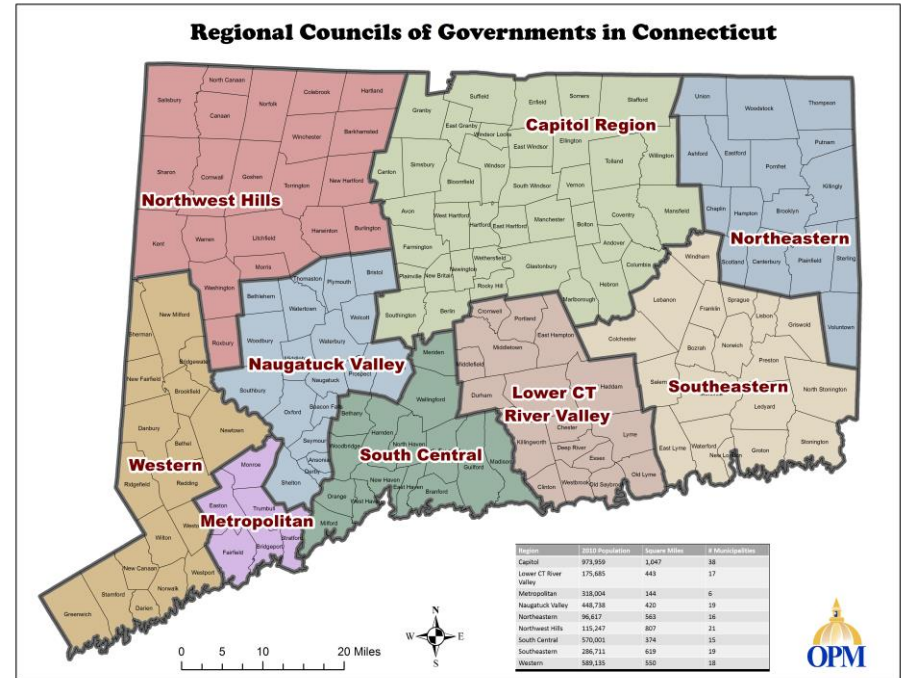
# Connecticut: 169 Towns and Cities

- Lack of County government has led to the development of 169 local governments, plus boroughs and fire districts
- Property taxes and zoning are the domain of local governments
- Transportation capital improvements are largely borne by the state



# Regional Councils of Government

- Regional Councils of Government have taken a larger role due to a recent consolidation effort, bringing the statewide number to 9
- Many also serve as boundaries for MPOs
- Recent consolidation has brought all of CTfastrak into CRCOG



# Interagency Cooperation

- December 2012, Governor Malloy created an interagency TOD task force to strategize and coordinate TOD projects

Agencies:

- Policy & Management
  - Transportation
  - Housing
  - Housing Finance Authority
  - Economic and Community Development
  - Energy & Environmental Protection
- Governor Malloy proposed legislation to create a quasi-public transit corridor development authority



# Financial and Planning Assistance for TOD

- \$15 million TOD Acquisition and Pre-Development Loan Fund
  - Administered by LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation); \$2 million in state seed funding
  - Max \$3m loan, 5% interest, 3-year term max
  - Project must be located within ½ mile of CTfastrak or Hartford Line station
  - Project must include a residential component with a min % of affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
  - Since 2011, DOH and CHFA have helped to fund nearly 16,000 affordable units, and invested about \$1 billion in affordable housing creation
  - DOH: CHAMP, Gap financing, HomeConnecticut, Incentive Housing Zones, etc.
  - CHFA: administer the LIHTC and state HTCC programs
- Brownfield Remediation and Development
  - \$140 million statewide since 2012
  - Up to \$4m of financial support per project – grants (municipalities) and loans (developers)
  - Multiple liability relief programs

# Financial and Planning Assistance for TOD

- CTDOT Planning Assistance
  - \$700,000 grant from FTA's Pilot Program for TOD Planning, for the new Hartford Line rail system
  - \$250,000 state funded TOD planning assistance for *CTfastrak* corridor
- OPM Funding for Capital and Planning
  - Awarded \$1.5 million in TOD planning grants to eleven municipalities in 2015
  - TOD/Responsible Growth Grant Program application period closed February 4, 2016
  - \$15 million TOD bond authorization, with additional funds requested in this biennial budget
  - \$15 million Responsible Growth Fund authorization
- Other Infrastructure Support Funds
  - Urban Action Program
  - Small Town Economic Assistance Program
  - DEEP Clean Water Funds

