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# ***Panel Meeting***

of

## ASSEMBLY LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT LEGISLATIVE PANEL

*“Transportation issues concerning potential redevelopment of the Sports Complex”*

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**LOCATION:** Stadium Club  
Meadowlands Giant Stadium  
East Rutherford, New Jersey

**DATE:** April 14, 2003  
11:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS OF PANEL PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Joseph V. Doria Jr., Chairman  
Assemblyman Paul A. Sarlo  
Assemblyman Gordon M. Johnson  
Assemblywoman Rose Marie Heck  
Assemblyman John E. Rooney



**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mark J. Trease  
*Office of Legislative Services*  
*Panel Aide*

John R. McCarvill  
*Assembly Majority*  
*Panel Aide*

Jerry Traino  
*Assembly Republican*  
*Panel Aide*

***Meeting Recorded and Transcribed by***  
**The Office of Legislative Services, Public Information Office,**  
**Hearing Unit, State House Annex, PO 068, Trenton, New Jersey**

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**ASSEMBLYMAN JOSEPH V. DORIA JR. (Chairman):** Could we, everyone, please come together, take a seat. Now, there's no flag, but at these difficult times, I'd still -- which is not customary before a session -- I still think we should stand and pledge to the flag.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: We all have the lapels.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Okay. Very good.

(participants recite Pledge of Allegiance)

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

What I'd like to do is begin with a statement and ask the members of the Committee if they have any comments. Unfortunately, Assemblyman Jack Conners could not make it today, but Assemblyman Gordon Johnson, who represents the 37th District here in Bergen County, will be here. He's on his way, and we expect him shortly.

But I want to begin by thanking everyone for coming today, and hopefully, this will be the first of a number of different opportunities for discussion and hearings on the concept of mass transit to the Meadowlands and, obviously, the continuation of a need to provide mass transit here into Bergen County.

The issue of transportation options for the future is very important for the development of the Meadowlands. We all understand that. This is something that we need to continue to review and work on, as the economic development takes place here in this area and areas that are surrounded by the Meadowlands.

I want to begin by thanking, first, George Zoffinger; and the Chairman of the Sports and Exposition Authority, Carl Goldberg, for allowing

us to have the hearing here and for his hospitality today, and for all of the accommodations that have been made. So we want to thank Executive Director Zoffinger for all of his help and support. I want to, also, thank Assemblyman Sarlo for his suggestion that we hold this hearing. I think that it's an appropriate concept, and one that is very important and something that we need to continue to move upon and work upon in the future. So I want to thank Assemblyman Sarlo.

No matter what is eventually built on this site, or whether this site remains as it presently is, the need for improved transportation in this area is essential. We know, presently, the problems that exist, the traffic jams that exist when there are various events, whether at the stadium or the arena. We know the traffic on the Turnpike. We know the traffic that exists on Route 120. We have to address the situation. The situation is not getting better. The issue of traffic throughout the State of New Jersey is getting, as the years go on, worse. We need to understand that, and we need to deal with the concept of mass transit.

The reality is that we can't continue to build lane upon lane of highway. We need to come up with a system that will move people from Point A to Point B in the most expeditious and convenient manner, and the least costly manner. And so, we need to look at something beyond the traditional highways of the past, as we move into the 21st century.

We have had a great deal of success with the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail. Unfortunately, as my colleagues in Bergen County point out, it's still only Hudson, but it's getting to Bergen.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: It's moving. It's moving.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: We need to make sure that it gets to Bergen. It will get there, yes. We'll get there. We're moving. MLS-2 is moving towards completion and we will be in North Bergen, right on the Bergen County line, at the end of MLS-2. And working with our Congressman -- Congressman Rothman is here and we're going to ask him to testify -- we, hopefully, will get the funding for MLS-3 with the refunding of the ISTEA legislation this summer. But it's been a success. Light rail has been a success. It's proven to be a success, and we need to continue to make sure that it will be a success for the future.

We have to move people out of their cars. We need to create a transportation system that takes people where they need to go in the most expeditious and least costly manner. Light rail has generated economic development. If you look at the Jersey City waterfront, you look at Goldman Saks Building, you look at all the new homes, when we take the ride along there -- we've done it with Rose, with Paul, with John -- we're all very proud of what has been accomplished in the past. We're proud of the fact that the Light Rail Panel, first, under the leadership of Assemblywoman Rose Heck, and now, under my leadership, has been a part of that process. I have the privilege of serving on the Light Rail Panel, as has Rose, since its inception.

We need to begin to look at how we can continue to guarantee economic development into the Meadowlands area with the proposed projects that have been recommended and with those that will be coming on line, such as the Secaucus Transfer. We need to start determining how we can move people, not only for recreational purposes, but for the creation and availability of jobs. We have a large catchment area in Hudson County and eastern Bergen

County, which can then come here to work. So not only will we have economic development, we'll have jobs. But we need to move the people to the jobs in the least difficult manner and the most expeditious way.

That is what's important here. That's the reason why we need to understand that what happens in the Meadowlands will impact upon Passaic, Essex, Bergen, Hudson County, and all of North Jersey in the end. That's key. Light rail will not only help to provide the access to the sports venues, but also to the business venues, the commercial venues, the retail venues that will be created here in this area and already exist in places like Harmon Meadows. That is what we're here, today, to do.

We have a commitment to the concept of light rail and mass transit. We have a commitment to this area. We have a commitment to this area of northern New Jersey, Hudson, Bergen, Passaic, Essex County. So we're here today to get input from the public as a first step towards the process. And that process will be, hopefully, to develop a mass transit system for this part of the state.

So I want to thank you all for coming.

I'd like to ask the members of the panel for comments.

Assembly Sarlo.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to host this panel here this afternoon. I also want to thank George Zoffinger for, also, being so gracious to allow us to host this here.

I represent the Meadowlands district, and I'm proud to represent the Meadowlands district. The very important people who are sitting here



before us are the stakeholders of what's going to happen and what has happened in the Meadowlands. But you know, we've talked for many years, and we have one of the greatest sports complexes in the world here. And always, the one knock we've always had is, we were always missing the mass transit component.

Let's not focus on what we should have done or what we could have done. Let's focus in on going forward. We have a great opportunity before us, with the redevelopment of the arena site, and some of the redevelopment of the Paterson Plank Road Corridor, and some of the other economic development that, hopefully, will go on around it to help stimulate this economy. Let us all come together.

In this first session, I hope to be a brain-storming session for the stakeholders here today. Let's hear your ideas. Let's hear potential logistics of getting rail in here, whether it's light rail or whether it's heavy rail. Let's hear about potential funding sources. We all know that's going to be the most critical issue -- is where the dollars are going to come from. But we need to start, and we need to start immediately.

And as the Chairman said, I hope to have these sessions continue. Maybe two months from now we can come back with Transit taking a lot of the testimony that they have received here today and putting some pen to paper and seeing some concepts become a reality. We cannot allow another moment to go by. We need to seize the opportunity.

Our Chairman of the Sports and Exposition Authority and George Zoffinger, both Carl Goldberg and George Zoffinger, have done a tremendous job in bringing that process to where it is today, and they're working on a developer's agreement. But let's create a mass transit component to the

Meadowlands, not in a vacuum, let's create it in such a manner that it's going to benefit the entire region and stimulate economic opportunities here in South Bergen.

I look forward to hearing a lot of good ideas today. We're going to, as a panel, hopefully continue to serve as a conduit to help facilitate this process, to keep everybody moving forward and keep all the stakeholders engaged.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much, Assemblyman Sarlo.

Assemblyman Johnson has joined us, and we welcome him.

I'd like to now ask -- Assemblywoman Heck, would you like to make some comments?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: The meetings in Bergen have taken place over the years. We are not in a vacuum. We came into Bergen County Administration Building with County Executive Pat Schuber, and maybe there were a half dozen people who chose to come to those meetings. It seems that more attention is being paid to us as the Hudson-Bergen Line moves closer to Bergen. But remember that Bergen was always a part of this plan. I want to recognize the fact that this is, again, part of Tom Kean's circle of mobility. And Joe, and Alex DeCroce, and I worked with our former Congressman, Bob Rowe, to put things together, and trying to get all that money together. And, of course, Steve, you have been an integral part of our transportation, and I want to thank you for all that you've done. And I'm putting more of a responsibility on you,

because of your new position. We need more money, Steve. (laughter) Much more money.

Again, we've had the plans, and we've had them since day one, beginning with Commissioner Frank Wilson. He had the plan for HBLRT to come into the Meadowlands. But let's remember costs are involved, and environmental issues are involved, and we have to take them all into account as we move ahead. And we, also, must take into consideration the heavy rail systems that we have, and how quickly we can move that mass transportation into the Meadowlands.

I will say, again, what I have said for years and at the beginning of the RFPs, etc.: To me, no development should begin in the Meadowlands -- new development -- until we have mass transportation piece in place, and no ground breaking should take place until we either have mass transportation simultaneously or prior to any new development.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Assemblyman Johnson, would you like to make any comments?

