



P-4 Council
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001
Stronger Together

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March 3, 2008

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Senator Donald DeFronzo, Co-Chair
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

GENERAL ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Senator Gayle Slossberg, Co-Chair
Representative Christopher Caruso, Co-Chair
Room 2200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **Public Hearing on HB 5041: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, AVIATION AND PORTS AND A DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS.**

Members of the Transportation and GAE Committees:

My name is Travis Woodward, and I work for the Connecticut DOT as a Transportation Engineer and construction inspector. I am also a member of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, and am testifying along with several of my fellow members in **opposition to House Bill 5041: An Act Concerning the Creation of a Department of Public Transportation, Aviation and Ports and a Department of Highways.**

We all know why this Act was brought about; to address the lack of focus in our mass transit system. Splitting the agency does not solve this problem; it only wastes millions of taxpayer dollars and will delay any potential progress by years. That's why we oppose it.

There are low cost, immediate and pro-active solutions that have not been addressed that could greatly aid our mass transit system. I'd like to raise a few that our union members, who are committed to quality transportation services, are eager to work with department management, the legislature, and the Governor's Administration to implement.

How much less traffic would be on the road if our State government joined with Connecticut businesses and began to promote telecommuting?

How many more commuters would take the train if we were to solve the parking problems in our Fairfield stations, or add Wi-Fi service to the rail lines?

How many city-based businesses would take advantage of tax incentives for reducing the number of cars commuting into work?

The governor recently announced plans to remove the billboards along I-95 that are on State property. I see a loss of free advertising for the State. Why don't we take advantage of this advertising space to promote mass transit options?



My suggestion is to create a panel composed of our union members from all related Bureaus to propose and study feasible solutions for getting cars off our highways. Employees from Public Transportation, Aviation and Ports, as well as Engineering and Highway Operations could work together to achieve the same goal without wasting time and money.

Thank you for taking time to hear my voice. I look forward to further opportunities for my fellow members and I to join with this body, the Administration, and our agency management to lead for quality in the Department of Transportation.

Travis Woodward

Transportation Engineer, Connecticut Department of Transportation
Steward, P-4 Council, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001