

Transportation Committee

SENATE FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-715

AN ACT CONCERNING A PLAN TO MODERNIZE THE PARKING GARAGES

Title: AT COMMUTER RAIL STATIONS IN THE STATE.

Vote Date: 3/20/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/13/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Sen. Leone

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the Department of Transportation Commissioner to create a plan and present it by July 2020 to modernize the parking garages at the rail stations to best relieve parking congestion and update the aging facilities.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

David Martin, Mayor, City of Stamford: Is opposed because he feels that Connecticut “needs a plan that leads to a systematic investment to transform the STC into a regional transportation hub with the necessary amenities, capacity, interconnectivity and iconic stature to attract patronage, as well.”

Anstress Farwell, President, Urban Design League: They are in support because they believe that updating the train stations’ parking garages will benefit the areas around the train stations as well as the state economically and environmentally. The support of the commuter rail stations is important to the success of Connecticut. The updates in the plans could include pickup and drop off space updates for busses, taxis, and Transportation Network Companies (TNC). This would have the opportunity to help with traffic and parking congestion, as well as other community opportunities like bike share stations.

Laura Burrone, New Haven, CT: Is in support of a plan that would update the stations to include bike parking, lockers and showers, as well as a bike share station to help with the advancements being made in the cities of Connecticut.

Anthony Cherolis, Hartford, CT: Supports a plan that allows for flexible parking that would be open to residents and employees who live and or work adjacent to the train stations. The consolidation of parking areas and collaboration in with the cities would make for a more efficient city.

Neil Olinski, New Haven, CT: Supports a plan that could move the city forward by including technology like electric vehicle charging stations and collected and transmitted real time parking availability data. Plan ahead for the foreseeable changes that will be taking place in the state, so Connecticut will be prepared when they happen.

Michael Mercuriano, President, West Haven Train Station Committee: Supports this bill for the impact it will have on the train stations in the state. There is a need for an increase in parking in the cities and specifically near the train stations to help promote and support commuter rail. The lack of parking creates many problems that would be addressed by modernizing the parking garages. In the plan for modernization the consideration to add to existing garages instead of planning new parking garages would be best practice. Also a consideration of the major issues that currently exist would be payment machines that don't work, lack of staff for parking garages, and more.

Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, City of New Haven: Supports this bill in modernizing the parking garages near train stations. The New Haven train station is a major point for transportation in the state. They would like to have the consideration that while the New Haven train station parking garage does have some updates to it already, there are issues that still need to be addressed. They encourage the plan to consider more than the issue regarding a lack of parking. Other issues that could be addressed are "Visitor engagement, quality retail, historic preservation, "last mile" challenges, bike/ped. access and the many other essential components of place making. This comprehensive approach will ensure that future investment leverages economic growth and generates jobs/tax impact far beyond the parking asset".

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed

Reported by: Brittney Hedges

Date: April 4, 2019