

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING BOARD OF SELECTMEN SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS
AND COMMUTER RAIL AT THE WESTERLY TRAIN STATION

WHEREAS, the Board of Selectmen is aware that the Northeast Corridor Commission's FY25-29 Capital Investment Plan includes a project entitled "Westerly Station SOGR Platform Replacement;" and

WHEREAS, the project's purpose is to study the feasibility of constructing high-level platforms or replacing the existing platform at the Westerly Train Station; and

WHEREAS, high-level platforms will enhance existing Amtrak intercity rail service at Westerly Station by improving efficiency, safety, and accessibility for rail passengers and employees; and

WHEREAS, high-level platforms were identified in CTDOT's Eastern Connecticut Corridor Rail and Transit Feasibility Study (ECRTS) as a prerequisite for extending Shore Line East commuter rail service through Groton and Stonington to Westerly; and

WHEREAS, Westerly Station is located within 500 feet of the RI-CT state border and has served as the Village of Pawcatuck's local railroad station since its opening in 1837; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Stonington's 2015 Plan of Conservation and Development advises to "Promote...expansion of Shoreline East service to Mystic and Westerly" Stations, among other rail-related Policies; and

WHEREAS, connecting workers and offering visitors a commuter rail represents a pivotal strategy for reducing roadway traffic congestion, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, and delivering accessible, affordable, and sustainable transportation options for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, investing in commuter rail infrastructure aligns with broader goals to enhance regional mobility, strengthen local economies, and promote environmental stewardship; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Stonington Board of Selectmen hereby supports the efforts of Amtrak, RIDOT, CTDOT, and the Town of Westerly to study and pursue any infrastructure improvements, including high-level platforms, at Westerly Station which may be necessary to improve and increase local rail service. Furthermore, the Board recognizes the immediate need for increased train frequency on the existing Amtrak line serving both Mystic and Westerly. Such enhancements will allow the region to begin realizing the significant benefits outlined in this resolution—including reduced roadway congestion, improved accessibility, and stronger economic and environmental outcomes—while planning and construction of future improvements are underway.

APPROVED: 1/22/25

