



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the  
Commissioner

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### **Public Hearing – March 11, 2009 Transportation Committee**

#### **Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Joseph F. Marie Department of Transportation**

#### **H.B. 5033 – An Act Concerning the Determination of Parking Needs at Railroad and Other Mass Transit Stations.**

The Department of Transportation (DOT) agrees with the need to review the parking needs at railroad and other mass transit stations as outlined in H.B. 5033 and offers the following comments.

Currently, DOT is reviewing all rail station and other mass transit stations on the New Haven Line, Branch Line and Shore Line East rail service under the direction of the new Bureau Chief of Public Transportation, James Redeker. The review is part of the Governor M. Jodi Rell's Station Access and Parking Task Force and will be completed in 2009.

Working with local officials, regional planning agencies, Connecticut Commuter Council, transit providers and local stakeholders, the Department is assessing current parking and connecting shuttle/bus service to rail stations with a focus to develop strategies and recommendations to increase growth and expansion of opportunity to attract more customers to the rail service.

A draft scope of the task force is attached for your review.

The Department does not believe the proposed bill is necessary and that the review will be completed earlier than the February 3, 2010 date as required in the legislation.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.

## Department of Transportation

### **Station Access and Parking Task Force**

*March 11, 2009*

#### **Scope:**

In an ongoing effort to support statewide multimodal transportation solutions, Connecticut continues to make increasing investments in our rail facilities and equipment. As we add rail cars and expand the capacity of our rail system, enhanced facility management, increased parking capacity and station access are required.

Connecticut's Commuter Rail Council and Regional Planning Agencies will act as key partners in public outreach efforts to our commuters and municipalities. The Rail Parking Task Force will serve to identify major issues, develop near and long term solutions and plans for implementation. The Department looks forward to engaging our customers in the continued development of regional transportation solutions.

#### **Tasks:**

##### **#1 Rail Station Access Gap Analysis**

Current and forecasted demand by station, municipality and /or geographic area.

- Ridership –Current and Future
- Modal Access
- Parking Utilization
- Pricing and Parking Management
- Parking Ownership

##### **#2 Outreach**

- March MPO Meetings – brief overview of agreed scope, meeting schedules.
- 2/3 member towns per region
- Commuter Outreach

##### **#3 Task Force**

- Internal ConnDOT Resources
- MPO's and Commuter Council
- Other Principal Contacts

##### **# 4 Develop Principles/Alternatives/Strategies**

- Principles
  - Public \$/Public Access
  - Reliance on forecasting data
- Summarize Current Activities
  - Planned, Programmed, Ongoing
- Strategy Options
  - Parking Expansion
  - Shared Use Facilities
  - Remote Lots
  - Shuttle Service
  - Private Support
  - Bus Connections
  - Drop and Ride
  - Pedestrian/ Bicycle Access

#### **Findings/Recommendations Final Report:**

- Formation of Short, Mid and Long Range Recommendations