

**South End NRZ Meeting  
134 Woodland Avenue  
Stamford, Ct  
July 10, 2007  
Meeting Notes - DRAFT**

Urbitran Associates was invited to make a brief presentation on the Stamford Ferry Feasibility Study at a monthly meeting of the South End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone (NRZ). John Freeman chaired the meeting. About 40 people were in attendance.

Deborah Howes of Urbitran delivered a PowerPoint presentation twice because there had been confusion about the meeting's starting time and several people arrived after the initial presentation was completed. Many people stayed for the entire meeting. The presentation identified the purpose of the ferry study, what sites had been selected for study, study criteria, what sites and vessels are currently being considered and benefits of a ferry service. Additionally, a one-page handout that included an aerial map and identified potential ferry sites was distributed.

Josh Lecar, transportation planner for the City of Stamford, attended the meeting and responded to several questions.

The following is a summary of comments and questions raised by meeting attendees. Responses are in italics.

### **Session 1**

- I think the idea of a ferry is sensational. It will bring more people to Connecticut.
- Is one of the sites being considered the CL&P site? *Yes.*
- Will the chemical plant next to Antares stay in operation? *We believe so.*
- Who has the right of way in the channel, barges or other vessels? *We will look into this issue.*
- Why was Southfield Park eliminated as a site? *The roads would not accommodate traffic.*
- How much noise will a ferry make? *We won't know until a vessel is chosen but will want to minimize noise.*
- What will be the ferry's wake? *We won't know until a vessel is chosen but have identified low wake as a criteria for selecting a vessel.*
- Awhile back there was a Navy ship docked in the harbor. Are you aware of where that location was? *No.*
- Are you only running passenger into town? What about out of town? *The ferry will carry passengers in both directions.*
- Would you consider running the ferry to JFK airport? *We believe there are many difficulties associated with this destination.*

- How much wider would Washington Boulevard need to be to accommodate ferry traffic? ***We believe that the improvements proposed by Antares as part of their project will be sufficient to accommodate the potential ferry related traffic.***
- Can you tell me from an engineers/developers point of view what's new? This has been studied for 20 years. ***We will provide additional information in the final documents.***

## Session 2

- Are you considering a high speed ferry? ***Yes.***
- Who designed the ferry you showed in the presentation? ***It's a Japanese ferry.***
- What will be the ferry's fare? ***We don't know yet.***
- How do you get back from New York? ***By ferry. It will carry passengers in both directions.***
- Where would the ferry end (in NYC)? ***We're still studying it. Right now Wall Street and LaGuardia seem to be good end points.***
- What's the travel time to Wall Street? ***About 80 minutes.***
- What restrictions will the Coast Guard place at Hell's Gate and the East River? ***We understand ferry speed will need to be reduced in these areas and have factored that in to our time calculations.***
- Do ferries run in bad weather? ***Yes.***
- A high speed ferry won't be able to average a speed of 28 knots given speed restrictions in NYC. ***We believe we have calculated our speed based on periods of higher and lower speeds, varying according to conditions.***
- Does the City of Stamford approve of this project? ***Yes. It is funding the study.***
- Your presentation did not address these issues:
  - All the benefits go to Antares. Who else benefits?
  - Development at Antares (and shopping by ferry users) will draw money out of downtown Stamford
  - You didn't address gas emissions
  - The ferry would affect 8 marinas***We will address some of these issues in the final documents***
- Do you know when boat traffic in the channel is busiest? ***The study will identify the amount of traffic in the channel and the periods when it is the heaviest.***
- I'm opposed to this service because
  - It will negatively affect the environment, the people in the neighborhood
  - It won't work
- People in the South End don't own boats so we won't be affected.
- What if Antares says no to a ferry? Will the City look elsewhere? ***Antares recently told the City during its zoning hearings that it would be supportive of a ferry on its property.***
- Is the Bridgeport Ferry subsidized? ***The City of Bridgeport and the State has invested in the land staging area for the ferry. The service is operated by a private company.***
- Have any Environmental Impact Studies been done? ***Not yet.***
- Have you looked at anything outside of Stamford Harbor? ***No.***
- Does dredging need to be done at the sites you are looking at? ***Limited dredging may be needed by the bulkheads.***