

From: LynneShapiro

Sent: Monday, January 07, 2008 11:35 AM

To: CT Strategic Plan

Cc: Toni.Boucher@cga.ct.gov; Bob.Duff@cga.ct.gov; Roxane.Fromson@po.state.ct.us; Governor Rell

Subject: Fwd: Merritt-7 Corporate Park Rail Access, other transit issues

Dear Dr. Stan McMillan:

I am unable to attend tomorrow evening's DECD Regional Forum for the State's 2009-2013 Strategic Economic Plan at Southern CT State University as to poorly scheduled evening bus transit for dedicated transit users such as myself.

I forward an E-mail to ConnDOT's LRP Director, Ms. Roxanne Fromson, about improving rail service and rail station access to one of Connecticut's largest Class A office developments, the Merritt-7 Corporate Park in Wilton, CT on the Danbury Metro-North branch line. I sent this e-mail in support of Representative Toni Boucher's very long-standing effort to improve Danbury Line Metro-North service. Also Senator Bob Duff from the Wilton area wrote about the Merritt-7 rail access problem:

Lynne -

Thanks for your email back. I have focused on the Danbury line for the better part of 4 years of my legislative career. It has been one frustrating road block after another since the DOT feels that it is necessary to study this thing to death. Jim Maloney was a Congressman at the time when he secured the needed funds to work to turn around this very important branch line.

As far as the train platform to Merrit 7, ..it is such a "no-brainer" that it was never required as the square footage of office buildings grew.

I will fight for it and believe it will help the area. I would also like to see a mini-station at the new I-Park where the former Perkin Elmer headquarters is located. Your help is also critical.

My best for the New Year.

Sincerely,

Bob

[Senator Bob Duff](#)
[Legislative Office Building](#)
[Hartford, CT 06106](#)
[\(800\) 842-1420](#)

My E-mail to Ms. Fromson was part of my ongoing effort* to travel more easily or at all to Connecticut work sites as a dedicated transit user.

- I have petitioned the Transportation Strategy Board to implement its Strategic Transit Network concept for better schedule coordination between New Haven and Stamford First Transit/dba CTTransit buses and Metro-North trains. For example:
 - First Transit's two buses for the 6:23 a.m. express arrive at Union Station from the New Haven Green at 6:16 a.m. and 6:22 when it takes at least 10 minutes to buy a ticket, use the restroom and get to the platform.

- First Transit's Temple Street Parking Garage bus dedicated to transporting Metro-North passengers is not scheduled to serve morning express trains to Grand Central Station. The first TSPG bus arrives at Union Station at 6:35 a.m. when the express train leaves at 6:40 a.m. All trains after that 6:40 a.m. express arrive in Manhattan too late to travel to jobs outside midtown for an 8:30 or 9:00 work start time also given long security lines in NYC office buildings.

TSB Chairman Kelleher did stress the importance of correcting bus-rail connection problems to Governor Rell in his January 2006 report so far to no avail.

- I have spoken before the Connecticut General Assembly Transportation Committee to reestablish commuter rail service between Southern Connecticut and Hartford. My last testimony pointed out flaws in the 2002-2005 ConnDOT/Wilbur Smith New Haven to Hartford/Springfield Commuter Rail Study (the third such study since 1992).
 - Table 4-3 on page 4-7 gives ridership estimates for those boarding at New Haven Union's Station--8 all morning. These estimates do not jive with my passenger counts--between 30 and 50--on Amtrak's first morning train to Hartford arriving outside commuting hours at 9:20 a.m.
 - The study's proposed schedules did not well link with Metro-North schedules to maximize revenues from Fairfield County and New York rail passengers.

There is still no transit service that brings commuters to Hartford from New Haven or points west before 9:15 a.m. The ConnDOT/Dattco bus that arrived at Central Row at 8:20 a.m. before July 2004 was re-routed through Wethersfield to arrive in Hartford after 9 a.m. like the first Amtrak train.

Thank you for your kind attention to this and other communications the DECD receives to improve just being able to get to work on Connecticut's transit systems. If your department with its new leadership can join with and support others working so earnestly on these and other transit problems for so many years, you will improve our environment, reduce global warming and oil consumption, and increase income and sales tax revenues from transit users accordingly.