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: I'll just make a brief comment. I don't want to be redundant. We are here today. We know the importance of this project, and I believe we all know the importance of a mass transit system connecting this project to the rest of Bergen County and the metropolitan area. I just want to say that we have to ensure that this light rail, whether it be a light rail or heavy rail, this rail spur must be an intricate part of this project. We need the funding to ensure that happens. It's forward thinking. It's smart thinking.

I'd like to thank George Zoffinger, and Mr. Goldberg, and Congressman Rothman, and everyone here, actually, because your input is vitally important to help us determine how we're going to do this and make it a complete package that's good for everyone.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Assemblyman Rooney.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

I'm here for very selfish reasons. I think, in 1977, I served on a first committee -- and I think Al Cafiero was there -- Northern Valley Transit Coordination Committee, and opened my eyes to, basically, passenger transit, which had left us in the Northern valley. I live up in the Northern valley, in Northvale. There's two ways of getting mass transit back again. One would have been the West Shore Line, which we had as passenger service. And to Congressman Rowe's credit -- I want to thank you. You had the foresight, back when they discontinued the service, to maintain the right-of-way for passenger service on the West Shore Line. Unfortunately, your colleagues in New York didn't have your foresight. They didn't maintain that right-of-way. We have no right-of-way for passenger service.

We see the example of CSX. I say this for the benefit of Dennis McNerny, our County Executive. We see the example of Florida with CSX. Florida tried to reinstate passenger service. CSX has fought them all the way, and for all intents and purposes, they'll never get their passenger service back. That's what will happen if the West Shore Line is continued. We will never get

passenger service back, because it makes no sense if we don't have the component in New York.

The reason I'm here is, I want to see passenger service brought back to the Northern valley, and the only way to do it is a light rail extension of -- from Tenafly up to the Northern valley on the Northern Line. This would hook up with the Hudson, almost Bergen, Line that we're talking about today. I've heard some rumors that certain people are not in favor of continuing a Northern Line or even going to Tenafly on the Northern Line. Now that's absolutely wrong. I will fight that tooth and nail to make sure that component gets in.

And the other thing I'd suggest to our Congressman, is that if we look at that Northern Line, and continuing, not to Northvale, but into New York state -- up to the Route 303 drive-in, at least, because there's a lot of acreage up there -- we would have a bistate component that would make it a lot easier for funding. I know Joe has heard this before--

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: I was just going to say, John--

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: This is the first time that I've used this in Bergen County.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: The problem is we're here to talk about the Meadowlands, not the Northern--

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: I know. I know we are.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: I mean, so--

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: We're here to talk about light rail, I thought, and--

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Well, but, specifically, for the -- at this time, for the Meadowlands. I mean, your concept, obviously, is something that

we should discuss, but I think there's an appropriate time to do that. But at this point--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: We should have a hearing just for John.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: We should have a hearing just on that issue.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: And I do suggest, for the players who are here today, to take a look at that, think about it, because we really need to talk about it. The one thing is that, as far as we're looking at -- the West Shore Line is a waste of money. And this is my point right now: If we look at the EIS for the West Shore Line, we may do all of that money. It will detract from other projects, such as bringing the line here into the Meadowlands. So what I'm saying to you is that, let's kill the West Shore Line right now, or in the very near future. Let's put our eggs in the basket of the Meadowlands, the Northern Line, and work together. Because if we're going in 10 different directions, especially in Bergen County, Bergen County has to come together and decide what they want to do. You can't look at every project and give them equal consideration or dollars.

That's my point today, and I'll end with that.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: We appreciate the comments of Assemblyman Rooney, but I just want to re-emphasize: Today, the purpose of the hearing is, specifically, to discuss the public transit options for the Meadowlands, specifically whether or not the light rail would be appropriate,

and other options that could exist for the development of the future and the present needs.

I'd like to, now, ask Congressman Rothman -- we appreciate your patience, and we thank you for being here. As Assemblywoman Heck so well pointed out, you will be playing a major role in the refunding of ISTEPA and all the funding for the State of New Jersey in your new committee assignment. We wish you well in that, and we thank you for being here. And I turn it over to you, Congressman Rothman.

**U. S. REPRESENTATIVE STEVEN ROTHMAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Before I begin, I think it is appropriate, since our troops are in the field in harm's way -- we've already lost some soldiers -- if we would stand and have one moment of silence for our fallen troops and for our troops in the field fighting to preserve our freedom.

(moment of silence)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, let me thank you. In particular, let me thank Assemblyman Paul Sarlo for inviting me, on behalf of the Committee. This is Assemblyman Sarlo's legislative district, and he and I have had many conversations, as have a number of people at the table. But Assemblyman Sarlo, in particular, asked if we couldn't put together this forum to examine the various alternatives that would be available to bring rail into the Meadowlands. And I want to thank Assemblyman Sarlo for being so instrumental in calling this meeting together.

Of course, I want to thank Assemblyman Rooney, Mayor Rooney, my friend from a long time, who has devoted many years of public service to the

people of this county and to his town -- thank you -- and for this issue. This is my friend, Assemblywoman Rose Heck, of course, who's been a leader in this area of transportation and others, as well, and served our people very well. And, of course, my friend, Gordon Johnson, who I have known for a great many years in various capacities and is now doing such an outstanding job representing the 37th district.

And of course, you, Mr. Chairman, you are one of our mentors in public service in all the good works you have done, not only for your community, but throughout the State. And it's a privilege to appear before you, Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: I also want to acknowledge the presence of George Zoffinger, who is, along with Carl Goldberg-- They have done an outstanding job in putting forth and executing a process of integrity and thoughtfulness in choosing a plan that they believe will work for this region. I also want to thank him for his hospitality in having us here. Then, of course, our Bergen County Executive, Dennis McNerny, who is here. Dennis has a tremendous amount of ability, and intelligence, and passion for the people of Bergen County and this region. I'm delighted to see him here. I believe my friend Mayor Fred Dressel is here, representing the Meadowlands. Mayors, Freddie and I go way back, when I used to be young and I was a young mayor. Then, of course, the Executive Director of the Meadowlands Commission, Bob Ceberio, who has been absolutely extraordinary in his leadership and in his professional talents in reshaping the vision of the Meadowlands to comport with the changing times, the changing public attitudes that are now a matter of



consensus, I believe, in Northern New Jersey -- which, perhaps, were symbolized in the name change from the New Jersey Development Commission, Meadowlands Development Commission to the Hackensack Meadowlands Commission.

Of course, I think George Warrington is, also, here. I was advised that he's here, and welcome to George, whose leadership in New Jersey Transit is vitally important. By the way, I just spoke to your colleague, George, David Gunn, at an Amtrak hearing down in Washington, and you got out at the right time. (laughter)

And finally, just to acknowledge one of my mentors and, really, one of the true founders of the whole transportation movement in New Jersey and, in fact, in the modern era, former Congressman Bob Rowe, the former chairman of the House Transportation Committee. He still remains an incredible resource of information and wisdom and leadership. And he is so -- continues to be highly regarded throughout not only the State of New Jersey, but the hill in Washington, for his leadership.

When I first had the opportunity to speak with George Zoffinger and Carl Goldberg, and others in leadership, with regards to the Meadowlands project, I reminded them of the adage of physicians: First, do no harm. First, make sure that the development project, or rather the redevelopment project at the arena site, does not make the transportation situation worse, does not negatively impact in any way the quality of life of the people of Northern New Jersey. That's at the very least. Do no harm.

Of course, the next step is to use all of the wonderful options and opportunities that are available to enhance the quality of life of the people of

Northern New Jersey, not just in terms of the environment, but job opportunities, and rateables, and entertainment, and recreation, and business opportunities as well. But first, do no harm.

I think, to some degree, that's what we're talking about here with regards to mass transit. Trying to make sure that as well-designed and as thoughtful a project and a redevelopment agreement as we hope will come out of this, of the process for the arena, whether the Nets and Devils stay -- and I certainly hope the Nets and Devils stay in Bergen County. That we can help the cause by trying to brainstorm and choose among the various options that have appeared before us today, and will appear before us in the near future, with regard to bringing mass transit to the Meadowlands in order to do a couple of things. Obviously, to reduce the impact on the local roads and, also, to give the opportunity to share in the jobs and business and recreational aspects of the project that will be available to people outside of our region.

There are, I must say -- I think we should have further discussion on rail in Bergen. That is not the subject of this hearing today. I think it is known by many that when I first got to Congress, with former Chairman Rowe's help, I got included, in my first year in Congress, authorization so that a rail component in Bergen County would be considered as part of the urban core, which saved us many steps. It did not choose amongst the three projects. It simply allowed for all three to be included as part of the urban core, so that later on, if and when the people of the region and the leaders of the region chose one of those options, we will have saved many, many steps. And since then, I've actually gotten several millions of dollars for design and other aspects to the rail components in Bergen County, again, which could accommodate one or more

of the three lines without choosing, at the moment, which line would be the best.

