



Regional Plan Association

... a research and planning agency supported by voluntary membership to promote the coordinated development of the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut Metropolitan Region.

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NEWS RELEASE

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THREE CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS JOIN FORCES TO PRESS FOR CONNECTICUT ROUTE 7 ALTERNATIVES

Citizens for Balanced Environment and Transportation Foundation, the Institute for Public Transportation, and Regional Plan Association have joined together to press the Connecticut Department of Transportation to develop alternative plans for the proposed new Route 7, now scheduled to be a four-lane expressway.

To minimize the scope and impact of any new road construction, the organizations are asking the State and the Southwest Regional Planning Agency to explore transit alternatives that will reduce highway demand and land-use controls that would prevent rezoning from residential to commercial areas near interchanges. Pressure for zoning changes is inevitable, if a new expressway is built. The three organizations cited the Cross-Westchester corridor, where dozens of new office campuses and other developments have occurred in recent years while large renewal tracts in downtown White Plains stand vacant.

Any new Route 7 or reconstruction which might be necessary to ease existing congestion and improve access to the downtowns of Stamford and Norwalk should be designed to not allow further urban sprawl, according to Regional Plan Association. The Institute for Public Transportation is exploring ways of introducing transit alternatives to accommodate travel demand in the Norwalk-Danbury corridor. Of particular concern to Citizens for Balanced Environment and Transportation Foundation is the environmental and energy implications of a new Route 7, which CBET Foundation strongly opposes.

As part of their effort, a public meeting is scheduled for June 24th in the Wilton Senior High School. Other meetings are scheduled with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Southwest Regional Planning Agency, and public officials representing the area.

The joint effort is sponsored by a grant from the J. M. Kaplan Fund which has often encouraged efforts of local citizen groups to participate in planning and development issues.

Citizens for a Balanced Environment and Transportation Foundation is a nonprofit organization attempting to educate the public to the awareness that auto and truck transportation is seriously out of balance in the light of present day energy and environmental concerns.

The Institute for Public Transportation, based in New York City, is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of public transportation and the environment in the Northeast corridor.

Regional Plan Association is a tri-state civic planning organization that, for over fifty years, has worked on behalf of coordinated development of the Connecticut-New York-New Jersey metropolitan area.

In February, Regional Plan released a statement recommending that Route 7 not be built north of the Merritt Parkway as a means of discouraging "spread city" and containing expected development in the Route 7 corridor.

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