All best wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous 2008 to you and your family.

Lynne Shapiro
 Expert Professionally Certified Researcher--Marketing Research Association
 M. S. Urban Studies/Planning 2002 Southern Connecticut State University
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 New Haven, CT 06511
 203-777-5222

*Since I co-founded the 1994-1996 Vision for a Greater New Haven Transportation Citizens' Action Group of pro-bono professionals that produced the 50-page April 1, 1995 *Transportation Action Plan* listing user-based transit improvement recommendations.

From: Meghan Lowney
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2008 12:02 PM
To: CT Strategic Plan
Subject: Follow up to 1/10 Forum

Dear Stan:

Thanks once again for the opportunity to speak to you and the Commissioner last evening. I am attaching my full comments for the record.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I may be of any assistance.

**Department of Economic and Community Development
Strategic Planning Forum**

January 10, 2008

Testimony submitted by Meghan Lowney

Commissioner McDonald and distinguished panel, thank you for inviting comments from the public as a part of your strategic planning process. My name is Meghan Lowney, I am a Fairfield resident and have been working to end homelessness in Greater Bridgeport, and in Connecticut generally, for almost 20 years. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to express my enthusiasm for your efforts to create an economic plan with real impact for Connecticut citizens and businesses, and to raise concerns which I hope you will take into consideration.

Despite 20 years of working to end homelessness, in collaboration with many others at it far longer, homelessness persists. Too many of our neighbors do not have a place to call “home” tonight. During the winter this is especially worrisome. Yet while cold weather adds risk to those who sleep outside, the cause of homelessness is not weather conditions, but year-round economic conditions. Homelessness in Connecticut is extreme poverty, economic crisis that is nearly impossible to overcome without a helping hand.

Affordable housing is the answer and Connecticut can offer that help. A former client of mine, whom I will call Maria, sought emergency shelter for herself and her 6 and 8 year olds ten years ago. Homelessness caused Maria the deepest despair after several years of loss—a lost marriage, lost sobriety, lost jobs. While in our shelter, she did everything in her power to stabilize her life—using counseling, getting 2 jobs, eventually rebuilding her life with her children. Yet she was still unable to afford to rent an apartment in the Greater Bridgeport area. It was terrific that the children were doing well, going to school and starting to feel hopeful again, but they were sleeping in a shelter. The family eventually got the break they needed: First they rented an apartment that was part of an affordable housing program, where she paid just 30% of her income towards rent. This affordable rent made it possible for her to take the next step. After a few years during which she lost and found jobs, paid off debts, saved money and took classes at a community college, Maria increased her income and was able to buy a home with the help of a first-time homebuyer affordable housing program and her family. I stood on her porch last month after a visit. Her daughter, now 18, glowed as she said that they had been there a long time—the longest place she ever lived in her life: 3 years. They made it, but not alone.

The stepping stones and helping hands that Maria needed and used well were critical—but it still took ten years! Whether homeless, at-risk of homelessness, or barely hanging on to their homes, so many of our neighbors would benefit from new units of affordable housing now. If more local families were able to afford and maintain their housing, we would all benefit—as neighbors, employers, business owners, community leaders.

For example, as a consultant to nonprofit organizations and employer, I know first hand how difficult it is to find, hire and retain qualified people. Often, the cost of living—especially here in Fairfield County—is simply

a barrier people cannot overcome in taking or staying at a job. We spend remarkable amounts of time and resources trying to fill important positions—positions we count on as a community. There is a whole economic continuum of people who cannot afford to live where they work: nurse’s aides, shelter managers, school bus drivers, teachers, police, municipal workers. Social workers—who work to end homelessness—struggle to afford housing themselves.

As a Steering Committee member of HOMEConnecticut, the statewide campaign aimed at increasing the stock of affordable housing, I was alarmed to learn that Connecticut leads the nation in loss of young workers: CT has lost more of the 25-34-year-old population than ANY OTHER STATE since 1990. Where will our state economy be if we do not stop the drain of future talent? How will businesses and communities function? Could it possibly get worse?