Of course, now there's a new element to be considered. We have a new challenge. If the old challenges were how to bring light rail or rail into Bergen County up from the Hudson Light Rail, now we have the challenge of handling the mass transit needs of the new Continental Arena redevelopment properly. And we'll have to determine whether there are sufficient funds to do all of these things at the same time -- extend the light rail in one direction, or not, into Bergen, and/or bring rail, light or heavy, or light and heavy, into the Meadowlands. Will we be able to do all of that, given the present and near-term projected fiscal situation that New Jersey faces and that our Federal government faces? And if not, if realistically, as people passionate about the well-being of Northern New Jersey, and doing the right thing by the environment and the quality of life of our people, if we realize that we can't do it all at once or in the near term, meaning the next five or 10 years, then we're going to have to make some hard choices.

We're going to have to prioritize and say, if we can put together from a variety of sources -- whether they be the Federal government, the State Government, New Jersey Transit, New Jersey DOT, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, developers, redevelopers, maybe even the Olympic Committee -- if we can only put together a certain sum of money, but that sum of money won't cover all the projects we've been dreaming of, then we're going to have to choose which project or projects we do first.

Having said that, we're here to talk about one of the challenges and one of the passions that we have. That is the desire to bring mass transit into

the Meadowlands. I have had many, many discussions with many, many experts and lay people, and I'm looking forward to having many more. But at the moment, there appear to be two options that are worth considering for bringing mass transit into the Meadowlands. One of them is to bring a commuter-rail hub and spur into the Meadowlands. That would allow people to travel south along the Pascack Valley Line, the Main Line, and the Bergen Line directly to the Meadowlands; or to stop at a hub and switch -- an intermodal site -- to a shuttle train that they would take, then, into the Continental Arena/Meadowlands Complex.

A new technology, the Colorado Railcar, also known as a Diesel Multiple Unit, offers some promise for acting as that shuttle or being the sole train -- S-O-L-E (laughter) -- on which passengers would travel -- maybe it works both ways, probably (laughter) -- would travel, because it is self-propelled and can operate on existing commuter and freight rail tracks.

There's another option, and that is extending the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail System into the Meadowlands Complex itself. Its technology -- forgive the pun -- has a great track record of success here in New Jersey. And with a certain amount of expense, it certainly could be brought into the Meadowlands. In addition, the light rail could also be brought around the Meadowlands Complex to the intermodal site on the far side of the complex, the western side of the complex, where it could attach -- where it could be then reached by the Bergen Line and the Main Line.

So, under that second option, we could have all the people who would enjoy the complex, either as employees at the complex or as participants in the recreation and business activities, taking the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail

directly into the Meadowlands to work or enjoy the project. And then we could also have a good part of Passaic and Bergen County people, by accessing the Bergen and the Pascack Valley Line, come down to the intermodal site on the west side of the Meadowlands project and take a little light rail shuttle trip into the complex also. Those seem to be two of the best options that I'm presently aware of.

The cost: The first would cost probably \$100 to \$200 million, first option. The second option could cost up to between \$400 and \$500 million. In choosing the right option for rail into the Meadowlands, we have to think about where the money would come from. And if, at the end of the day, after all of our examinations of the various sources of money -- Federal, State, local, county, etc., Port Authority of New York and New Jersey -- there is only going to be a certain sum of money, considerable as it will be, available for rail in Northern New Jersey for the next 10 or 15 years, do we spend it all on this project in the Meadowlands, or do we spend it all on the project outside of the Meadowlands? Can we do both? Can we afford -- will there be the resources to do both? Those are the unknowns.

In the end, my guess is that we're not going to have the money to fulfill every one of our dreams about having rail available for all the areas that need and deserve rail in Northern New Jersey. So we'll have some hard decisions that lie ahead. But I pledge to you, as I know you know -- I hope you know -- that as the Congressman for this area, as a person born and raised in Bergen County, who is passionate about the quality of life for the people of this region -- as I know the people on this panel are as well -- as a person who wants to make sure that the redeveloped arena site is done properly, so that when it

overlooks the 8,400-acre environmental park -- that Bob Ceberio, the Meadowlands Commission, Commissioner Bass Levin, and a few of the rest of us are, with your help, putting together -- that they can enjoy the view of our environmental park without being tied up in too much traffic.

I do have the privilege of now being on the House Appropriation Subcommittee on Transportation. And as I did before I got on this Committee, I've gotten lots of money for Hudson-Bergen Light Rail and our rail projects, and our road projects and the rest, to improve the quality of life here. This is a blessing for our region to be able to be on this new Subcommittee and, believe me, I will make the most of it for the people of this region.

I remain available, as always, and am accessible to the Committee and to the individual members of the Committee to discuss any and all aspects of this. I, again, thank Assemblyman Sarlo for asking Assemblyman Doria to put this hearing together. I think that this is critically important.

I want to thank my distinguished, dear friend, Chairman Doria, who I have such a tremendous regard for, and all of my dear friends on this panel for having me and allowing me to participate.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much, Congressman. I want to thank you, again, for taking time out of your schedule to be here, and for all that you've been able to accomplish in the past, and the help that you've given in making the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail a reality. So we thank you for your commitment and for your knowledge.

Anyone have any questions?

Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: Yes, definitely.

I think you can hear me from here.

Basically, I had asked the question, when the Meadowlands projects became a topic here, upstairs at the Ninth Floor, and I'd asked questions about the Meadowlands Arena. And you said many, many times, the Meadowlands or the Continental Arena, there's no guarantee that there will be an arena here, according to that project that was selected. I asked George Zoffinger, plain as day, I said, "What happens to the Continental Arena if the Newark Arena is built?" And he told me flat out, he said, "If the Newark Arena is built, basically you can't have competitors within 12 miles of each other." He pointed out the window, and said, "They're going to be right down the road." I said, "Well, you schedule the events for the arena, so would you schedule them here?" I don't have any problem with the Nets or the Devils leaving, and I said that at the time.

The Continental Arena has been a main focus of this area for many, many years. I've talked to people in my district. They love coming to the Continental Arena for the concerts, for the ice show, for the circus, etc. I don't think they're going to go to Newark.

Now, having said that, what I'm saying is -- again, I'm selfish. If there's no arena here, if there are no events here, and this is just a commercial development, I don't see spending dollars, whether they be Federal dollars, State dollars, in a project that's a commercial development. If we have a sports complex here, if we have concerts here that are public events that people will come to, I have no problem putting those dollars in.

So, Congressman Rothman, I'm telling you that you're going to get one hell of you-know-what from me if we start spending money for a

commercial development to bring people into this complex. I don't want to see that, and especially if you're telling me also, not in so many words, that my project, that my people in the Northern valley are going to suffer and not get any mass transit as a result of transferring these dollars to this commercial venture. I will work with you to every extent I possibly can if this is a public-- If we have the arena, if we have the sports teams, no problem whatsoever. And we'll talk on the Northern Valley Line. But I'm just asking for your comments on that.

REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: Well, I'm sorry if you misunderstood what I said. I have the privilege of being a United States Congressman. I am not the governor of the State of New Jersey, nor am I the head of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority or the chairman, nor am I a member of the State Legislature, as you are. My understanding is that a great many of these decisions will be made by you, as a member of the State Legislature, the governor, and the various statewide parties, and that my role is -- includes bringing money to the table for the choices that the people of the region and the leaders of the region have settled upon.

I will tell you this, because it's in my nature: I will weigh in with my own views as to what I believe are the right choices in the best interests of the people of this region. It is the region I represent, the 650,000 people of the 9th Congressional District elected me to guard their interests as best I can. But in the end, this will be a decision for a variety of people to make, and institutions -- the governor, the State Legislature, the Sports and Exposition Authority folks, and to some degree, the funding provided by the Congress. But you will know my interests, as well.



I think as a general rule, as a general matter, if we have to choose where to spend our precious Federal dollars, we want to spend it on people. We don't want to necessarily spend all of our capital providing for business if, on the other hand, we're denying a project or projects that could enhance the quality of life of working people, or whoever the people are in our region. But as I say, we don't know, yet, all the facts. We don't know yet what this development will look like, whether there will be a performing arts component to the redevelopment of the arena site.

I certainly agree with you that there should be a performing arts center forum as part of the redevelopment project, and I have made that known to various people, the governor, and my friends George and Carl. But in the end, that's just my opinion, and there are others who will provide their opinion.

I hope the Devils and Nets don't leave. Again, I have kids. We love to go to the arena for the ice shows and the concerts and the ball games and the hockey games, and it's wonderful to have that there. If the performing arts component is smaller or different, we still may all come to the conclusion there's enough, even though it's different, enough to have us invest our money, taxpayers money, there. Perhaps there's a baseball stadium there that provides another recreational aspect that didn't exist there, and we'll have to find out.

But I do agree with your general thesis, that it shouldn't all be spent to allow for the profit-making of business, although that's a very important thing. Not only does it provide jobs for our people, they pay rateables and make the quality of life, in large part, possible for the people of the State. But I think we have a lot more facts to gather before we come to conclusions about

which project is the best to invest our money in, or whether we can afford to only do one, or, perhaps, maybe we can do more than one at the same time.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Assemblywoman Heck.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: You spoke of quality of life before, and I hope you agree with me, that whether or not there is development here at the Meadowlands, there is definitely a need for mass transportation in the Meadowlands' region.

REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: I surely do, and that's why I'm here. That is why I -- several days after the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority announced their selection of the Xanadu Project, several days after the announcement, I asked to meet with George Zoffinger and Carl Goldberg and George Warrington and others, and the Bergen County planners, Bergen County Executive, to make sure that they provided me with their first glimpse at what they believed should be included in terms of mass transit into the Meadowlands. The reason why I did it right away was because the deadline for the new T-21, the new five-year Federal authorization, was, literally, coming due in a handful of additional days.

As soon as they made the decision, I called a meeting together, and I have included within my request, that has now been submitted for several months as part of the five-year Federal authorization request for transportation moneys, money in a generic sense for rail into the Meadowlands. Because I agree with you, Assemblywoman Heck, that for the quality of life of the people of the region, we need mass transit in Bergen County, including in the Meadowlands. The challenge for elected officials will be, if we don't have all the money we need to meet all of the needs at the same time, which ones or one

do we do first and to what extent. And that will be our challenges, as elected officials.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: And you know I'll be meeting with you to project my thoughts in that area--

REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: I know you surely will.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: --not only in the Meadowlands, but beyond.

REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: Looking forward to it, Rose.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much, Congressman Rothman.

REPRESENTATIVE ROTHMAN: Thank you, Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Next, I'd like to call up the Executive Director of the Sports and Exposition Authority, George Zoffinger; and the Executive Director of New Jersey Transit, George Warrington.

I want to, again, thank George Zoffinger for his hospitality--

**G E O R G E R . Z O F F I N G E R:** You're welcome.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: --and for allowing us to hold the hearing here, and for the great job that he and Carl Goldberg are doing with the Sports and Exposition Authority. And to thank Executive Director Warrington, also, for the job that is being done with the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail, at the present time, and the successes that we've had there -- I know a very positive impact upon the community of Bayonne and Jersey City, and now Hoboken. The project has been one that's moved quickly and expeditiously, and all of us are very happy with-- So I'd like to turn it over to the both of them for their statements and any comments.

MR. ZOFFINGER: I'm going to give my esteemed colleague some water here, and tell you that we are very excited to be here, jointly, together today. And thank you, Mr. Chairman, and also, all of the members of the Committee for hearing us. If you read the papers over the weekend, you realize that I now know Mike Tyson, so don't disagree with me. (laughter)

We are very excited to speak a little bit about our views with regard to the alternatives on mass transit. But I'd just like to begin by saying that, since 1971, the sports complex has really flourished into one of the largest economic engines in -- certainly in the northern part of the state, but certainly in the whole State of New Jersey. We have, probably, six million visitors that come here each year to see everything from two pro-football teams, the ice hockey, the NBA basketball, the MetroStars in soccer, and the concerts and family shows that have been mentioned here before. And that economic engine was really developed with a great deal of vision.

But the one place that we probably missed the boat, frankly, is that we didn't bring mass transit to this side at that time. Because today, as we've heard from even the Congressman's comments, and certainly other comments that have been made in the past, we have a situation where it will be much more costly and is much more difficult to accomplish than had we done it at that time.

The latest addition to the Meadowlands site is the proposed Xanadu development. That is a \$1.2 billion project that will create, approximately, 19,000 permanent jobs and 21,000 construction jobs over the next six years. That's a tremendous amount of development. It will produce, probably, north of \$860 million in revenue to the State of New Jersey.

We're very proud of the fact that we went through a process that involved not only a great deal of integrity, but also a great deal of public input with regard to that project, and in particular, input from the people that are the legislators and mayors and council people in the Bergen County area.

This is also a challenge for us because, at the end of the day, none of us will be pleased if the Xanadu development and the other additions that we'll be making at the Sports Authority -- or the changes that we make at the Sports Authority result in us having more problems with regard to the transportation area, or any other area, in terms of the quality-of-life issues that were mentioned by the Committee members. And we wholeheartedly support and will be involved with making sure that that does not happen, and that this development is something that, when we look back on it 25 years from now, we'll say that those people really did their homework and did a good job in terms of assessing this, and we're very proud to have it as a development.

Throughout the proposal process, one of the main areas that we acknowledged -- and I will reiterate it, today, to the Committee -- one of the main areas that we acknowledged was the need to deal with the transportation to and from this site. With six million visitors that we have today, plus the projected visitors that could come from the Xanadu development, we need to do something, in terms of a united front among all of the people in the northern part of the state, to make sure that this transportation need is addressed.

As the Committee knows, we have done a good deal of background work to try to make sure that, in the case of the developer, that a significant amount of money was made available by the private developer toward the transportation needs. And part of the proposal of the Xanadu proposal is for

\$65 million to come from the developer for transportation needs and infrastructure needs. We think that is a very important part of the decision-making process from our standpoint and, also, one that is important to this committee and to the region.

I'd like to just say that, from the standpoint of the Sports Authority, I want this Committee to know that we are not sitting by and, as we negotiate the developer's agreement, we're not sitting by and doing nothing with regard to this transportation issue. As we rightfully should do, we are involved and engaged on a daily -- almost certainly weekly, but almost daily basis with some aspect of the transportation plans that come into this area. We've had tremendous cooperation from New Jersey Transit -- and you'll hear from George in a second; from the Bergen County Executive's Office and his Planning Department; from the Congressman -- he mentioned the meeting that we had with regard to transportation just a couple of days after the announcement on February 12; from the New Jersey Turnpike Board and its Chairman, Joe Simunovich, who has been very much involved in discussions with us; with the Meadowlands Commission and Bob Ceberio -- we've heard -- and his staff who have been working with us; and from a number of outside parties that have an interest in rail into the Meadowlands and have an interest in this development.

We have also retained the services of Edwards and Kelsey -- in consultation with New Jersey Transit, the county, the Meadowlands Commission -- to help us in evaluating the transportation needs and how we're going to deal with those needs. So we think that we have taken a very, very proactive approach, and tend to continue to do that, to make sure that all of the

concerns that have been raised by not only this Committee, but other people in the region, are addressed and are dealt with in a forthright and in a straight basis.

Over the next several months, we'll work closely with my colleague George Warrington, and people at New Jersey Transit; we'll work closely with Bergen County and the County Executive and his staff; with the Meadowlands Commission to do two things: Number one, we'll be performing a detailed ridership analysis of the Meadowlands/Xanadu development proposal itself, and how it works in conjunction with the other facilities that we have at this site, including the racetrack and Giant Stadium. We anticipate a greater utilization to this site will require us to be creative and innovative in terms of trying to bring rail service to the site. And then, we're going to access -- and we've been doing this on a regular basis thus far -- we're going to access and evaluate the different proposals and the alignments that can be made with regard to bringing service to the site. And we'll come out with what our preferences are, and I'm going to share a little bit about where we stand on that today. But most importantly, we will then, I think, be able to have a consensus among all of the groups -- and, hopefully, all the people that represent us in both the Congress and in the Assembly and in the Senate -- to have a joint effort to work together toward achieving our goal, which for all of us is to make sure that the people of Bergen County have an economic engine that creates jobs, and it's an economic engine that we can get to without being too disruptive.

So we think that what we're doing will have a tremendous benefit to the region, economically. We think that we are on top of it in terms of

dealing with the issue. We certainly know the concerns that everybody has, and we think that we'll be able to come up with proposals that will make sense.

Now, let me just say -- with regard to some of the comments that have been made about where money should come from, or when money should come, and where it fits in with economic development -- I have been involved in almost my entire career with economic development in one form or another. As you know, I'm also the Chairman of the New Brunswick Development Corporation. And in New Brunswick -- if you come to New Brunswick today, you can see a tremendous amount of economic development that has taken place. And we've had the same types of issues, and have dealt with those issues in a forthright manner and have been successful. The idea of sitting back and doing nothing until we have an exact plan will never work. We cannot do that and still have economic development. The idea that you would not pay any money or raise any money from any Federal, State, or local political affiliation to, as Assemblyman Rooney said before -- because it was a private development, is also not the answer.

Nineteen thousand people will come here and work. Nineteen thousand people that will need to get to work. And we have an obligation to make sure that they can do that without being clogged on the roads. And so we need to be a little bit more creative than just saying, "Sit back and wait until something is concrete in terms of this development." We've got to work together as a group to try to accomplish this or we'll end up with the same situation that we had in the '70s, which is not getting rail here and not being successful in our endeavors. And the money is there. Frankly, if the State of New Jersey can spend a billion dollars for a rail line from Camden to Trenton,



which some consultants tell me, today, has got to be one of the most inefficient lines that's ever been built, we certainly can find whatever -- \$150 million, \$200 million -- to bring rail service where we're going to have 19,000 additional jobs. We have six million visitors a year, and we've got to find a way to do that.

We think, at the Authority, from the discussions that we've had, that the concentration should be on heavy rail off of the Bergen, Passaic -- Pascack Valley Lines; that it should be done in conjunction with a station and Encap, and access being on a spur off of that heavy rail line. We think that the county engineers agree with us on that point. I'll let them speak for themselves. I think that New Jersey Transit will be looking closely at that alternative. So I think, from our standpoint, that's the area that we should pursue, and we'll work with the Committee, and with anybody else that wants to, on accomplishing that.

