



# State of Connecticut HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony by Representative Jason Perillo  
Before the Transportation Committee  
On Senate Bill 446  
February 24, 2009*

Good morning Chairmen DeFronzo and Guerrero, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity today to testify in favor of SB 446.

Shelton is now a textbook example of smart growth as long-vacant and under-utilized mill buildings are being reinvented as residential and commercial foundations in the downtown community. It is an exciting time to be a part of urban redevelopment in our area.

Shelton is largely blessed to be transected by Route 8 and the economic development opportunities it brings. Shelton's downtown, though, does not have convenient access to the highway in the southbound direction. As downtown redevelopment evolves, an increasing number of people are seeking access to Route 8 with the goal of connecting to I-95 and the Merritt Parkway.

The need for highway access in downtown Shelton is not a new concept as an entrance ramp in the northbound direction does exist. Those seeking to head south, though, must travel through narrow, already-congested roads in the center of Shelton. This circuitous route brings traffic to streets that cannot bear it. Traffic problems on Howe Avenue (Route 110) and Bridgeport Avenue (Route 714) are exacerbated by the current lack of access to Route 8 with materially detrimental results.

I believe one of our key goals as a legislature is to break down barriers to economic development. SB 446 calls for \$10 million in bonding for the design and construction of a southbound entrance ramp at Exit 14. This entrance ramp will serve to break down a challenging barrier to economic growth in a region of Connecticut that will benefit tremendously from that assistance.

Thank you for holding this hearing on SB 446 and I wish to express my support of the bill and ask the committee's favorable action.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jason Perillo  
State Representative  
113<sup>th</sup> District