

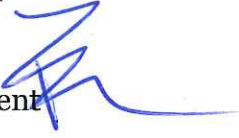


# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**TO:** James Redeker, Commissioner  
Department of Transportation

**FROM:** Ben Barnes, Secretary  
Office of Policy and Management 

**DATE:** July 11, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Impact Evaluation and Record of Decision  
(EIE/ROD) for the Union Station Parking Garage

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Based on this agency's review of the subject EIE/ROD, conducted pursuant to Section 22a-1e of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), I am herewith advising you of my finding that the document does not satisfy the requirements of the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

Specifically, Section 22a-1a-9(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) requires that a record of decision state the following:

(2) Whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted, and if not, why they were not.

For matters related to CEPA, RCSA Section 22a-1a-1 defines "environment" as "the physical, biological, social, and economic surroundings and conditions which exist within an area which may be affected by a proposed action including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, noise, objects of historic or aesthetic significance and community or neighborhood characteristics."

It is my opinion that the EIE/ROD, which was prepared by the Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and submitted to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) via a letter dated April 24, 2017, does not adequately address a number of the community and neighborhood concerns raised during last year's public comment period, nor does it adequately address certain issues raised by OPM staff during the CEPA review process.

On June 5, 2017, Mayor Harp of New Haven and I memorialized in writing the terms and conditions for advancing significant projects that benefit the City and the State, including certain actions by CTDOT that relate to the Union Station Parking Garage project (see attached).

CTDOT must address the current CEPA inadequacies by incorporating the June 5<sup>th</sup> letter into a revised ROD/EIE and providing its written commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities as outlined in said letter. The revised ROD/EIE should then be formally submitted to OPM for its review and determination of adequacy.

Please contact Bruce Wittchen (860-418-6323) if there are any questions with regard to this finding.

cc: R. Klee, DEEP  
K. Wagener, CEQ  
P. Potamianos, OPM