

**Aetna Viaduct Alternatives Committee (AVAC)
Stakeholders Meeting
June 27, 2007**

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Joe Barber, Jennifer Cassidy, Toni Gold, Mike Marshall, Tomas Nenortas, Sally Taylor, Mike Zaleski

The meeting opened with an overview of what has taken place since the initial meeting on January 29, 2007 at Union Station.

The work done to date includes the formation of a subcommittee to write a position paper. This paper went through approximately eight drafts and took three months to complete and get approval from the ten signatory organizations.

The position paper is about five pages long, but it can be boiled down to three main points:

- ◆ Halt all but immediate safety work on the Viaduct
- ◆ Undertake a vigorous, inclusive, comprehensive, and public planning process (details of how such conditions would be satisfied are in the position paper)
- ◆ Redesign for the long haul

The position paper was mailed to the Mayor and about 60 others during the first week of May (although the date on the letter is April 27, 2007)

Since that time, the subcommittee has begun doing some follow up work, including the following:

Joe Barber

- ◆ Talked to Sandy Fry at the Capitol Region Council of Governments for her thoughts about this subject and was very helpful and thinking about next steps. Sandy was also instrumental in helping to think through how better to summarize the goals of AVAC (see the three main points of the position paper listed above).
- ◆ Sent position paper to some media folks, including: Ken Krayske (“40 Year Plan” column in the *Hartford News* and a blog by the same name), Luis Cotto (owner of La Paloma Sabanera and has a blog called ionhartford.com), ctnewsjunkie.com, and *The Hartford Advocate*. In following up on these contacts, Ken is very interested and stated that he was going to sit on this for awhile and see how things develop. I think Luis is also taking the same approach. *The Hartford Advocate* did do a story in its June 7, 2007 issue—“Taking the High Road,” by Adam Bulger.
- ◆ Met, along with Toni Gold, with Councilmen Bob Painter and Jim Boucher on June 11, 2007, on how to strategize. One of the issues discussed was that even though the Mayor offered to go to the Governor for us if provided to him more specifically what we desire, given recent political circumstances, this would not be the best move on our part. It was agreed we need to build political support for our efforts and one way we figured we could do this is to put together a matrix of overlapping projects in the Aetna Viaduct area, so the

importance of this area and what we're trying to achieve is demonstrated more clearly. Toni volunteered to do this and present it at our stakeholders meeting on June 27, 2007.

Jennifer Cassidy

- ◆ Talked to Representative Marie Kirkley-Bey, but Representative Kirkley-Bey was not yet interested in talking about this issue. Jennifer will continue to follow up with her.

Toni Gold

- ◆ Talked to Bradley Keazer (from Federal Highway Administration) and Mike Sanders (Bureau of Public Transportation, Connecticut Department of Transportation) and essentially realized that we need to line up our local elected leaders first rather than civil servants.
- ◆ As stated above, Toni and Joe Barber met with Councilmen Bob Painter and Jim Boucher on June 11, 2007.

Jackie McKinney

- ◆ Talked to Senator Eric Coleman who seemed cautiously interested. Jackie will continue to follow up with Senator Coleman.

John Stowe and Linda Bayer also had some follow-up responsibilities, but they were not able to attend the meeting, so Joe will follow up with them in order to get more information.

Next steps

Toni presented an "overlapping projects" matrix, including all projects that are impacted one way or another by the Aetna Viaduct project. Those present went through each item on the list and added necessary information in order to create as complete and informative a document as possible.

Mike Zaleski stated that he would put together a set of potential development projects from the Business Improvement District that overlap with the Aetna Viaduct area.

Joe stated that he would get more details on the Broad Street Reconstruction and the MDC's Clean Water Project (although Councilman Painter may be doing the same—Joe will ask so efforts aren't duplicated).

If anyone else had other information to add, we should get that to Toni, as she has committed to integrating everyone's comments into a new matrix (which she has already sent out to everyone on July 3, 2007). When the list is complete and accurate, Councilman Bob Painter will have the city's GIS unit map all the overlap projects.

It was decided that we wanted to get this done first to use this as a basis for moving forward in building a coalition of elected officials to advance our cause. It was agreed that everyone would look at Toni's most recent e-mail with the updated list of overlapping projects in preparation for this meeting.

Next meeting: July 17, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Hartford Preservation Alliance, 56 Arbor Street, Room, Suite 406.