



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

**FEDERAL FUNDS FOR
NEW HAVEN-HARTFORD-SPRINGFIELD RAIL LINE
GOOD START TO GETTING LOCAL ECONOMIES ON TRACK**

---NEWS AND COMMUNITY STATEMENT---

(January 28, 2010) --- Mayor Eddie A. Perez, a long time supporter of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail line, is encouraged that Connecticut is receiving \$40 million in federal stimulus funds to jumpstart the high-speed train project.

Mayor Perez says, “This is a good first step in this long journey that has had widespread support of local elected and community leaders in this region. This rail line will help create jobs, ease traffic, lessen pollution, reduce energy use, and better connect commuters and visitors between the Elm City, the Capital City, Bradley International, and our friends and neighbors across the state line in Massachusetts. However, this stimulus money cannot be viewed as a ‘grave train of funding.’ In the long haul, this just the beginning of our comprehensive transportation efforts and the state’s commitment to help to finish the job is key to the region’s long-term vitality.”

Regional transportation is also a popular topic and common theme as Hartford develops its One City, One Plan (POCD 2020) --- the plan of conservation and development for the next 10-years. The topic is sure to resurface as Community Listening Sessions resume beginning Thursday, February 4th at 6:30 p.m. at the Metzner Recreation Center, 680 Franklin Avenue in the City’s South End. (A complete list of Community Listening Sessions will be announced separately).

You may recall last year--- in honor of National Train Week--- Mayor Perez and New Haven Mayor John DeStefano held a news conference touting the significance of commuter rail and reminded folks that they have supported this project for a decade.

Mayor Perez continues to support this effort because it would create “more feet on the street and more traffic for our businesses but not on our roadways.”

He adds, “High-speed rail means trains that travel at 110-miles-per hour. If that better connects New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, then I say all aboard and full speed ahead!”