Let me just close by saying that we deeply appreciate the interest that all of you have shown in this process. We do need the support. And once we do reach a conclusion in terms of something that is a consensus way to go forward, we're going to need both political parties, the Assembly, the Senate, the Congress, as well as the administrative branch of the government, to accomplish our goal.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much, Executive Director Zoffinger.

I have to agree with the comments you make as it relates to -- no matter what, we need to have some form of public transportation to bring the workers here and to guarantee the economic development. It's ironic that when

this complex was built the public transportation was not a part of it. Unfortunately, we've lived with that for, now, almost 30 years. So I want to agree with you and commend you on that.

Now I'll turn it over to Executive Director Warrington, from New Jersey Transit.

**GEORGE WARRINGTON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

As you know, I was born in Bayonne, and I grew up in Ridgefield Park, just a stone's throw from here, and have watched for 30 years, as George said, a lot of discussion occur about transit access to the Meadowlands -- but never a consensus or the concept being given a real lift. As you know, timing in life is everything. The good news is, it feels like there is, for the first time in 30 years, genuine interest in developing consensus about the concept of transit serving the Meadowlands and the broader Meadowlands community here. We are about doing the right kind of planning work, concept planning and planning work, very cooperatively, with George and his staff and with Bergen County, to develop the best possible services, serving the maximum number of markets, both as an origin and as a destination around this specific complex and the broader area.

And I will tell you that we are using a handful of guiding principles to, sort of, govern that planning work, which we'll be deeply into with George and his folks, and Bergen County, and the HMDC over the next four to six months. The principles revolve around a couple of concepts. One is connectivity. We believe it is important to build off New Jersey's existing, statewide, literally statewide, commuter rail system in order access and tap into multiple markets all across the state.

Number two, frequency. As is the case with transit, generally, success generally flows from frequency. And we need to design a service that provides the right kind of frequency to serve multiple markets at multiple times. Flexibility is clearly important as well. And future opportunities and needs must also be, potentially, accommodated and protected so that we don't close out options over the longer haul, particularly with respect to not only today's development plan, but potential development plans over the next 20 and 30 years. And obviously, as is the case, increasingly, with all of the investments we make commercially, selecting a plan that offers the most benefit to the most markets -- primarily translating into riders or trips or, for us, customers -- but, also, for the right cost, with a concern not only about the up-front capital investment cost, but the day-to-day operating and maintenance costs associated with the system.

We believe, and I think George said this a few moments earlier, we believe, right now, the best opportunity to accomplish these goals, for providing this kind of service, is to build off the existing statewide passenger rail network that includes lines on two sides of this current complex in East Rutherford. To the west of this complex, we have the Pascack Valley Line that comes down from northern Bergen County, through Hackensack, to a junction with the Bergen County Line. The line is located less than one mile from the western edge of the existing property. To the south of this complex is the Bergen County Line that serves northwest Bergen County and slices through the county to the southeast, passing just south of the Sports Authority's property. And most importantly, the Secaucus Transfer Station complex, which is the nexus of the entire commuter rail system in New Jersey, is located about five miles to the

southeast of the complex and can be accessed from either of the two lines I just referenced, adjacent to the Sports Authority property.

This transfer station is going to provide travelers with the opportunity to connect with, as I said earlier, all rail lines serving the northern portion of the state. And by northern portion of the state, I mean all points in the State of New Jersey from Trenton to Ocean County north, and is only about a seven-minute ride from midtown Manhattan to the Secaucus Transfer site. And I presume that, ultimately, a significant portion of the market that any development, here, is going to need to tap into is not only the midtown market but the lower Manhattan market as well, which is well-served by PATH to Hoboken, to a potential service to Secaucus as well.

Using the existing statewide rail network, in addition to reducing overall project costs, will result in faster project delivery and avoid or minimize new construction in what we all know is a significantly environmentally sensitive area. Also, using these existing rail lines, the train service will be able to go to Hoboken, where travelers can access the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail Line, PATH service to midtown or lower Manhattan, as well as ferry service touching many points on both the East Side and the West Side of Manhattan.

We believe linking the planning for access to the complex with an idea that Bergen and Passaic County have recently championed -- to use the present freight line, owned by the NYS and W, for a local rail transit distributor using an emerging new technology that the Congressman referenced earlier, called Diesel MUs -- also holds some promise, ultimately. Recently, we've begun talking about this concept as a Bergen/Passaic/Meadowlands connector. The use of new technology, including diesel multiple-unit trains, offers

extraordinary flexibility to provide more frequent service, particularly more frequent service than is commonly able to be provided by heavy commuter rail service. And these cars would need to -- and today there is a manufacturer that does comply with the Federal Railroad Administration's 800,000-pound, buff-strength requirement, which is necessary for operating a commuter train -- or a light rail train, for that matter -- in the same right-of-way with a freight operation.

Last October, as a matter of fact, one of the manufacturers of this type of car, the Colorado Railcar Manufacturing Company -- who I have actually visited, in an earlier life, at their manufacturing plant in Colorado -- demonstrated this kind of equipment in Bergen County, operating along the Susquehanna and Western Railroad from Hackensack to Hawthorne. The exciting part of this project will be, if we can achieve a solution using our own existing passenger rail infrastructure -- with some modest additional links that can connect Passaic County, Bergen County with the sports complex and the Secaucus Transfer Station, which accesses the entire commuter rail system; and Hoboken, which connects to the PATH system and the ferry system -- we have a system that really works for, virtually, every market in Northern New Jersey and Manhattan.

Funding for the project will be a challenge, as it is with all projects. It's expected that the private sector, as George referenced, would need to be a participant in the total funding plan created for the project. We also may need to consider phasing of proposed improvements to make it easier to implement and easier to fund. And the kind of concept I talked about earlier could

conceivably be designed and engineered in reasonable, buildable, bite-sized increments.

The plan that is being envisioned will also include consideration for a proposed station at the Encap development, just southwest of the sports complex. The solution we want to pursue needs to positively support whatever the planned development is at the sports complex, as well as on all of the adjacent and nearby properties. So, what are we focused on? We need to collectively determine a couple of things: An alignment connecting either the Pascack or the Bergen County Line that is feasible and can be built at a reasonable cost off of those lines into the complex, well-coordinated with mid- to longer-term development plans. We need to determine the number of riders that might use the new service. And to do that, we need to understand the existing mid-term and long-term potential markets. We need to develop a rail service and potential operating plan, and flush out the operating characteristics of cars, like DMU cars, and how they might be used on the existing commuter rail system.

And, obviously, we all need to thoroughly understand, before taking the plunge, what the capital as well as the long-term operating costs of a service such as this might be. It is the work that is underway. We are working very, very closely with George and his staff, and Bergen County -- Hackensack/Meadowlands Development Commission. We want to work very closely with the Legislature and the Committee, Mr. Chairman, so that we have the right kind of plan that is rational and practical, that serves the maximum number of markets across the entire State of New Jersey and in the region, and one which makes a material impact on traffic congestion. We just don't want

to build a railroad for the sake of building a railroad. We want to make a difference. We want it to be reasonable and cost-effective.

I would expect that over the next three, four, five, and six months, we will be able to produce much of the product of the work that I just referenced earlier, and we can have more discussion about what we all believe, as public policy makers, is the right thing for this complex, not only over the short haul, but over the longer haul.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much.

I just want to, again, emphasize what both of you said, and that is that in any development here, the private developers would have a role to play, financially, in helping to construct any type of mass transit into the area. And it's important to emphasize that, obviously, they have a stake in that, as the State does, and as the Federal government or the Port Authority, also.

I have one question. The concept of the heavy rail versus light rail: I've never really heard that much about the Colorado cars. Do they actually run on rail?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Yes.

MR. WARRINGTON: It's actually very interesting. For decades, the concept of a flexible, light rail, kind of, vehicle -- that behaves like a light rail vehicle, but which is capable of operating as a single unit or as multiple units, and that could operate in railroad rights-of-way with adjacent commuter or freight trains -- has never existed. The interesting concept that Colorado Coach has developed, which is a very interesting niche-- When you look across this country at the future of passenger rail service, primarily existing on corridors

that are owned by private freight railroads, the future niche is, can you develop a flexible service that can run a lot of frequencies like a light rail car, but that can physically and safely operate in a freight or heavy right-of-way? And what they've put together here is a piece of equipment that does both.

And I would expect that the rail car manufacturing industry, which is primarily a European and a Canadian industry, will very quickly jump into that niche. And hopefully, we'll see a fair amount of competition around the provision of that kind of a car, which would serve this kind of a need extraordinarily well, but other needs, not only in this state, but across the country, as well.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: One of the things that concerns me about the use of the heavy rail is the number of transfers that would have to take place. I'm thinking of somebody coming from Bayonne, here, would have to transfer from the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail to -- obviously, in Hoboken they would have to then go to the heavy rail, to the Secaucus transfer, to then transfer on to another car that would take you into the Meadowlands. That's three different forms of transportation at two transfers. It seems to be that-- And again, I would think that, my opinion would be that, a lot of the catchment area for the people who work here would be not only Bergen, but Hudson County. That would be one of my concerns, because the more times you have to transfer, the more complicated it becomes, and more time-consuming also.

