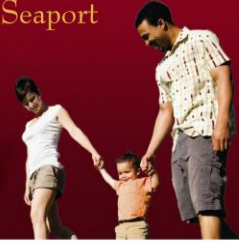




# Mystic Mobility Study



## MEETING SUMMARY

**Client:** Stonington and Groton, CT  
**Project Name:** Multi-Modal Transportation Study for the Mystic Seaport Area  
**Location:** Mystic, Connecticut  
**Project Number:** 36938369  
**Prepared by:** Leslie Black, FHI  
**Issue Date:** March 7, 2011

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## Public Information Meeting #3

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**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, March 2, 2011  
**TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** B.F. Hoxie Fire House, Stonington, CT  
**ATTENDEES:** Public who signed in: 29 in attendance

### STUDY TEAM:

Name	Affiliation	E-mail Address
Bill Haase	Town of Stonington	<a href="mailto:whaase@stonington-ct.gov">whaase@stonington-ct.gov</a>
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### SUMMARY:

Public Information Meeting #3 was conducted on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Hoxie Fire House in Mystic, Connecticut. 29 members of the public and study team were present.

Consultant Project Manager from URS Corporation, Mr. Stephen Mitchell, opened the meeting and introduced the study team. He then presented a PowerPoint presentation, providing the study progress to date and proposed draft plan recommendations being considered for the study area.

The public then moved to the open house part of the evening where they visited various stations around the room that exhibited recommendations of the draft plan. They provided input by completing a questionnaire with questions and answers summarized as follows:

## PUBLIC MEETING OPEN HOUSE QUESTIONNAIRE

*The draft “Final Recommendations” for the Mystic Mobility Study are being presented tonight in this public meeting. Our goal tonight is to illustrate and describe the ideas for improvements to the area transportation system and to get your feedback on these ideas.*

*Please feel free to walk around the room and view the various illustrations. There are 5 “stations” including:*

- 1. Trolley and Water Taxi Route Concept*
- 2. Roadway/Intersection Improvements*
- 3. Streetscape, Pedestrian, Bicycle Improvements*
- 4. Trolley Shuttle - Governance and Financing Concepts*
- 5. Other Items - New Mobility Hubs*

*Please carry this questionnaire with you and fill it out as you visit each station. Feel free to share your thoughts with the Project Team representatives who are circulating around the room.*

### TROLLEY AND WATER TAXI ROUTE CONCEPTS:

**1) In general, do you like the overall concepts?**

- Yes (4 responses)
- Overall it is a good first step towards introducing other forms of transportation between Exit 90 and downtown

**2) What *specific elements* of the concepts do you most strongly agree with?**

- Trolley route
- Free shuttle between major attractions
- Simplified route
- The simplicity of the routes should make it cost effective for SEAT or possible private sponsorship
- Trolley route based on bus route

**3) What *specific elements* of the concepts concern you and what changes would you recommend for those elements?**

- Cost of mobility hub buildings
- If someone is only here for a day, where do they park to use the trolley
- Not enough water taxi stops

- Lack of inclusion of the marinas in the trolley route – sailors/boaters tend to be affluent – if it were easy for them to get to town, they might be willing to come to town to shop and eat – good for local economy
- Water taxi north stop does not appear to be accessible
- No specific concerns; would like this to be a springboard for future bus/trolley service stops beyond this area
- No development of water taxi
- Water taxi location – there is property for sale on Route 27 – consider leasing it long term; would make an excellent location

4) What **benefits** do you see from the concepts?

- Hopefully less traffic congestion during the summer months
- Reduced traffic on Route 27
- Reduction of automobile traffic into downtown

## ROADWAY/INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:

1) *In general*, do you **like** the overall concepts?

- Yes (3 responses)
- Overall the key intersections and routes (27, 1 and Coogan Boulevard) are addressed

2) What *specific elements* of the concepts do you **most strongly agree with**?

- Coogan Boulevard improvement recommendations
- Route 27/Route 1 interchange
- Coogan Boulevard interchange
- Left hand turn lanes should assist with traffic congestion at Route 27/Coogan Boulevard (to Friendly's), and at Route 27/Route 1
- Sidewalks and vegetated median on Coogan Boulevard are essential
- Left turn lane separated by island

3) What *specific elements* of the concepts **concern you** and what changes would you recommend for those elements?

- Main Street and Holmes Street intersection
- Priority of improvements on Coogan Boulevard should be from West to East
- Concerned about signage – prefer Option A for wayfinding signage; before installation of any new signage, existing signage should be evaluated and updated/removed.
- Cost

4) What **benefits** do you see from the concepts?

