



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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March 5, 2012

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee thank you for having a hearing on SB 290 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for a Parking Structure in the City of Milford. I am in strong support of this legislation.

As you know over the past couple of decades, the economic vitality of our downtowns has decreased significantly. Milford and its downtown merchants have invested millions of dollars in revitalization efforts. The Ansonia-Milford Court is located in our downtown area. This courthouse produces an inordinate amount of vehicular traffic which uses our limited and vital parking in downtown which directly impacts our merchants. The Parking Structure would allow for economic development in downtown Milford for many reasons. Our train station has a limited amount of parking spaces for commuters. Commuters have a long trek to find parking and in inclement weather is a major inconvenience. In addition, our retailers and businesses, being able to provide additional parking (particularly for our restaurants/clubs in the evening), would greatly increase the opportunities for downtown development to continue.

In preparation for our Plan of Conservation and Development, Milford Progress retained Yale Urban Design Workshop which held a meeting at our Library last week. Their recommendations are as follows:

“Traffic Problems”

Mr. Plattus from the Yale Urban Design Workshop and Milford citizens also discussed two other concerns in the downtown area—parking and the downtown traffic circulation patterns.

Plattus said that the rule of thumb for downtown parking is to expect persons to park once, and then move by foot to their destinations. Toward that end, he discussed the task

of finding strategic locations for additional parking. **He mentioned the courthouse site as one possibility.**

“Downtowns are now neighborhoods,” Plattus remarked. “People are engaged in their community. This is all healthy.”

Plattus said that Milford has what planners term “great bones.” It has public open spaces, immediate access to the waterfront, a train station, and a compact pedestrian scale with a walk able downtown.

Among the city’s challenges, he observed, were its need for a larger retail footprint, **parking management** and a strengthening of the downtown’s restaurant sector.

The structure would benefit, those who use the Courthouse and Metro North commuters, who have to use on street parking to conduct their daily business in the downtown area, and it will give the potential for business expansion if the parking concerns are addressed.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important project for the City of Milford.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Rose".

Kim Rose
State Representative