



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY DIVISION

April 3, 2014

Mark Alexander
Bureau of Policy and Planning
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131

Re: Notice of Scoping:
Proposed Valley Service Road Extension, North Haven

Dear Mark:

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has reviewed the Notice of Scoping for the proposed Valley Service Road Extension in North Haven and submits the following comments:

- The scoping notice indicates that a majority of Valley Service Rd is not currently intended to be open to the public. Google Street View shows the portion of the road closest to the proposed extension and to the Quinnipiac River being overgrown and apparently incapable of carrying two-way traffic. The scoping notice states:

The purpose of this proposed project is to improve traffic circulation in the project area by making Valley Service Road a through road open to the public.

Furthermore, one of the goals identified in North Haven's POCD is to:

Widen and install utilities along the length of Valley Service Road, and extend the road to and through the Pratt & Whitney site and Wharton Brook Industrial Park, and seek funding for these improvements through public and private sources including grants and federal highway appropriations.

Given the scoping notice's statement about the extension being intended to make Valley Service Road a through road and the town's interest in widening the road and installing utilities, do you consider road reconstruction and any associated development to be "additional activities" that could be "induced or stimulated" by the proposed road extension, as described in the following sentence from Sec. 22a-1a-3 of the CEPA regulations?

Indirect effects are the secondary consequences on local or regional social, economic or natural conditions or resources which could result from additional activities (associated investments and changed patterns of social and economic activities) induced or stimulated by the proposed action, both in the short-term and in the long-term.

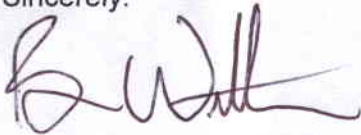
- The Quinnipiac River and Valley Service Rd share a narrow corridor between the Wilbur Cross Parkway to the west and I-91 & Rt 5 to the east. With that apparently being one of the least-developed sections of the urbanized lower river, changes to Valley Service Rd or to the traffic it carries might have a disproportionate impact. The state plan of conservation and development (POCD) identifies the following to be one of the state's policies:

Protect the ecological, scenic and recreational values of lakes, rivers and streams by promoting compatible land uses and management practices in the vicinity of these resources;

The Quinnipiac River is identified as being one of the state's water trails and the state has funded an effort to promote the use of such water trails. Are any efforts being made so that this project will promote land uses and management practices compatible with the river's scenic and recreational values?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Notice of Scoping and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely:



Bruce Wittchen
Office of Policy & Management
450 Capitol Ave, MS# 54ORG
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 418-6323
bruce.wittchen@ct.gov