



The Greater North End Community Development, Inc.

Striving to Build a Better Community

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To Whom It May Concern:

Our organization supports any initiative that supports increased rail service.

Potential benefits to increase the rail service at the Westerly Railroad station.

- Decrease traffic congestion. More frequent rail service would increase ridership and take cars off the road. Further, a recent study indicates that extending commuter rail from CT into Westerly would increase Shoreline East ridership significantly.
- Improve public health through air quality improvements and encourage walking.
- Help the state meet emissions reduction mandates. This is a critical carbon reduction strategy.
- Improve public safety. Congested roads are hazardous.
- Provide alternative to the car, a major household expense.
- Increase social interaction – car infrastructure and habits isolate people, contributing to a sense of isolation.
- Much more efficient use of the land – a single rail has the carrying capacity of a four to five lane highway in a fraction of the space.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Carla J. White, Executive Director

Our mission is to preserve and revitalize the cultural, social and historic character of the greater North End of Westerly through arts and educational initiatives for children and adults; to advocate for affordable housing and secure neighborhoods; to seek resources for families and the underprivileged; and to collaborate with social service, civic, and other organizations to these ends.