CTfastrak: BRT and Autonomous Vehicle Buses

Lyle Wray, Executive Director
Capitol Region Council of Governments
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CTfastrak Brief Video
CTfastrak Story

• Concept started in the 1990s
• Opened March 2015
• Ridership solid and growing (COVID-19 excepted)
• Ridership rising in corridor for CTfastrak but falling in some other parts of the state
• More than half of regional interstate congestion on I-84 west of downtown Hartford
• Evaluation of highway expansion, rail and BRT
• $567 million total cost
CTfastrak is Connecticut’s first Bus Rapid Transit system. It is a system of bus routes that utilize a bus-only guideway for all or a portion of your trip.

CTfastrak routes are integrated with the CTtransit system, making it easy to connect, transfer, and pay your fare.

The CTfastrak system provides a one-seat, no-transfer ride to many major regional employment, shopping, and healthcare destinations as well as connections to rail service via the New Haven Line Waterbury Branch in Waterbury and the CTrail Hartford Line in Hartford.
CTfastrak Routes

101 Hartford/New Britain
102 Hartford/New Britain/Bristol
121 MCC / Hartford / UConn Health
128 Hartford / Westfarms-New Britain
140 CCSU Connector
144 Wethersfield / Westfarms
153 Flatbush / Copaco
161 St. Francis Hospital / Hartford Hospital
923 Bristol Express
924 Southington-Cheshire Express
925 Cheshire - Waterbury Express
928 Southington-Cheshire-Waterbury Express
CTfastrak Next

- Expansion recommendations developed by CTDOT’s CTfastrak Expansion Study (2016)
  - Connection to UConn Storrs added in 2017: Express bus with good ridership; HOV corridor for most of the distance

- BDL Airport Linkage
  - Recommendations developed by CRCOG’s Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis (2017)

- Complementary priority transit corridors with limited stops and faster boarding
  - To be studied by CRCOG in upcoming Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy effort
Connecticut Looks To Test Self-Driving Buses

By TERRY SHERIDAN • DEC 9, 2019

Connecticut is moving closer to testing self-driving buses. The state Department of Transportation has applied for a $9 million federal grant to run three of the buses on the CTfastrak busway between Hartford and New Britain.
CTfastrak Autonomous Bus Demonstration

- **$2 million from FTA’s Accelerating Innovative Mobility (AIM) Program (March 2020)**
  - Two-year pilot program to test three electric-powered, 40-foot self-driving buses
  - First such autonomous public bus pilot in the nation
  - Ideal controlled environment for such a pilot because of the limited number of stops on the guideway

There will also be an operator on board: “On the busway they wouldn’t be touching the controls. Obviously, they would be able to take control if something, an issue, arose. And then there is a loop where it goes off the track through downtown Hartford. During that time they will be controlling it.”

- **$1.9 million from FTA’s Low or No Emission Vehicle Program - 5339(c) (June 2020)**
  - Second grant received to purchase electric autonomous vehicles
Thank You!

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