The housing crisis was evident in a report from 2006, which found that in 154 (out of 169) cities and towns, a family earning the median household income in a given town could not qualify for a mortgage to purchase the median sales price home in that same town. The median household income could not qualify to buy the median sales price home in ANY of Fairfield County’s 24 municipalities.

In the Bridgeport rental market the situation is as bleak: a worker must earn \$19.69 per hour in Bridgeport to afford a 2-bedroom apartment, and we know many workers don’t earn that much. Too many of Connecticut’s residents are paying far above the recommended 30% of their income on housing, which means they will either have too little left for food, clothing, transportation, heat and life’s other necessities, OR they will move, as they are already doing, to places where housing costs much less.

Tonight I am here to ask that you respond to our housing crisis by prioritizing affordable housing development in your economic strategic plan.

As you choose your strategic priorities please:

1. Prioritize the development of new affordable housing:

The legislature took a great step forward in funding the Connecticut Housing Program for Economic Growth, which offers incentives to municipalities to create affordable housing. We need to get these funds out to communities to get started and we need more funds for this program to engage towns all over the state and to get to scale.

Support the development of housing for the lowest income residents in mixed income developments. Permanent supportive housing is a model of affordable housing that is the proven solution to homelessness for so many. Prioritize the development of these units in new projects by creating developer incentives or set-asides.

2. Increase the pace of development:

Please work with other state departments and private entities to streamline State programs so that good planning and development can happen more quickly. Create a streamlined loan application and approval process and a dependable source of development financing that developers can count on. Reduce the time it takes for developers to open housing and for folks like Maria to find a home.

3. Support local planning efforts:

Provide additional assistance to municipalities like my home town, Fairfield, to encourage better local planning and to confront and resolve the complex challenges presented in land use and development decisions. Good planning is good for families, towns and business. These area residents aren’t only homeowners or employees, they are customers too. By placing housing strategically, and in sufficient number, in a downtown or commercial center, it provides a solid customer base for nearby businesses.

And, as you know, when if more of us could live closer to work and shopping, we might also decrease the commute time and the environmental impact resulting from traffic congestion in Fairfield County.

Connecticut's housing crisis impacts people in all areas of our communities. High housing costs could make our state a less desirable place to do business or an impossible place to afford to raise a family. More affordable housing can reverse today's trends and is a critical component in a vibrant economy.

Meghan Lowney
Fairfield, CT 06824

FW Recommendation for Center for a Sustainable Future to Support CT Economy.txt
From: Cooper, David N [mailto:DCooper@gwcc.comnet.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 12:40 PM
To: CT Strategic Plan
Cc: Kendrick, Dorsey L; Silberquit, Paul A; Demske, Wayne W; Igrannis@snet.net; pstein@rgp-ct.org; nathan@sustainablenewhaven.org; Vincze, John A; Rish III, Anthony K; Bill Leahy; Robyn Cornwell; dlombard@earthlink.net; Panagoulis, Lee; Lostritto, Donald A; Corda, Arthur W; Mary F. Duggan; Michael McCarthy
Subject: Recommendation for Center for a Sustainable Future to Support CT Economy

Dr. Stan McMillen, Ph. D.
Managing Economist
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Dr. McMillen:

I am pleased to share our vision to create a Center for a Sustainable Future to address some of Connecticut's needs for workforce and business development and propose that this concept be included in the DECD's recommendations to support Connecticut's industries and workers to successfully innovate, grow, and compete in the global economy.

Last fall Gateway Community College co-sponsored a Sustainability Forum in collaboration with the Regional Growth Partnership to assess interest in our idea. We were pleased by the high level of energy and enthusiasm. This was followed by a project proposal to be included in the New Haven region's next five year strategic economic development plan. Our proposal for a Center for a Sustainable Future is noted several times in the Regional Growth Partnership's draft strategic plan. Gateway Community College would like to be invited to submit a proposal to the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration for an infrastructure grant to partially fund the construction of a Center for a Sustainable Future.

Gateway Community College's vision of a Center for a Sustainable Future addresses some of the technical workforce challenges of climate change and provides a conceptual framework for identifying strategies to further integrate workforce development, economic development, and education at the regional level – where companies, workers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and governments come together to create a competitive advantage and work together to solve what are essentially species issues. The vision of our proposal integrates well with The Governor's Energy Plan for a Cleaner, Greener State and the Council on Energy Advisory Board's 2007 Connecticut Energy Plan.