# CT TOD in Action: 24 Colony Street, Meriden



- Multi-agency collaboration
- Main street of town
- Mixed use and mixed income
- 63 apartments and 11,433 SF of commercial
- LIHTC, CHFA mortgage, DOH funding
- Department of Transportation site and 272-space commuter lot



# CT TOD in Action: 125 Columbus Blvd, New Britain

**Transit:** CTfastrak Corridor

**Previous Use:** Former Police Station

**Size:** 2.26 acres

**Zoning:** Central Business District

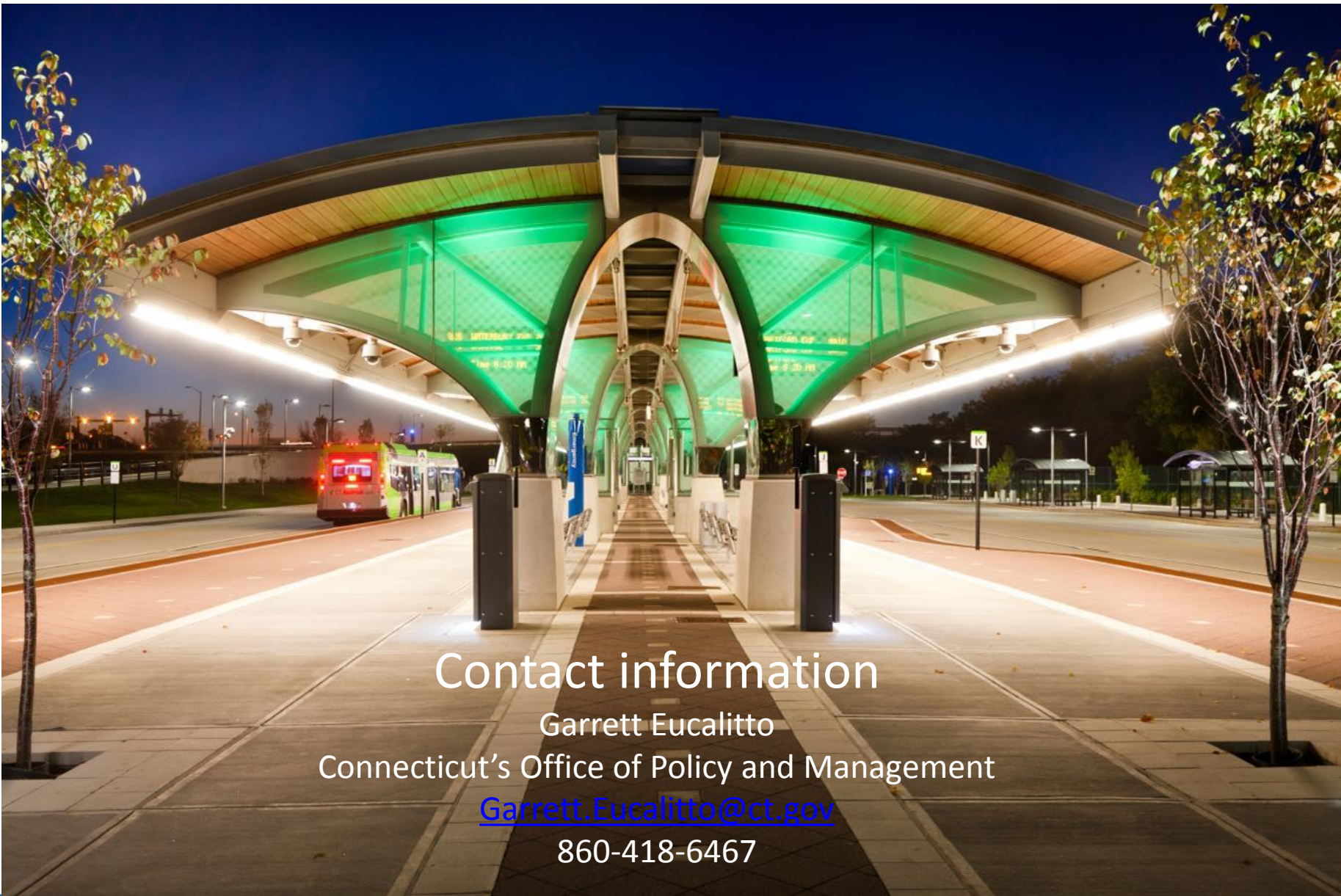
69,800 s.f. three-story structure

## Grants

\$2.7 million DECD brownfield grant for removal of hazardous materials, demolition costs, abatement and site remediation

\$100,000 OPM TOD grant to assist the city in seeking development proposals for the site





## Contact information

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