



## ***State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives***

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, July 22, 2021  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** This meeting was held remotely.

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Miller and Committee Member Rep. Adams. Absent was Vice Chair Roqueta and Committee Member Reps. Graziosi and Policar. Also present were Reps. de la Cruz, Watkins, and Pavia; Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development; Frank Petise, Interim Director of Transportation; Carlo Leone, Special Advisor to CT DOT Commissioner; State Representatives Matt Blumenthal and David Michel; and two members of the public.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. <a href="#">SC30.042</a>	REVIEW; Economic Development in City of Stamford. 07/06/21 – Submitted by Rep. Miller	<b>Report Made</b>

Mr. Madden reviewed the current state of Stamford's economy, and there was discussion.

- Covid effects still exist, but buildings are opening up again and unemployment is dropping down to pre-Covid numbers. Stamford is moving at a faster pace than other communities.
- The leisure/hospitality industry has taken the biggest hit in our area. However, NBC Sports has brought in 1,100 people for the Olympics, and they are being housed at several Stamford Hotels.
- The biggest change is the housing market: inventory is down and selling prices are increasing. People are still moving in from the New York area.
- There is not much room in Stamford for single family homes to be built so that means building more apartments to relieve the housing pressure.
- Expansion of childcare is important to get people back to the office.
- The commercial market is doing well. Some major companies are coming into Stamford. There have been several new leases and renewals, and some key residential building sales.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:01:00

- Several movies have been filmed in Stamford recently. During filming of *The Good Nurse* approximately \$2 million dollars was spent in the local economy. Mr. Madden's department is creating a film permit book to assist in recruiting production companies to Stamford.
- His department is looking at how to get more minority-owned, women-owned, disabled-owned and veteran-owned companies to contract with the City and supply chains.
- Stamford is looking to redefine Broad Street, and make it more inviting like Bedford and Summer Streets.
- Opportunity zones are still ongoing. The focus is mostly on companies coming in, rather than a redevelopment.

- <sup>22</sup>. [SC30.043](#) REVIEW; Effectiveness of CT Transit bus service in the City of Stamford. **Report Made**  
07/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Watkins and Stella

Reps. de la Cruz and Watkins explained that they often see nearly empty buses in their districts and perhaps the effectiveness of the bus service needs to be explored. There was then discussion.

- Perhaps smaller buses should be used on certain routes, or some routes should be eliminated.
- Mr. Leone explained that once a route is eliminated it can be very difficult to get that route back.
- Routes should not be eliminated right now as we are still experiencing effects of the Covid pandemic.
- There should be synchronization of the buses and train schedules, however Rep. de la Cruz has been told the buses take up too much room at the Transportation Center for this to happen.
- The CT Transit website can be very confusing and unclear.
- Does the CT Transit bus system contract work the same way as the trains, where they run whether the train is full or empty?
- Should bus stops be consolidated, instead of having one at every block in some areas of the City?
- At many bus stops there are no sidewalks leading up to the bus stop, and some stops have no pad.
- Mr. Leone would like to receive from the Committee a list of concerns about the bus service. Chair Miller will put together a contact list so Mr. Leone can periodically send updates and information as he gets it.
- Mr. Petise explained the bus shelters are the responsibility of the City. He would like to get a list of concerns regarding specific bus stops so he can investigate.

As there was not a quorum to vote on holding this item, it will be re-submitted to Steering next month.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:29:55S

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).