Reading through our proposal, I hope you will agree that we seek to provide an important component that is crucial to the preparation of the workforce in a new economy based on sustainable energy technologies. In Connecticut at present we have

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a great need for both adequate facilities and new technicians' training programs. Gateway Community College's new campus in New Haven expected to be operational in 2012 represents a great improvement in our ability to provide educational services, and its completion is a priority. However, the new facility will not be able to house our Transportation Technologies Program and Business and Industry Services of Corporate and Continuing Education. The eventual location of these programs has not been decided by the Connecticut Community Colleges.

The new economy based on sustainable energy will need installers, operators, and highly skilled service technicians. We saw the need and developed a plan to work with Connecticut's fledgling sustainable energy industry to create the skilled workforce these young companies will need to grow and prosper. Our vision statement has been shared with the leadership of Gateway Community College and the Connecticut Community College System Office, and with selected legislators and with Ray Wilson and John Mengacci at OPM. As we move forward we seek the advice of potential supporters and collaborators and invite you to help us make this Center a reality.

Although we envision a program to be launched in the New Haven region, it clearly has implications for economic and workforce development throughout the State of Connecticut. Our developmental career education career ladder model places new emphasis on hands-on learning by doing and creates the fertilization ground upon which student tinkerers can develop their talents for accomplishing business or technical applications in new and innovative ways. The training we envision would lead to job creation and business incubation and partnership with established businesses and start-ups in Connecticut's growing sustainable energy sector.

Our intention is to build on Gateway Community College's respected Transportation Technologies Department expanding the sustainability component of that program and broadening our efforts into marine, railroad, aviation, and transportation systems' technologies. In addition, we need to create new programs in stationary and mobile sustainable energy systems and in highly efficient building designs and renovation planning that employ conservation technologies and use renewable and recyclable construction materials.

The goals of the 2007 State Energy Plan and the Center for a Sustainable Future converge in their intention to address areas of serious social concerns related to pollution remediation, Brownfields cleanup, urban development, poverty reduction, workforce and economic development, energy independence, transportation improvements, energy efficient construction and renovation technologies and emergency management and planning.

Many of these areas of priority would provide decidedly lower tech higher labor intensive occupational opportunities because of their relevance to transportation, energy, and construction activities. Our program would engage and leverage other grants, mandates, and incentive programs. Developing the Center as an integral component related to the implementation of the 2007 Connecticut Energy Plan directly addresses our challenging economic and workforce development needs.

I hope you share our enthusiasm for the potential of a Center for a Sustainable Future. I believe your expertise in development provides a unique perspective to offer suggestions and advice. My planning team and I are eager to know your thoughts

FW Recommendation for Center for a Sustainable Future to Support CT Economy.txt and to share ideas with you at any time. We hope to be included in DECD's recommendations to support Connecticut's economic and workforce development.

Sincerely,

David

David N. Cooper, Ed. D.
Dean of Corporate and Continuing Education
Gateway Community College
(203) 285-2408

Dr. Dorsey Kendrick, President of Gateway Community College

Mr. Paul Silberquist, Division Director, Engineering Technologies, Gateway Community College

Mr. Wayne Demske, Department Chair, Transportation Technologies, Gateway Community College

Mr. Lee Grannis, Coordinator of the New Haven Green Cities Coalition

Mr. Peter Stein, Acting Executive Director, Regional Growth Partnership

Mr. Nathan Bixby, President, Havens for the Future

Mr. John Vincze, Director of Business and Industry, Corporate and Continuing Education, Gateway Community College

Mr. Anthony Rish, Instructor, Transportation Technologies

Mr. Bill Leahy, Director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy, Eastern Connecticut State University

Ms. Robyn Cornwell, Sustainable Building Advisor

Ms. Debra Lombard, Energy Engineer

Professor Lee Panagoulas, Engineering Technologies

Professor Don Lostritto, Engineering Technologies

Mr. Art Corda, Director of Facilities

Ms. Mary F. Duggan, Manager of Regulatory and Policy Planning, CT Clean Energy Fund, CT Innovations

Mr. Michael McCarthy, Vice President of New Business Development, The Workplace, Inc.

