



Minutes

**Wednesday April 17, 2013 - 6:00 PM
Union Station, New Haven, CT**

Council Members in Attendance: Chairman Jim Cameron, Rodney Chabot, Sue Prosi, Tim Beeble, Roger Cirella, Bob Jelley, John Hartwell, and John Davis.

Guests: Eugene Colonese-DOT, Mike Piscitelli – City of New Haven, Mike Mercuriano of West Haven, Ed O'Brien of West Haven.

Chairman Cameron opened the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Minutes:

Motion by Rodney Chabot, seconded by John Davis, to approve the minutes of March 20, 2013. Approved.

1. Presentation on Union Station, New Haven:

Mike Piscitelli of the City of New Haven addressed the Council with a PowerPoint Presentation of the Union Station Transit Oriented Development. There are plans to construct two new parking garages at Union Station. The Station will be renovated to provide for retail, café and bar. Mixed use development on-site will include 138 apartments, retail and office space. A new glass atrium will be constructed on the track side of the station to provide a waiting area with seating. Currently the station has 1,100 parking spaces, and the plan is to add about 800 more spaces, including some located off-site.

ACTION: Mike Piscitelli will share the PowerPoint file with the Council Chairman for distribution to Council members.

2. Presentation on the West Haven Station:

Eugene Colonese presented photos and a site plan of construction of the West Haven Train Station. It will open mid-Summer. The station features a 12-car platform and surface parking for approximately 676 vehicles. DOT will be selling parking permits soon. There will be a pay station for daily parkers. Conover will manage the parking. The parking fees have not been established, but Mr. Colonese anticipates parking to cost \$50 to \$60 monthly and \$6 to \$8 daily.

Mike Mercuriano, a West Haven resident, briefed the Council on the history of the planning for the West Haven station. Originally, it was to include a parking garage. The construction will be completed with a surplus of about \$8,000,000. Mr. Mercuriano would like the surplus to be set aside to partially cover the future cost of constructing the garage.

3. Stamford TIGER Grants:

The \$10,500,000 federal grant will provide for a skyway from the new section of the Stamford station parking garage to Track 5. Canopies will be extended on the west end of the platform. New signage will be installed. Gene Colonese shared a birds' eye photo of the parking garage with the delineation of the newer addition. He also reported that the State is still reviewing the RFP proposals for the demolition of the old garage as part of its T.O.D. plans.

4. Answers to Pre-Submitted Questions:

Gene Colonese read the responses to pre-submitted questions from the Council.
ACTION: Mr. Colonese will share his written responses with the Council.

5. HB 6363 Re-organization of the Commuter Council:

On April 1st John Hartman and Tim Beeble met with CDOT Commissioner Redecker regarding the Council's suggested revisions to HB 6363. The Commissioner said that he did not write HB 6363 and referred the Council to Paul Mounds of the Governor's Office. At that meeting, the Commissioner stated that it would be valuable to DOT for the Council to focus on DOT's long range planning for commuter rail improvements. Sue Prosi suggested that the Council conduct a self-evaluation to identify how the Council could work better with DOT and Metro North.

Motion to adjourn by Rodney Chabot, seconded by Bob Jelly.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tim Beeble
Secretary