



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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Testimony in Support of SB 263, SB 264, SB 512: *An Act concerning infrastructure improvements to exit 74 on I-95, An Act concerning a rail station in Niantic and an Act concerning a guardrail on route 154 in Old Saybrook.*

February 11, 2015

By Senator Paul Formica

Representative Guerrero, Senator Maynard, Ranking Members Senator Boucher and Representative O'Dea along with distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, I am Senator Paul Formica from the 20th Senate District and I am here to testify in favor of several bills specific to my district.

The first is Proposed S.B. No. 263 *AN ACT CONCERNING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AREA AROUND EXIT 74 ON INTERSTATE 95.*

As you may or may not know I-95 at the intersection with 395 in the area of exit 74 is extremely busy year round but specifically during the summer months. You can view this area of the highway to see for yourself by clicking on the Department of Transportation website to view the traffic cameras. This area is identified as camera #192 the East Lyme exit 74 - Rt. 161 Flanders Rd. camera.

This bill asks the Department of Transportation to remodel and repair the area surrounding exit 74, including widening the bridge spanning Route 161 to six lanes, and rerouting the exit ramps to increase safety and expand economic development opportunities such as the significant plan for retail of a 43,500 square foot complex including a Costco and 200 apartments currently under construction additionally. The developer is willing to participate in the costs as a public private partnership.

The safety on the exit ramps is critical especially during times of increased traffic. It is very chaotic when at the height of summer traffic motorists are trying exit a major highway and onto local roads that cannot handle the excess capacity. I bring this to your attention as you contemplate and focus on transportation infrastructure upgrades in this session.

The second bill I am testifying in support of is Proposed S.B. No. 264 *AN ACT CONCERNING A RAIL STATION AT NIAN TIC FOR SHORELINE EAST.*

This project would benefit the area by getting more commuters on the train to work and or for pleasure. This additional rail stop would require the Department of Transportation to construct a new rail station for Shoreline East in Niantic.