MR. WARRINGTON: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I agree with that. You raise a very good point. The interesting thing about this concept, though, is that Hoboken really is an increasingly large anchor for us, as the nexus of the PATH



rail system, as well as the ferry operation, and the light rail system from Bayonne and, ultimately, points north. And the interesting thing here about a DMU car is, in effect, the terminal for the beginning of that operation would be Hoboken. You would get off the light rail system from anywhere on the waterfront, transfer to this DMU equipment that would actually originate in Hoboken, would make a stop at a Secaucus Transfer where you would not have to transfer, and then you would head north, and depending upon the configuration, either work into a spur or, ultimately some day, perhaps, a loop that would return back to the Bergen County Line.

So, right now, the planning would envision a single transfer at Hoboken, Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Okay. I was wondering that because otherwise, one of the reasons why -- I felt the light rail coming directly out here would expedite the movement of people. Because, as you know, people don't like to transfer, and the more intermodal changes you have to make, the more difficult it is for people to go on mass transit.

Are there any other questions?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I just would like to comment. Is that okay?

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Yes, sure.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I'm very pleased, George Warrington, that you're moving in that direction, because it is economically sound, and it would be put into operation much more quickly. George, you would like that, because it would happen very fast.

I love the light rail. It's been our baby since its inception, and we want to continue to work in that area, but only where it's viable and where it's feasible. I think, again, there are a lot of things we will be talking about in the future about standards, etc., to save on money for consultants, and maybe eke out that money to extend light rail.

Again, Mr. Zoffinger, I know you referenced South Jersey, but that was a capital investment by the South Jersey senator. It's an entirely different animal. It's a 34-mile piece that was for economic development, long term, and we figure in five years it's going to be okay. But we can't keep jabbing at what has happened in the past. We have to go ahead and look at what's happening in the future.

A question for you, Mr. Zoffinger. The millions of dollars you alluded to in the Xanadu plan for transportation, isn't that just for road projects?

MR. ZOFFINGER: No, no. Absolutely not.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: What is it for?

MR. ZOFFINGER: And let me just say, I'm not taking jabs at the southern thing.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Okay.

MR. ZOFFINGER: I think that, what I'm saying is, that if we can find a way to put a billion dollars into that line, which has very little ridership, that we should be able to find a way to put a spur into the Meadowlands where you know--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I agree.

MR. ZOFFINGER: --at the beginning of the whole point you'll have six million visitors just for games, and how many of those will take the line? But you'll also have 19,000 permanent jobs here, when the Xanadu development is done.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Absolutely.

MR. ZOFFINGER: So you have -- it wasn't meant as jobs against it. I just think that if we can find the money for that, we should be able to find the money for this.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I agree.

MR. ZOFFINGER: With regard to the \$65 million, it has not been earmarked for any specific type of infrastructure.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Oh, okay.

MR. ZOFFINGER: It's for infrastructure improvements which we would agree upon. And that's why we have hired Edwards and Kelsey to represent us, to look at what the best alternative with that is.

I failed to mention, too, Mr. Chairman and Assemblywoman Heck, that we've also included the teams, the football teams. Because regardless of what happens, we still will have the two football teams here, all right, in addition to the Xanadu, and we still will have the racetrack here. So it's important to have all of those points involved.

And one final point, if I may, and I don't mean to do it, but it has been very important in our discussion -- I think George pointed it out, but I wanted to reiterate it -- that we also have access from northern Bergen into the Meadowlands, not only from the south and the Secaucus Transfer, but we need

to have access from northern Bergen. Because we think a lot of customers come from that region, also, as has been pointed out.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Assemblyman Sarlo.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Yes, not to belabor the point. The problem, I think, with the South Jersey, where it was a billion dollars of State dollars, there was no Federal participation. I think that's what frustrates most of us, that there was no Federal participation there. It was all State dollars that we sent to Camden.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: As a point of clarification, the reason that occurred was so that the Hudson-Bergen Line would get all its money, and that was the agreement -- that we would not compete for Federal dollars in the north and the south.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: I would have just liked a portion of that money, for the Meadowlands, years ago.

But, George, you had a good point, and maybe it's the engineer in me. But three words -- flexibility, frequency, and connectivity, all maximizing ridership. That's what it's all about, regardless of what type of rail it is. That's what it's all about.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: A comment from the 37th district. I support this, of course, because just as it will increase or improve the quality of life for those who go to work here and, also, come here for entertainment, one of our goals, and I haven't heard this yet, is what we call *clean air*. This will be a move that will, I guess, improve the quality of the air in this area by reducing vehicular traffic. So, in support of that, or to achieve that, I support this project. Of course, I cannot support this project at the risk of losing the

northern branch, but we have to have rail link to this facility to make it a success, I believe.

So, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Just one more thing. We have a number of bills in the Assembly -- for some reason or other, our Speaker has not -- and the other side of the aisle, the Senate, has not chosen to look at it. But we do need environmental impact studies and transportation studies, and it's not being looked at.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: I want to just thank both Executive Directors, Executive Directors Zoffinger and Warrington, for their comments. And, obviously, this is an ongoing process and ongoing project, and we all know that there is a need here. So we want to thank you for taking the time out to join with us, and we'll look forward to working with both of you in the future.

MR. ZOFFINGER: Thank you.

MR. WARRINGTON: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: I'd also like to recognize a matter, before we call the next witness. Former Congressman Bob Rowe, who is here and who has been responsible for so much of the infrastructure that's occurred in this state -- we want to thank him for being here.

Also, Assemblyman Matt Ahearn is in the audience, and we want to thank him for coming.

Also, former Assemblyman Jack Kelly is, also, here, and we want to thank him for being here, also.

I want to call up, now, the County Executive of Bergen County, Dennis McNerny, for his comments. Welcome, County Executive, you have a daunting task before you, but I'm sure you'll do a very good job.

**DENNIS McNERNY:** Thanks, Assemblyman.

Members of the Committee, Sports Authority Director George Zoffinger, and Chairman Goldman (*sic*), thank you for keeping us cold, I think, here. (laughter)

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify today in what I believe is a critical economic and quality-of-life issue for Bergen County and the region, actually, as a whole. I, also, would like to thank Congressman Rothman for his comments, in the past, and for future funding.

I want to commend you, Assemblyman Doria, for calling this important meeting to discuss how we can really enhance our region's economy through mass transportation. It's great to see my Assemblyman, John Rooney, here, and members of the Bergen delegation -- Rose Heck; and from District 37, Gordon Johnson. I also want to commend Assemblyman Sarlo, since this is his district, and his tireless work on the issue. As a Bergen County resident, first and foremost, Assemblyman Sarlo has actually-- I appreciate everything he's doing to promote the economic vitality of the towns surrounding the Meadowlands, like the Rutherford and Ridgewood, Lyndhurst, and others. We should always include, I believe, the local input for anything we do in this. I want the Assembly and everyone who looks at this issue to include the local towns for their input.

I also agree with Assemblyman Sarlo that a mass transit component at the Meadowlands is vital to the regional economic growth. Aside from the

priority, that Assemblyman Rooney discussed before, of the northern branch, which I agree with -- far too long Bergen County residents have not been able to access the Meadowlands Sports Complex site by way of rail. And this is made all the more apparent by the constant bumper-to-bumper traffic you see here on the Turnpike, on Route 3, on Route 17, going to any Giant game or Jet game or any major concert event.

The redevelopment of the sports complex site represents a unique and grand scale opportunity for Bergen County in this respect. The Xanadu project, which was recently announced by the Sports Authority, is going to be a major, mixed-use activity center of regional significance. It's really going to be an entertainment destination, and it's going to be a true destination. Together with those activities and the current site, which is Giant Stadium and Continental Arena, as well as -- let's not include the proposed Encap golf and resort complex just south of this site -- it's going to serve as another destination to attract even more visitors throughout the metropolitan area.

So now is the time to ensure that these visitors can and must be reached, actually, by rail. I don't think the roads, really -- we all know -- can't really take any more impact on that. We believe that the rail transit must be an element for this redevelopment. That is why rail access to the Meadowlands is so vital. I believe, with the Bergen County Department of Planning, that there should be a form of hub and spur approach: A spur line feeding into the Meadowlands from a hub location, about, probably, along the current Bergen and Passaic Valley Line, that pass just west of this site, south of Route 3 -- I don't know, really, where the location would be of that transit center -- tying the site into the Bergen County, and, actually, points north.

Yet, like somebody said before, you want to include the Bergen Line, the Main Line, to get the new sites that New Jersey Transit is going to build -- the new Ramsey Line, people from Ridgewood -- from there, and also from the Secaucus Transfer and from Hudson-Bergen Light Rail and Hoboken in the south. This will have the overall effect of really reducing congestion on our highways, with Bergen County residents reaching the site from the north directly by rail, and the large customer base from New York City, and the region, as a whole, accessing the site by way of the Secaucus Transfer.

