



## ***State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives***

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, September 23, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Place:** This meeting was held remotely.

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Miller and Committee Member Reps. Adams and Graziosi. Absent were Vice Chair Roqueta and Committee Member Rep. Policar. Also present were Rep. Watkins; Frank Petise, Interim Director of Transportation; Jon Winkel, Executive Director of Stamford Partnership; Carlo Leone, Special Advisor to CT DOT Commissioner; Lisa Rivers, CT DOT Transit Manager; State Rep. David Michel; and one member of the public.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
11. <a href="#">SC30.043</a>	REVIEW; Effectiveness of CT Transit bus service in the City of Stamford. 07/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Watkins, and Stella 07/22/21 – Report Made & Held <b>08/19/21 –Held by Committee</b>	<b>Report Made</b>

Mr. Leone and Ms. Rivers addressed the [attached](#) list of concerns from the Board of Representatives and there was there was discussion.

- There are many components involved in determining bus routes. It is not only about ridership numbers, but what community needs are being met.
- Low ridership on a particular bus does not mean there is no value, such as if it serves a community college or medical center.
- The smaller bus routes are important because they feed into the large routes.
- There are location time points in the bus schedules. Buses are not supposed to leave a time point location early.
- A bus stop enhancement program is being developed to prioritize bus stops for improvement and repair.
- The Stamford Transportation Center (STC) Master Plan state project was initiated in October 2020. The goal is to make the STC a much smoother experience for the people utilizing it.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:00:56

- Ridership is up since the beginning of the pandemic, but is not yet at full levels, due to ongoing employment issues and reluctance to be on a crowded bus.
- The CT Transit website has been updated, and is currently in the process of being further improved.
- The goal of the CT Transit system is to make all forms of public transportation easier and better for all users.

<sup>22</sup>. [SC30.045](#) REVIEW; Launch of TechFWD.  
07/23/21 – Submitted by Rep. Miller  
**08/19/21 – Held by Committee**

**Report Made**

Mr. Winkel reviewed the TechFWD program and there was a discussion.

- There is a tremendous need for retraining Stamford's workforce due to technology, automation and displacement.
- The state and federal governments plan to put significant investments towards technology programs. Stamford plans to seek out grants and funding, along with private sponsorships.
- The idea behind TechFWD is that technology training can often be confusing, expensive and intimidating. Companies need technology employees, and people need the training. This program provides a path to connect them.
- Phase 1 was a small pilot program with two courses of four weeks each, with a limit of 30 spots. Student satisfaction surveys were very positive.
- Phase 2 will begin in Winter 2021, keeping the first two courses, and adding more courses.
- The Ferguson Library is helping with these programs both digitally and in the future with in-person class space.
- There has been one job placement as a result of a course. As longer courses are added (between three to six months in length) more job placements are expected.
- Another new program was launched called Stamford TechHub, which aims to help people discover different career paths within the technology industry.
- Information on both programs can be found at [www.stamfordpartnership.org](http://www.stamfordpartnership.org).

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:33:45