



PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED

DEMOLITION & REPLACEMENT OF STAMFORD GARAGE

7 June 2012

To Whom It May Concern;

As the legislatively created watchdog group tasked with looking out for the interest of commuters on Metro-North, The CT Rail Commuter Council has been following the planned replacement of the “old” garage at the Stamford Railroad station for many years.

The Council is **opposed** to replacing existing parking anywhere but the site of the current garage.

Keeping parking close to the station encourages use of mass transit. Moving parking to a more distant location, even a quarter mile away, adds to commuting time and reduces convenience, thereby making Stamford a less attractive station for hundreds of daily commuters.

Demolition of the existing garage will be a messy inconvenience for many months. Because the “new” garage is literally wrapped around the old garage and linked on every level, even those lucky enough to still find parking there will be inconvenienced. And given the narrow clearances on Railroad Place, those looking for taxis or using “kiss-and-ride” drop-off will be similarly disrupted while demolition and construction drag on for 2+ years.

We fear that CDOT plans to sell the site of the existing “old” garage to private developer who will erect offices, condo’s or shopping there instead of commuter parking. That would be a complete misuse of this valuable real estate. Private development has plenty of room for expansion near the station. But there is only one location best suited for parking... the current site.

The CT Rail Commuter Council has urged CDOT to give priority in its pending RFP to any developer who agrees to replace the existing “old” garage at its current location. Developers may build what they wish atop the garage, but do not make 700+ commuters walk up to a quarter mile to and from the rail station by removing their parking.

Sincerely,

Jim Cameron

Chairman / CT Rail Commuter Council