As the County Executive, I feel that working on ways, immediately, to provide rail service to the Meadowlands would enhance not only the county's economy, but the economy of this region, and the State as a whole. I would ask that this panel study what I just laid out carefully, and as expeditiously as possible, so the rail component can be included in the specific site plans for Xanadu. Simply put, providing rail service into this county is a win-win situation for all of us, and I'm sure we all agree.

Thank you for allowing me to address you this morning, and I look forward to working productively with this Committee, Congressman Rothman, and Mr. Zoffinger on this issue in the future. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much, Mr. County Executive. I think your comments are well-taken. Obviously, the importance of cooperation between the County of Bergen and New Jersey Transit, as well as the Sports and Exposition Authority, is very important. So we thank you for your willingness to be part of the solution.

Any questions or comments?

Yes.



ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: I want to thank you, personally, for the mention of the northern line. I would suggest, as the County Executive, perhaps you schedule a meeting with our legislators in Bergen County to look at the West Shore Line, the northern line, etc., and to really put our thoughts forward as to where we're going in the future. We've got to be of one mind. We have to decide on the projects that are important to Bergen County, and we have to go after them and let this panel know and, basically, let our Congress representatives also know. I've talked briefly to Scott Garrett about the northern line, and he does-- That is his district. He's interested in it, so that's a Bergen County issue, and we've got to get together.

Thank you very much.

MR. McNERNY: Right. I look forward to that, and I--

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: Schedule a meeting.

MR. McNERNY: --know Mr. Warrington did look at the cross-county line. My vision is, as a Bergen County resident -- I will be parochial -- and the executive, I'd grab everything I could. We just have to really ferret that out.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Next, Bob Ceberio, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.

Welcome, Bob.

**ROBERT R. CEBERIO:** Thank you.

Good morning to the Committee members, and thank you for coming into the Meadowlands to discuss a very important issue that not only is the sports complex facing, but the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is

facing as well. When the Legislature created the Meadowlands district in 1969, it recognized it as a strategic location, only six or eight miles from Manhattan, and the importance of -- as a job center, as a recreational center, and as a growth center.

We're in the midst, right now, of developing a new master plan, a master plan that's going to not only include the development at the sports complex, but looks at the potential of \$5.6 billion in private capital investment. It looks at \$5 billion in new rateables, \$116 million in new taxes to our 14 municipalities, the creation of 55,000 new jobs in the district, and more importantly, it does all this through redevelopment and brownfield development, and no impacts in terms of the wetlands.

We're looking at mixed-use developments. We're looking at transit villages. We're looking at developing a sense of community, a sense of place, and to preserving those environmental areas. One of our major projects that's included in the master plan is the Meadowlands Golf Redevelopment Project, a project that will take 950 acres of old landfills and convert them to green, open spaces for golf courses -- two public courses -- some office development, some housing development. But the most important element is that it will convert all of South Bergen and part of Hudson County, from Kearny to Rutherford, into 1,250 acres of green, open space, as opposed to landfill operations and dumping. As has been indicated previously, we're focusing in on allowing the private sector to make that contribution in terms of not only the infrastructure improvement, but, in this particular case, the cleanup costs for those landfills, which will come out to be about \$300 million.

At this point in time, because of our master plan project, because

of this Encap project -- now, I have to point out that the master plan, in this version of our master plan, the sports complex development is included in that to make sure that all the impacts of the district can be measured together. I have to point out that -- the cooperation by George Zoffinger and his staff to make sure that, for the first time in a long time, State agencies are actually talking to each other--

The same with George Warrington. I mean, it may sound like a novel idea, but instead of agencies fighting each other for turf, we're actually sitting together and coming up with practical, effective alternatives, in terms of mass transit approaches. So I have to give them a public congratulations and a thank you from the Meadowlands Commission, as the regional planning agency, making our job much easier than what it has been.

The idea of -- we are entering into a position here that we will never be able to enter into again, in terms of the Secaucus Transfer Station opening up, the light rail coming through to North Bergen, and onward to Vince Lombardi. The days of new roads construction is gone. It may have worked for Robert Moses, but it's not working anymore. We have to -- and our master plan is making that a strategic element -- that our master plan requires mass transit opportunities to bring people to work.

Assemblyman Doria made that point. Unless you have a car, you cannot get a job in the Meadowlands district, unless you make at least four or five transfers. And if you get on that last bus, you're going to walk two miles to employment. And if you look at the Meadowlands district, there are employment opportunities, from people from Jersey City, from North Bergen, from Newark, from Paterson, from all around this area -- the four major

counties around this area -- that if we had mass transit opportunities, there would be a whole avenue of economic gain for those employees that are trying to find jobs and can't get here.

The success of our master plan, it's focus on quality-of-life issues, is the key in terms of bringing mass transit. And as you heard -- and I think it's an encouraging sign that the two Georges, George Warrington and George Zoffinger, along with the County Executive, have indicated to you that the work is underway, well underway, in terms of bringing a preferred alternative to this Committee in several months, as to how the mass transit will not only gain access to the sports complex site, but from our perspective, we look at it from a regional perspective. This is not a Xanadu mass transit project. It's a Meadowlands mass transit project that will impact all 14 towns.

For the first time, the Secaucus Transfer will be the transit hub of the Meadowlands district. We've never had that before. We've never had the ability to access the light rail from North Bergen and to bring people into the Meadowlands district. And Chairman Doria is right, the more transfers that you have to make, the worse it's going to be in terms of attracting people to get out of their cars and to move onto mass transit.

There's a new day here. I believe that with all the stakeholders behind me, with the cooperation of the sports complex, with Bergen County, with Hudson County, with NJ Transit, and our agency -- the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission -- we're looking at it from a practical, cost-efficient perspective. We're looking at mass transit opportunities in terms of the least amount of dollars that we can use for mass transit opportunity.

And I think you heard this morning that we're almost at the same point in terms of making sure that the connection-in isn't around the Pascack/Bergen Line area, to make sure that we minimize the cost to bring transit into the sports complex. But again, I look at it from a different perspective, not just the sports complex. I look at it as to what we can provide in terms of the 14 towns. So that's why I really appreciate the fact that you're here today. I'm also very encouraged that the public and all the stakeholders -- and there's a lot of work that's still to be done -- heard today that you have agencies that are most effective working together in a very coordinated fashion. We are very hopeful that, with your help and Congressman Rothman's help, we can get people out of those cars and into mass transit opportunities. And if we don't do it now, we will never do it.

I leave you with this. In 1972 and 1978, there were various public hearings on the sports complex. Those documents, pretty much, went into great detail how mass transit must be a component here at the sports complex. I think today, though, with the Secaucus Transfer, with the light rail opportunity punching in, I think we have that opportunity today. If we lose this leverage point with this economic engine of Xanadu, or whoever it might be, we will lose it -- we will never regain that opportunity again.

I'd like to thank the Committee for being here today, and I appreciate your efforts. If there's anything we can do to help you in terms of planning and so forth, we'd gladly be there.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much, Bob.

Are there any questions for-- (no response)

Thank you very much.

MR. CEBERIO: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: We appreciate your comments.

MR. CEBERIO: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: I want to recognize, in the audience, also, Freeholder-Mayor Bernadette McPherson.

Next, Fred Dressel, who is the Mayor of Moonachie and the Chair of the Meadowlands Mayors Commission. (no response)

He may have stepped out. Is he here? (no response)

We'll do Mark Munley, then, the Executive Director of Jersey City Economic, Housing and Commerce Department (*sic*).

**MARK MUNLEY:** Good afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for inviting me here today. At the request of and on behalf of Mayor Glen Cunningham, I'm pleased to appear here before this Committee. Your presence, and the fact that a hearing on the issue of mass transportation and light rail is being held in the northeastern part of the state, is proof to the community that the Legislature is concerned about the presence of light rail and rail transportation in this local. Consequently, we know that you recognize the importance of mass transportation to the economic vitality of the region.

The experience which Jersey City has had with the light rail has, obviously, been very positive. The development that has taken place in Jersey City can, in good measure, be attributed to the transportation infrastructure which services the city and, in particular, the waterfront.

The light rail system, as it services parts of Hudson County, now has, and we trust will continue, to be a benefit to the city and its citizens.

Certainly, the extension of light rail north along Hudson County's Gold Coast over the coming years is a goal which can and must be realized. The continuation of that service into Bergen County is, in our opinion, essential as well.

However, you've gathered here today to hear comment from various constituents and interest groups as they view the potential for development or redevelopment of the New Jersey Meadowlands district. It goes without saying that the redevelopment of the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority's Arena site will have a substantial economic impact on the entire region. The construction jobs that will be generated by this redevelopment will certainly benefit those many workers who reside in Jersey City and Hudson County. And as we look to the future, the permanent jobs to be created can and should be shared by the workforce available in Jersey City and in Hudson County. In order for that to occur, you have to recognize the need for mass transportation to service the sports complex venue as it is redeveloped.

