

## SUMMARY OF MEETING

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<b>Project:</b>	<b>Regional Intermodal Transportation Study</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	1:30 PM, Tuesday, October 21, 2008
<b>Location of Meeting:</b>	New London City Hall, Council Chambers
<b>Purpose of Meeting:</b>	Steering Committee review of evaluation of site alternatives, passenger and parking surveys
<b>Meeting Attendance:</b>	Attendees listed on page 4

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Larry Englisher, Consultant Project Manager, presented a comparative analysis of the Fort Trumbull and downtown transportation center alternative sites, including existing conditions of each of the transportation modes, environmental characteristics and transit oriented development opportunities. It was the strong recommendation of the consultant team that the RITC be maintained at the downtown site for the following reasons:

- The existing site has the unique advantage of consolidating the ground and maritime modes in a single location
- The cruise ships would be the main reason for moving to Fort Trumbull, but that is not feasible
- Downtown offers a central location with good access
- Infrastructure already exists downtown and would be lower cost

### ***Summary of Meeting Discussion on alternative sites:***

John Markowicz: You didn't note in the presentation but if I read the report correctly, the costs in 2008 dollars to move the transportation center to Fort Trumbull will be between \$135-165 million, adding parking would bring the total close to \$200 million. He recommended that Fort Trumbull should no longer be considered.

Tony Sheridan agreed. He said the consultants did a thorough though unnecessary study and it was time to move on.

Jim Butler said SCCOG would discuss with Andy Davis of ConnDOT if ConnDOT thought the analysis of the two alternative sites was complete.

John Markowicz asked Andy Davis if he accepted the findings of this study's evaluation. Andy responded he needed further review but thought the work was 95% done and will coordinate any further review with local officials.

John Markowicz asked if SCCOG had made a decision about the recommendation to keep the transportation center at its current location.

Jim Butler responded he was confident that the SCCOG Board would concur with the consultant's findings.

John Alexander endorsed the idea of seamless shoreline rail especially between New London and New York City to transport people to the casinos and take cars off I-95. Mr. Alexander said

people in Southeast Connecticut would have better access to New York City and Pfizer would have more reliable, convenient transportation for its employees by rail. Larry Englisher responded that evaluating the potential for this type of service was not in the scope of the study but the consultant would be documenting needs of each mode at the transportation center facilities and take into account any planned or likely changes in transportation services based on available information.

Jill Barrett presented the *findings of the passenger survey* and Stuart Popper presented the results of the *parking survey*. Key findings were:

Most passengers rated transportation facilities in New London for all modes as good – both overall rating and attributes

- Greyhound passengers rated amenities at the terminal below average
- Rail users most interested in food service, clean restrooms
- SEAT passengers more concerned about improving bus operations and routes than facilities

Most passengers between public transportation modes

- Most frequent transfers took place between the ferries and the rail service

Most users do not visit downtown

- Greyhound passengers most likely to visit downtown
- LI Ferry and Sea Jet passengers least likely to visit downtown even with additional services

### ***Summary of Meeting Discussion on the surveys:***

John Markowicz: Did you ask people about whether they visited the region beyond New London? The survey should have. The response was no.

Tony Sheridan: He agreed and said that the study focus is too narrow. The emphasis should be a regional intermodal center. A huge number of people are here in the region for tourist reasons. I know many people don't want to talk about this but we don't have public toilets and need them. If we want people to travel comfortably we need to provide toilets.

Representative Ritter asked, "What did people who got dropped off say about parking? It would be interesting to know if the people who don't use parking have a more negative view about it than the survey results indicate." Jill Barrett responded that attitudes of this subgroup would be evaluated for the Steering Committee and contrasted with those who do park.

Charles Curtin noted that some ferry passengers carrying luggage need to take a taxi to the parking garage.

A Steering Committee member asked if we asked drivers who dropped off or picked up people what they thought about parking facilities. Jill Barrett responded that we did not and that this would have been very difficult to accomplish safely.

Tony Sheridan noted that the number of people indicating that they would visit downtown New London if retail shopping, restaurants and entertainment was increased presented an opportunity for the city to capture more of the people traveling through the area without presently stopping.

There was also a comment that it would be interesting to see how businesses visited in downtown New London varied by where the visitor comes from.

Frank McLaughlin indicated that the Main Street organization would be interested in the survey results. In addition, it was noted that the seven-minute shuttle from the cruise ship to downtown is an excellent opportunity to see New London and learn about what there is to see. The Main Street program distributed 6,000 brochures on these buses, but started late in the season.

Mayor Kevin Cavanagh asked the consultant if parking operators were questioned about their ideas on when is the peak parking period. He also wanted to see the survey results broken down by garage.

John Markowicz asked if the parking results were based on self reporting.

Mayor Kevin Cavanagh requested a separate meeting be held with the Steering Committee to discuss the results of the surveys. It was suggested a meeting be held the afternoon of November 13.

***Other Comments:***

Sandra Chalk indicated there is a growing interest in the arts in New London and recommended the consultant speak with Steve Sigel of the Garde.

It was suggested the consultant also talk with representatives from the casinos.

John Markowicz: Will the study look at potential increase in rail and other modes of transport? Larry Englisher responded that the study take into account growth. John suggested that a percentage increase be included.

Jim Butler remarked the consultant had met with New London Main Street representatives about how to coordinate with the historic waterfront district wayfinding project.

John Brooks of the New London Development Corporation said he thought RITC was not a good name for the center and that it was important to create a branding concept for the center; it should be a short descriptive name.

It was also pointed out that the downtown is officially being known as the “Historic Waterfront District.”

Jim Butler announced there would be a public meeting on the study on November 13 at 7 p.m. at the New London Public Library. Mayor Kevin Cavanagh asked what would be presented at the meeting. He suggested the information be presented in a way that would drive people to ask questions.

**Meeting Attendees:**

***Steering Committee:***

Tony Sheridan	Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT
Mayor Kevin Cavanagh	City of New London
Jenny Contois	Congressman Joe Courtney
Frederick Riese	Connecticut DEP
Stan Mickus	Cross Sound Ferry
Peter Simmons	CT DECD
Charles Curtin	Curtin Transportation
Jeffrey Nelson	Governor's Eastern Office
Tom Stone	Greyhound
Chris Jennings	Mystic Coast and Country
John Brooks	New London Development Corporation
Sandra Chalk	New London Landmarks
Frank McLaughlin	New London Main Street
Martin Berliner	SCCOG, City of New London
Dan Steward	SCCOG, Town of Waterford
Jim Martin	SEAT
Ella Bowman	SEAT
John Markowicz	seCTer
Sen. Andrea Stillman	State Senator, 20th District
Rep. Betsy Ritter	State Representative, 38 <sup>th</sup> District
Michael Carey	Suisman, Shapiro, Wool, Brennan, and Gray
Todd O'Donnell	Union Station

***Other***

John Alexander

***ConnDOT***

Andy Davis	ConnDOT
Craig Bordiere	ConnDOT (Rails)

***SCCOG Staff***

James Butler	SCCOG
Dick Guggenheim	SCCOG

***Study Team***

Larry Englisher	TranSystems
Jim Wensley	TranSystems
Skip Smallridge	Crosby Schlessinger Smallridge
Jill Barrett	Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
Paul Stanton	Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.
Stuart Popper	URS