

CDOT must consider Stamford commuters

Published Sunday, September 16, 2012

Stamford's growing. It's growing fast. And some of the people who live here feel the city is being pulled out from under them.

Hard not to see their point in the state [Department of Transportation](#)'s plans for a new development next to the train station. On the site of the crumbling, 727-space parking garage that does not nearly meet demand for Stamford commuters who use the station every day, the DOT envisions a "Transit-Oriented Development" project -- a new housing/office/retail structure that could make a lot of money for the DOT (and, in fairness, might be attractive to Stamford residents), but might not do much to improve the serious parking problem for commuters.

In fact, it could make their problems worse. The DOT envisions building a new garage, maybe slightly larger, but not necessarily large enough to relieve an enormous waiting list for monthly parking spaces. And it plans on locating it up to a quarter-mile away. Remember to add that to your commute time if you work in New York and are lucky enough to get a space.

"It will be a disincentive to use the train station," said [Jim Cameron](#), chairman of the [Connecticut Rail Commuter Council](#). We agree.

And here's another kicker: The DOT plans to have parking spaces in its new Transit-Oriented Development building. Potentially a lot of them. But they won't be for train station use; they will be for people who work, live or shop in the new building -- the one that's built near the train station so people won't need cars.

None of this is set in stone. The DOT has not yet chosen a developer, or an actual plan. So it can still approach any development the right way. If it wants to raise revenue, that's great, but do it in a way that doesn't hurt commuters who already live in Stamford.

Read more: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/article/DOT-must-consider-Stamford-commuters-3866573.php#ixzz26ebAF7Za>