

“Metro North is an economic lifeline for New Canaan, as well as for many residents of North Stamford, Norwalk, Wilton, and bordering towns in New York State. More than 2,500 New Canaan residents commute to NYC on Metro North daily, as well as several hundred from surrounding towns who park at one of our two New Canaan Metro North stations.”

“I commuted to Manhattan for 29 years on Metro North, so I know something about the experience. When I was commuting on the New Canaan branch line, travel time to Grand Central was about one hour seven minutes. Today, that time has increased to one hour seventeen minutes partially due to the federally mandated slow-down of trains, but also because of Metro North's scheduling, which has really degraded service on the branch line.”

“As a result, the New Canaan's real estate market is suffering severely – our Grand List was down \$600 million last year, and we may be looking at another 20 percent decline in property values. There is a direct correlation with poor train service to New York City.”

“Improving performance on the New Canaan branch is the number one priority for New Canaan if we hope to improve commutes for our residents and support our local economy. I urge the committee to consider what can be done on this issue, and I thank them for hearing my testimony.”

Representative Tom O'Dea, Deputy Republican Leader-at-Large and a member of the Transportation Committee, echoed these sentiments saying, "The New Haven Line is the busiest commuter corridor in the country, and New Canaan is the busiest branch line at 1.5-1.6 million rides. Many people come to New Canaan to use our stations, so we know the demand is there. We need to invest in rail infrastructure and service enhancements statewide, but the New Canaan Branch Line must be included in this initiative because thousands in Fairfield County depend on it.”