



**PROJECT  
MEETING REPORT**

**Client:** Stonington and Groton, CT  
**Project Name:** Multi-Modal  
Transportation Study  
for the Mystic Seaport Area  
**Location:** Stonington, CT  
**Project Number:** 36938369  
**Issue Date:** 09 JUN 10

**MEETING DATE:** 2 JUN 10                      **TIME:** 7 PM                      **LOCATION:** Stonington, CT

**FROM:** Leslie Black, FHI

**SUBJECT:** Study Advisory Committee Meeting #3 Summary

**ATTENDEES:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
Bill Haase	Town of Stonington	<a href="mailto:whaase@stonington-ct.gov">whaase@stonington-ct.gov</a>
Stephen Gazillo	URS Corporation	<a href="mailto:Stephen_Gazillo@urscorp.com">Stephen_Gazillo@urscorp.com</a>
Stephen Mitchell	URS Corporation	<a href="mailto:Stephen_Mitchell@urscorp.com">Stephen_Mitchell@urscorp.com</a>
Robert Aloise	URS Corporation	<a href="mailto:Robert_Aloise@urscorp.com">Robert_Aloise@urscorp.com</a>
Jenna Nichols	URS Corporation	<a href="mailto:Jenna_Nichols@urscorp.com">Jenna_Nichols@urscorp.com</a>
Leslie Black	Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.	<a href="mailto:lblack@fhiplan.com">lblack@fhiplan.com</a>
Jim Butler	Southeastern CT Council of Governments (SCCOG)	<a href="mailto:jbutler@seccog.org">jbutler@seccog.org</a>
Bill Parent	Mystic Seaport	<a href="mailto:bill.parent@mysticseaport.org">bill.parent@mysticseaport.org</a>
Susan Cullen	Town of Groton Planning Department	<a href="mailto:scullen@town.groton.ct.us">scullen@town.groton.ct.us</a>
Ed Dombroskas	Eastern Regional Tourism District	<a href="mailto:edombroskas@mysticcounrty.com">edombroskas@mysticcounrty.com</a>
John Kennedy	Kennedy Technical Services	<a href="mailto:jbken53@sbcglobal.net">jbken53@sbcglobal.net</a>
Terry Connors	Howard Johnson Mystic	<a href="mailto:gm@mystichotels.com">gm@mystichotels.com</a>
Peter Glankoff	Mystic Aquarium	<a href="mailto:pglankoff@searesearch.org">pglankoff@searesearch.org</a>

**DISTRIBUTION:** Towns of Stonington and Groton, URS study team, Advisory Committee Members

The meeting began at 7:00 PM. Bill Haase introduced the study team and Advisory Committee.

Stephen Gazillo began a PowerPoint presentation with a project update and a discussion about the study concept of Transportation Mobility Hubs versus a Transportation Center. The Transportation Center concept has been discussed in a number of previous studies. The focus of the Transportation Center proposed location was the interchange area. However, the scale of this concept seems disconnected with the Mystic image and “feel”. An alternative concept of New Mobility Hubs has been identified as a different option to a Transportation Center. URS is in contact with leading experts in the area of New Mobility Hubs and will meet with Susan Zielinski from the University of Michigan on this subject towards the end of June to gather more information.

Stephen Mitchell followed with an overview of the public meeting format coming up on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Hoxie Fire House in Mystic. Leslie Black then led the committee through the mapping exercise format that will be conducted at the public meeting. The committee provided input for the study with the following questions and comments.

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- Bill H. agreed to distribute flyers to the local Chamber of Commerce and area community boards to publicize the public meeting.
- Have the media been contacted? Leslie B. and Bill H. responded that local media representatives had been sent a press release and public meeting flyer and that “The Day” had run a notice already.
- It was noted that pedestrians disembarking from the train or a local marina should be included in the mapping exercise to get that perspective when participants are thinking of wayfinding from different pedestrian origins. Also, participants should be asked to include where they think wayfinding signage would be helpful. The study team agreed to include wording to that effect in the exercise.
- Ed. D. suggested that URS contact marinas (CT Marinas Trade, Docko) regarding transient mooring as pedestrians from these origins could provide input on mobility around the area without a vehicle.
- It was suggested that the flyer be distributed to merchants and restaurants, local merchants association.
- Leslie B. will send flyer and newsletter electronically to the Advisory Committee so that they can distribute to interested parties.
- How will tourists have a voice in this study? Steve G. and Rob A. responded that an intercept survey will be conducted to survey pedestrians at tourist destinations to gather input. A suggested date was June 24-27 for the Wooden Boat Show weekend combined with the N.E. Harley Davison reunion.
- Bill P. offered zip code data from the Mystic Seaport Museum for origin-destination data. The URS team will contact Bill P. for that data if not already on file.
- Terry C. asked about local taxi service. Is there a current contract to prevent other service providers from coming into the area? Jim B. responded that taxi companies are licensed by the CT Department of Transportation (DOT) and licenses are limited by service areas.
- Jim B. noted that under CT DOT policy, the South East Area Transit (SEAT) must be engaged in the study process to approve future trolley service/routes. Chairman of SEAT is Paul Altman. URS will include SEAT in the study process.
- Peter G. noted the density of services in the “Golden Triangle” area of Mystic near the interchange and how to encourage people to think of Mystic as more than just an exit off the interchange. He noted that to integrate Mystic will take more than just a trolley. Steve G. responded that the trolley system has to be integrated into a wayfinding system to promote destinations throughout the area. The New Mobility Hub concept would provide transit hubs at key destinations throughout the area with information about a variety of activities near each hub. For example, for a conceptual hub at the Mystic Aquarium, if access to a trail head for the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center were added there, a variety of activities would be promoted at one hub.
- Each hub should have digital means to have a walking guide via a cellphone “app” or PDA information via the internet.
- Orientation is critical – tourists do not know where key sites are located in the area.

Next Steps:

- Advisory Committee members were encouraged to attend the public meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>. They were also provided with public meeting flyers and a study newsletter to distribute to any interested parties who may wish to attend the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Signed: Leslie Black

Leslie Black, FHI