

TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN



Mobilizing the Region

July 20, 2007

Michael Critelli, Chair
Connecticut Dept. of Transportation Reform Panel

RE: Presentation to ConnDOT Reform Panel

Dear Chairman Critelli,

The Tri-State Transportation Campaign would like to congratulate you for dedicating your time and experience to reforming the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT), and we write to offer our support and expertise in achieving your goals.

Governor Rell has called for “a more responsive, more responsible DOT and a DOT that will continue to broaden its focus beyond highways.” Connecticut has indeed suffered from a long history of highway centered transportation policy that has left the state congested and sprawled. We believe that the work of the reform panel represents an incredible opportunity for ConnDOT to tackle sprawl and traffic congestion by embracing innovative transportation planning and investment.

As the reform panel's work progresses in searching for a solution to this problem, it is imperative that the panel hear from a wide range of stakeholders and open the process to the public. An open and inclusive process would not only lend a greater sense of legitimacy to the effort, but result in a Department better equipped and more knowledgeable of the public's needs.

To this end, we would like to present our vision for the new ConnDOT to all the reform panel members. For nearly 15 years, the Tri-State Transportation Campaign has advocated for transportation departments to steer their focus away highways and toward an integrated approach that connects land use planning, better mass transit and road and highway maintenance. Our efforts have yielded results in New Jersey, which is now recognized as a national leader among state departments of transportation. We believe there are lessons in NJDOT's transformation for Connecticut, and we would like to share them with you. If you are interested, we can also bring in former NJDOT employees who, internally, helped champion the agency's transformation.

Please contact me at (212) 268-7474 or kates@tstc.org to arrange a meeting. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you on this exciting endeavor.

Truly,

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Acting Executive Director

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