- Pedestrian safety
- Bike-friendly Coogan Boulevard

- An enhanced pedestrian experience with the addition of sidewalks and intersection improvements

## **STREETSCAPE/PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE CONCEPTS:**

### **1) *In general, do you like the overall concepts?***

- Yes (2 responses)

### **2) *What specific elements of the concepts do you most strongly agree with?***

- Pedestrian safety
- Addition of sidewalks
- Boardwalk along Mystic River
- Mobility hubs

### **3) *What specific elements of the concepts concern you and what changes would you recommend for those elements?***

- The need to take private property
- Concern that the area does not become cluttered with signage
- Create signage that permits left turns during congested times – near the bridge; otherwise gridlock can happen

### **4) *What benefits do you see from the concepts?***

- Ease and flexibility of getting from attraction to attraction
- Safety and encouragement of bicycles
- Guidelines for future, more detailed design work

## **TROLLEY SHUTTLE – GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING CONCEPTS:**

### **1) *What specific elements of the concept do you most strongly agree with?***

- Trolley route
- Maximum 20 minute waiting time between trolleys
- Location of stops for trolley

### **2) *What specific elements of the concept concern you and what changes would you recommend for those elements?***

- Cost of mobility hub buildings
- Where do people park who are not staying in hotels?
- Extend trolley to Mason's Island Road/Route 1
- Bus types – need easy on, easy off, San Francisco cable car type, not big bus
- Long wait times; Okay, if at each stop there was a countdown clock to inform about arrival of trolley

**3) What benefits do you see from this concept?**

- Reduction of traffic congestion
- Reduction of air pollution
- Reduced Route 27 traffic

**4) Do you believe that the Trolley Shuttle can be funded with a mechanism that is sustainable?**

- Yes, local taxing district and local/state funds
- Not in this economy
- Not in the foreseeable future
- Contracting service to an outside contractor
- Contributions from village businesses? (like New London's City Center District)
- Tax boat slips?
- Not sure, only if hotels are successful enough to sustain tax,

**OTHER ITEMS:**

**1) What is your opinion of the *New Mobility Hub* concept?**

- Okay, not thrilled (cost)
- It provides incentive to use a trolley if it can be funded
- Nice concept – let's make it a “sustainable” information center/mobility
- Over-designed; simple hip roof canopy with freestanding benches
- This type of benches are hard to clean – no way to get debris out of slats between slat and rock

**2) What is your opinion of the suggestion that parking be managed, which could include a fee structure?**

- Makes sense but the route is focused on visitors, not locals so parking fees could reduce shopping by locals.
- Good – get people to pay to park at one location and take free shuttle to other attractions rather than driving from attraction to attraction
- I have a negative view of paid parking
- Free structure for managing parking would be a good idea – residents get a “year pass” or discount
- Don't believe it.

**3) Do you believe that there is a benefit to the Mystic “Experience” that can be realized from a comprehensive approach to transportation in the area?**

- Absolutely
- Hopefully
- Yes
- The easier we make it for visitors to get out of their cars, the better
- Nobody enjoys trying to find a parking space.

## YOUR PRIORITIES

After viewing all of the concepts, please take a moment to list your top three priority areas or topics in town where improvements are most needed and where implementation efforts should be focused:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Priority:

- Coogan Boulevard upgrade
- Key to get people to park their cars at one attraction and take shuttle to other attractions.
- Intersection improvements at Route 1/Route 27
- Trolley – shuttle service to reduce traffic congestion in peak seasons – get the tourists moving – make them happy and make the residents happy.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority:

- Research additional places for public parking near/at pick-up sites; those cars have to go somewhere
- Intersection improvements at Coogan Boulevard
- Wayfinding signage – signage evaluation – it can be an inexpensive way to inform tourists and enhance traffic mobility without major infrastructure improvements

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Priority:

- Establishment of a Mystic Business District and implementation of a benefit fee to support the trolley service at least partially.
- Pedestrian and bicycle improvements
- Sidewalks along Route 1, Route 27, and Coogan Boulevard
- Key intersections should be addressed: 1<sup>st</sup> – Route 1/Route 27; Coogan Boulevard at Starbucks/Aquarium; Coogan Boulevard at Route 27 intersection

## OTHER COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED:

- It was suggested that the distances to destinations be included on the wayfinding/signage. *(Note: This is being done in Portland, Oregon, where the timed distance in minutes and the distances in miles are being included on bicycle route signage.)*