

NEW HAVEN PORT AUTHORITY

May 17, 2005

Mark D. Rolfe, P.E.  
Principal Engineer  
Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
Newington, CT 06131-7546

**RE: Waterfront Street Railroad (xxx) & Interstate 95 Contract B (xxx)  
Maintenance and Protection of Traffic**

Dear Mr. Rolfe:

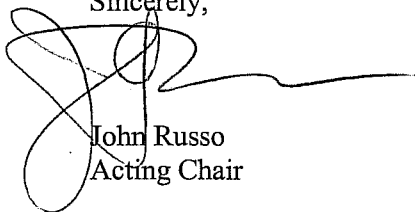
At its meeting of May 5, 2005, the New Haven Port Authority was briefed on the status of the Waterfront Street Railroad project. During this briefing, Port Authority commissioners were informed that Connecticut DOT proposes a full closure of Waterfront Street at its intersection with Forbes Avenue for six (6) months to construct the I-95 pier and support systems and for an additional two (2) weeks to construct and align the railroad. If accurate as presented, the road closure plan is not acceptable to the Port Authority, nor to the port terminals that rely on Waterfront Street to move essential goods and services from the docks to the city and region.

The Port Authority is a new entity and, to date, has not been directly engaged with you on transportation investments. In keeping with our mission to enhance economic competitiveness through waterborne transportation, I believe it is vital that we work more closely with you to better understand Connecticut DOT's program. Our first and foremost concern is this street closure plan. Since Gulf, Getty and Gateway terminals all rely on this access point, it is imperative that we explore every alternative, ranging from temporary road detours, to night construction to short duration shut-downs.

From here, I sincerely request that you review the street closure plan, analyze alternatives and contact us before our meeting of June 2, 2005. You are welcome to join us at that meeting. I will hold you a place on our agenda. We meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Regional Water Authority, 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven.

Thank you for considering these concerns. You can reach me direct at (203) 389-5064. I look forward to talking with you and building a mutually productive relationship.

Sincerely,



John Russo  
Acting Chair

165 CHURCH STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR NEW HAVEN, CT 06510