

**Connecticut Fund for the Environment  
Connecticut Transportation Institute-UCONN  
Dwight Community Management Team  
Elm City Cycling  
Network for a Sustainable New Haven  
New Haven Environmental Network  
New Haven Urban Design League  
Regional Plan Association**

**Robert Orr & Associates LLC  
Ronan-Edgehill Neighborhood Assoc.  
Town Green Special Services District  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign  
West River Neighborhood Services Corp.  
Winstanley Enterprises, LLC  
Yale Medical Area Traffic Safety Group  
Yale School of Medicine**

May 27, 2008

Governor M. Jodi Rell  
Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Removal of Route 34 in New Haven**

Dear Governor Rell:

We write today as a broad coalition of community leaders, non-profit policy organizations, businesses and local elected officials to **strongly urge you to support the removal of New Haven's Route 34 connector.**

Route 34, a six lane highway which runs from I-95 to the Air Rights Garage, bisects the City of New Haven, inhibiting its growth and revitalization and creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians. The highway is underused and even during rush hours does not experience significant traffic. The City of New Haven has an ambitious vision to remove the highway, recreate the street grid, and develop housing, parks, and offices in the highway's place. We support the vision, and write to ask you to take a leadership role in helping the City and community bring the project to fruition.

There is substantial public support for the proposal. Last month the Tri-State Transportation Campaign hosted a public event in support of highway's removal. The event, headlined by John Norquist, President and CEO of the Congress for the New Urbanism and former Mayor of Milwaukee, was attended by over 125 community members, elected officials and activists. During his tenure as Mayor, Mr. Norquist oversaw a similar project to remove the Park East Freeway, a project which has created millions of dollars in downtown investment.

The removal of Route 34 fits seamlessly into your efforts for more responsible growth and transit oriented development throughout Connecticut. The more vibrant and livable our urban centers, the more likely new and current residents will choose to reside in those areas. And by focusing growth on our cities, we are more likely to protect existing open space in rural areas.

We ask that you support the removal of Route 34, and dedicate state support towards implementing the community's plan.

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Sincerely,

Mark Abraham  
Member  
**Elm City Cycling**

Robert Alpern  
Dean  
**Yale School of Medicine**

Tokunbo Anifalaje  
**West River, New Haven, Resident**

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**Alderman, Ward 7, New Haven**

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**Alderman, Ward 14, New Haven**

Carter Winstanley  
Partner  
**Winstanley Enterprises, LLC**

(Over)

Cc Commissioner Joseph F. Marie  
Deputy Commissioner Albert Martin  
State Senator Toni Harp  
State Senator Martin Looney  
State Representative Patricia Dillon  
State Representative Toni Edmonds Walker  
State Representative William R. Dyson  
State Representative Juan Candelaria  
State Representative Cameron Staples  
State Representative Robert Megna

(Over)