



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

MAYOR PEREZ WANTS HARTFORD TO BE ON THE RAIL STIMULUS TRAIN RIDE TO RECOVERY

---NEWS RELEASE---

(May 11, 2009)--- Using National Train Week as a platform, Mayor Eddie A. Perez wants high-speed trains to make a stop in Hartford--- as a link between New Haven and Springfield. He says this would create jobs, increase business, and reduce energy use.

“The ‘gray train’ needs to come to New England and it needs to make a stop in Connecticut’s Capital City,” said Mayor Perez at a news conference at Hartford’s historic Union Station. “Mayor DeStefano and I have been talking about commuter rail as an economic stimulus for almost a decade. Now, we have an administration in Washington that agrees.”

President Obama recently outlined his vision for high-speed rail--- one that mirrors that of President Eisenhower’s vision for highways. \$476,000 is designated to Hartford which is the transportation hub of the state, to see how Greater Hartford can be made a bigger player in the bigger transportation picture.

“What that means for cities like Hartford is job creation, more feet on the street, and more traffic for our businesses and not our roadways. We’ll put people to work and use one-third less energy per passenger mile,” added Mayor Perez.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that was passed in February, opportunities exist for communities to compete for funds. There’s approximately \$8 billion available and Hartford would like to seek monies in the category of intercity passenger rail service.

New Haven Mayor John DeStefano, Mike Zaleski, Executive Director of the Hartford Business Improvement District, Vicki Shotland of the Greater Hartford Transit District, and Paul Mounds of Congressman John Larson’s office all stood in support of increased mass transit service. U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman issued a letter of support for such a national renaissance to take place not only in New England, but in our country.

Mayor Perez says, “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!”