The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has initiated a study to plan CTfastrak East service, an extension of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service east of Hartford.

CTfastrak, Connecticut’s first bus rapid transit (BRT) system began service on March 28, 2015. It offers passengers frequent, convenient, and reliable service direct to destinations in the metro Hartford area. Routes operate on an exclusive 2-lane guideway with 10 stations, connecting New Britain and Hartford with service extending to other destinations such as UConn Health Center, Westfarms Mall, Bristol, Waterbury, Cheshire and Manchester Community College and serving the Capitol area with a downtown loop. By operating on an exclusive bus only roadway with limited stops, CTfastrak bypasses congestion and reduces travel time.

The existing CTfastrak service operates primarily west of the Connecticut River. The CTfastrak East project is being conducted in two stages. During this initial stage, the project will develop a plan for service to be implemented in the summer of 2016. A second stage will develop a plan for phasing in additional service. Planning for the initial phase is to be completed by February 2016, with planning for later phases completed by September 2016.

WHAT IS BUS RAPID TRANSIT?

High Quality Bus Rapid Transit offers state-of-the-art transit features including:

- Bus only roadway
- Substantial stations
- Off-vehicle fare payment
- Special branded vehicles
- Real time arrival information
- Frequent all-day service
- Fast service with few stops
- Regional connections
- Easily recognizable brand
What is CTfastrak East?
It is an expansion of the CTfastrak brand east of the Connecticut River.

Where will CTfastrak East go?
A service plan will be developed through the course of this study.
Some possible connections include:
- Existing higher bus ridership corridors to Hartford
- Major regional destinations such as commercial areas like Buckland Hills and educational institutions like MCC, UConn, and Goodwin College
- Existing or new park & ride facilities
- Destinations beyond downtown Hartford
- Destinations beyond Buckland Hills

What features will CTfastrak East include?
CTfastrak East will likely include many of the features of high-quality transit:
- Use of the I-84/I-384 HOV lanes for longer routes
- Enhanced shelters
- Branded buses
- Real time arrival information
- Frequent all-day service
- Fast service with few stops
- Regional connections
- The same branding as the existing CTfastrak service

How will the CTfastrak East routes be different from CTtransit routes?
CTfastrak East will provide frequent service to the highest ridership corridors and make fast and direct connections to the rest of the greater Hartford region. CTtransit local bus routes will continue to provide mobility for the entire Hartford region for both local and longer distance trips.

Will there be a new bus only roadway for CTfastrak East?
Some CTfastrak East services may be able to make use of the existing I-84/I-384 HOV lanes to improve travel times between the eastern part of the study area and Hartford. No new bus only roadway is planned at this time, but some smaller capital improvements may be recommended.