Executive Summary

The Center for a Sustainable Future

Gateway Community College New Haven, Connecticut

Gateway Community College has proposed the creation and development of the Center for a Sustainable Future, a proactive new programming initiative to meet the challenge of the imminent threat of global warming, underscoring our urgent need for energy independence, emission reduction and the use of renewable energy sources.

Gateway Community College, serving the greater New Haven region that also serves as a major access point to all of New England, is proactive in facilitating the transition to new energy systems by addressing the educational, economic development, and community service needs of this coming social and technological revolution. As entire industries, including transportation, manufacturing, recreation, residential and business construction, and office products and services are redefined, this initiative will marshal new and existing resources to create new credit and non-credit courses and specializations and reorient some existing ones.

Policy makers, planners, designers, installers, and highly skilled service technicians will need to acquire new knowledge and skills to plan, design, install, maintain and repair sustainable mobile and stationary energy systems. Training also will need to include applied instruction in energy capture, storage and use of high efficiency equipment, automated controls, and recyclable insulating materials.

The availability of a workforce with new skills will be central to the successful commercialization of future products and processes in which clean energy provides mobility, electrical service, thermal processes, HVAC, water systems, waste handling, clean industrial production processes, and energy efficient high performance architectural designs that use distributed and renewable energy sources and recyclable construction materials.

Fulfilling the economic development and community service mandates of community colleges, we have proposed to provide education, training, and other assistance for business start-ups, nurturing their early growth and assisting them to find and adapt innovative technologies. Community colleges can further assist entrepreneurs with technology assessment and technology transfer, prototyping, product development, business plan creation, pilot production, commercialization, marketing, and intellectual property issues.

These specialties can be integrated with systematic planning and logistics required by homeland security and public health efforts concurrent with responses to emergencies and natural disasters that tie into the broader aspects of risk management for human and ecological systems.

Furthermore, this program can comprehensively address related educational needs and services linked to environmental, biological, and technological issues, including clean and waste water systems, manufacturing processes, transportation technologies, geographic information systems, and construction technologies.

Through the Center for a Sustainable Future, Gateway Community College proposes to establish a mission-driven institutional approach to address these issues from our strong economic, social, and cultural base in the New Haven region. The Center will focus on a holistic approach to the climate and energy crisis of our time, emphasizing relevant technologies in a proficiency-based learning environment. The CSF programs will emphasize student engagement through applied learning experiences in the context of real-world problem solving and instruction by experienced practitioners.

CSF Instructional Programs will include:

1. Energy Systems Technologies (including combined heat and power, tri-generation, distributed generation and the design, construction and operation of micro electrical grids) and the related codes and standards associated with the technologies of distributed generation and renewable energy sources
2. Advanced Sustainable Manufacturing Processes
3. Transportation Technologies: auto, marine, aviation, railroad, RV, heavy duty and off-road vehicles; small engines (frame and power train emphasizing alternatively fueled systems)
4. Construction Technologies (safe practices integrated with eco-friendly high performance building standards and systems, elements of sustainable renovation and new building designs, new building materials and recyclables, and technical instruction in carpentry, electricity and related construction technologies)
5. Human and Ecological Systems Entrepreneurship and Risk Management (community development and applied economics); Clean and Waste Water Systems
6. Facilities Maintenance (sustainable renovations and security)
7. Homeland Security, planning, prevention, protection and remediation from natural and human threats, systems integration planning and logistics, including training of first responders and disaster recovery planners
8. Related technologies of critical importance to systems integration and planning for the local community and its business and labor market needs, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

The structure of a Center for a Sustainable Future also may include integrated vertical higher education services through a University Center, conference and extension services, fabrication and prototyping services for business and industry, a business incubator, intellectual property services, links to venture capital sources, co-location arrangements with appropriate public and private non-profit entities, and sponsorship of an inventor's society.

Because of the unique role of Gateway Community College, its high visibility in the region, and the pivotal role this Center will play in implementing practical solutions to meet this historic crisis, the Center for a Sustainable Future is expected to have wide-reaching implications for New England and beyond.

To request the full copy of our Vision Statement and Overview and for additional information please contact:

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