



For Immediate Release

Contact Info. Below

CT RAIL COMMUTER COUNCIL URGES CDOT...

DON'T SELL OUT COMMUTERS FOR PRIVATE DEVELOPERS

(Stamford, CT - March 26, 2012): The 1500 daily parkers at the Stamford train station are facing years of chaos, and perhaps a lifetime of disappointment, if the CT Dept. of Transportation mishandles the upcoming replacement of the old parking garage.

Aside from many months of demolition and construction mayhem, there is the very real chance that CDOT will sell out the interests of commuters who now park within feet of the station and allow developers to build shops and offices on the site while moving 800+ parking spaces up to a quarter mile away.

“One of the reasons that the Stamford rail station is so heavily used is that parking is abundant and adjacent to the station, steps away by covered bridges,” says Jim Cameron, Chairman of the CT Rail Commuter Council. “To allow developers to use the old garage site for shopping or offices and force commuters to walk a quarter mile is not fair, would discourage ridership and would be a sell-out to private interests.”

The CDOT is about to issue an RFP for ideas on how to develop the site. The Commuter Council voted unanimously at its March meeting to encourage the agency to give priority to development ideas that keep parking at or close to the station.

“We are urging everyone who commutes through Stamford to let their local, state and federal elected officials know that they want convenient, affordable parking at the station, not a fifteen minute walk away,” said Cameron.

Created by the Connecticut legislature, the CT Rail Commuter Council's members are Metro-North or Shore Line East commuters who serve, without compensation, as advocates of their fellow riders' interests. The CT Rail Commuter Council meets monthly with Metro-North and Connecticut Dept of Transportation and testifies before state and regional boards and commissions in favor of affordable, reliable rail service in the state. The CT Rail Commuter Council is celebrating its 26th anniversary of service to commuters.

More information is available at the Council's website: www.trainweb.org/ct

For More Information Contact:

JIM CAMERON (Chairman) Phone: 203-655-0138
Cell: 203-952-5758 E-Mail: CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com



26 March 2012

Commissioner James Redeker
CDOT
2800 Berlin Tpk
Newington CT 06111

Reply to:

55 DuBois Street
Darien CT 06820

Dear Commissioner Redeker;

The CT Rail Commuter Council is very concerned about the upcoming Request For Proposal process to replace the existing old parking garage at the Stamford rail station.

We are worried that, based on the specifications of your recent RFQ, the new parking garage will be located as much as a quarter mile from the train station, seriously inconveniencing 800+ commuters who now parking within yards of the train platform.

Therefore, at its meeting on March 21, 2012 the Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

“Because adequate parking near the Stamford train station is important for ease of intermodal travel at this important hub...

And because the CDOT is about to undertake an RFP for demolition of the old parking garage and its replacement near the Stamford train station...

Therefore be it resolved that the CT Metro-North Rail Commuter Council urges the CDOT to include in its RFP such criteria that would give proponents increased consideration for plans that would locate new parking on the existing garage site or as close to the station as possible.”

This existing garage site is too valuable a resource to not be used for the highest purpose, ie car parking that provides ease of access to the station, thereby encouraging use of mass transit. Enhanced development on the old garage site can include offices, stores and apartments after first replacing or expanding the existing parking.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Cameron

Jim Cameron / Chairman

V: 203-655-0138

C: 203-952-5758

E: CTRailCommuterCouncil@gmail.com

cc: Senate / House delegations from Stamford