At this early stage of consideration, we are pleased to participate with you and have the opportunity to offer our comments regarding just how that rail service should be put in place. In order for the workforce of Jersey City and Hudson County to be available to the site, an element of interconnectedness with existing mass transit facilities, we believe, is crucial. Assuming that a rail line is extended from the New Jersey Transit Bergen County and/or Pascack Valley Line easterly into the sports complex venue, there will be an opportunity for individuals residing in the southern portion of Jersey City and in parts of Bayonne to travel to the site via rail.

I'm assuming, of course, that they would travel by light rail to either exchange place of Hoboken, where they could board a train to travel west, on the Bergen County Line, to arrive at the redevelopment site at the sports complex. It would appear that time and money could be saved if existing rail rights-of-way and existing tracks were utilized in developing the method to bring rail to the site in question.

We would suggest, however, that the mere ability to travel by rail to the site is not nearly enough to provide the job opportunities that I referred to earlier. Frequency of stops and frequency of service are crucial to getting workers to and from the job site. How that is accomplished will most probably be determined in the coming months. We look forward to the opportunity to participate in that decision-making process, because the jobs created here can and should be available to the eager workers who reside in Jersey City and in Hudson County.

There's no doubt that a substantial number of jobs will be created here at the sports complex redevelopment site. Additional jobs, however, will be created at the Encap golf and residential developments, which will take place in Rutherford and Lyndhurst. We would ask you to consider, as well, the fact that there are existing businesses in the Meadowlands area, as well as new economic opportunities which are on the drawing boards or are at various stages of development and redevelopment. Many of these opportunities exist close to or immediately adjacent to existing rail lines, particularly the Bergen County and Pascack Lines of New Jersey Transit.

The jobs that exist in the neighborhoods adjacent to the rail lines and the jobs that can, and we hope will, be created in the redevelopment areas



adjacent to those rail lines, are jobs that should be available to those residents of Jersey City and Hudson County who either want to or need to travel to and from work by mass transportation. In other words, a train to the game falls short of the goal that we see obtainable if mass transportation, via rail system, is developed and brought to the Meadowlands district so that it serves the region, not simply one or two specific sites.

In closing, we do not offer very specific recommendations as to the type of railcar service or rail service to be employed, but we re-emphasize the need for interconnectedness, as well as the frequency of stops and frequency of service. We look forward to bringing the resources of Jersey City to your assistance as you come to making a decision with respect to providing this better form of transportation to the region.

Thank you for your consideration.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much, Mark.

Any questions, comments? (no response)

As I understand it, Freeholder-Mayor McPherson is going to be representing Fred Dressel, as the mayor of the Meadowlands communities, and then she'll be followed by former Assemblyman Jack Kelly.

**FREEHOLDER - MAYOR BERNADETTE P. McPHERSON:** Thank you. Good morning. I'll do my best to represent Mayor Dressel.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: I'm sure you'll do a very good job.

FREEHOLDER-MAYOR McPHERSON: Good morning. It's gratifying to be here and to be a member of the Light Rail Advisory Panel, headed by Assemblyman Paul Sarlo. I'm here this morning -- I represent both the Borough of Rutherford as mayor; I am, also, a Bergen County Freeholder,

and serve as the liaison to the Planning and Economic Development Departments, as well as the County Executive's alternate to the NJTPA. It's, again, gratifying to be here.

It's good that the important issue of mass transportation in the Meadowlands area is brought to the forefront. This is an important issue. For many years it's been talked about, and now the appropriate focus is being placed on it. Also, what is gratifying is to see the cooperation between the various departments, the various political parties, the various elected officials on this particular topic. I urge the Transportation Committee to continue to work in tandem with all the stakeholders and departments -- the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, the Department of Transportation, New Jersey Transit, the NJSEA, and the Meadowlands Chamber of Commerce, among others -- and also to be cognizant of all projects that are proposed and taking place in the Meadowlands area that will impact the dire need for mass transit. The Encap development, which was mentioned, the link redevelopment area, which is in Rutherford, the proposed overhaul of Route 3 in Rutherford, Lyndhurst, and Clifton, as well as other projects in surrounding communities--

Further, I urge you, as the County Executive did, to continue, through the mayors present, and also through the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders, through the Bergen County Office of Planning, to reach out to planning board members in municipalities within this area, and to the county, to keep yourselves apprised, as well as us apprised, on an ongoing basis, and to continue the dialogue.

If there is disagreement over what the best plan should be for the Meadowlands area in terms of mass transit, perhaps keeping ourselves apprised

of what's coming down the pike may make the choice clearer. Again, I commend you for your efforts to work together and to keep everyone on the same page on this important issue. I have great confidence in the Committee, particularly in my Assemblyman, Paul Sarlo. He has the expertise and the determination to protect our interests here and to address and alleviate the concerns of our residents. Sitting back and doing nothing is not something that he is accustomed to, and the engineering degree helps, too, I think.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Thank you, Bernadette.

FREEHOLDER-MAYOR McPHERSON: I pledge the continued cooperation of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Borough of Rutherford in this important endeavor.

Thank you.

I think Mayor Dressel may have returned.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mayor McPherson. We appreciate your comments.

Any questions from the members of the panel? (no response)

Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Thank you, Mayor.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: We have with us a former colleague and good friend, Assemblyman Jack Kelly. He's not wearing his Irish tie, but he's wearing-- I have that same tie at home.

**JOHN V. KELLY:** You do? It's a Republican tie. What are you doing with that? (laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Well, no, it's got Democrats on it, too, Assemblyman. I don't know if I have the "I like Ike."

MR. KELLY: You know, I like Ike. (laughter) It also has Hoover on -- that's when I was a little boy. (laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: No, we don't want to mention Herbert Hoover, come on.

MR. KELLY: Two frankfurters in every pot, or whatever the hell it was.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Chicken in every pot.

MR. KELLY: Chicken.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Chicken.

MR. KELLY: Joe -- Chairman, I think when you were in a playpen, there was a law firm in Jersey City by the name of Evas (phonetic spelling), Leahy (phonetic spelling), and I don't remember the other Irishman, but they taught at St. Peter's College. And at that time, they asked me, in 1947, if I wanted to serve on a commission to discuss the viability of a rail line from your town up to Edgewater. I think it became an actuality a couple of years ago. I hope this plan isn't going to be as long as that.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: That's a long time.

MR. KELLY: It was.

I'm here because I'm concerned about not only the future economic viability of the Meadowlands, but the economic future of the region as well. I'm even more concerned about the people who live in the Meadowlands region who will have to contend with the traffic nightmares created by the Mills Corporation complex.

Thirty years ago, the State took control of a vast area we call the Meadowlands, which we all know. The State promised to create a recreational

playground that would pay great dividends for our State. That promise, in my view, has not yet been fulfilled. Similarly, the State promised a rail connection to the Meadowlands to alleviate the local traffic. That promise, too, has not been fulfilled. Do you remember it? I don't know. I remember it very well. I'm not a traffic engineer, but you don't have to know that to know the key to the economic future of the Meadowlands and the surrounding area is the immediate and guaranteed investment in a comprehensive rail network plan, not piecemeal, not a Band-Aid, but a major investment in mass transit.

Right now, as the State is planning to redevelop the Meadowlands, the State has a great opportunity to deliver on the promises made to us 30 years ago. The State has the opportunity to invest in a mass transit system that will take the cars off the roads and the exhaust pollution out of the air. If we do not properly plan now for the mass transit of the Meadowlands, if we do not demand that the developer, who stands to make millions from this project, contribute mightily to a mass transit system, then we'll have squandered an opportunity to bring the mass transportation that we need in this district.

About 18 months ago, if you recall -- and you better remember it -- Bergen County Executive Pat Schuber detailed an extensive plan for interconnected rail transportation in Bergen County -- do you remember it -- including the Meadowlands. What happened to that plan? As usual, it became the victim of petty regional and governmental squabbles and became a victim of political maneuvering and agency sloth. Hey, what do you think of that? (laughter)

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Wasn't that one of the capital sins?

MR. KELLY: Yes, it's one of the capital sins.

I'm here to tell you that there is no more time for political deals and agency squabbles. New Jersey Transit, the State Legislature, the Federal Government must work together to get the rail system in place for the Meadowlands now.

When he unveiled his plan 18 months ago, Pat Schuber noted that the rail transportation has not grown by a single station in Bergen County in more than 50 years. Is that true? You know it is. That's unconscionable. What has New Jersey Transit been investing in during the past half century that is more important than serving the transit needs of the largest population in the State of New Jersey, Bergen County. Where a 50-year-old rail system makes it impossible for a person from Nutley, where I live, or Passaic or Garfield, who wants to see an event in the Meadowlands -- they have to take a car. Does that make sense? I don't think so.

But the fact that our highways in South Bergen are already filled to capacity and the State is on track to grant permits to build millions of square feet of retail and entertainment space that will turn roads into parking lots-- Remarkably, the plan, as advanced to the State, still has failed to commit and build a comprehensive, mass transit system to service the Meadowlands. Is that true? You're shaking your head. I think it is.

Highway gridlock will not (*sic*) only get worse, unless people in position of responsibility act. We don't need any more debate. We don't need more promises, some day far in the future, we will get State or Federal passenger rail services for the Meadowlands. We don't need any more multimillion dollar studies. We need a fully funded plan now, not tomorrow, not next year, but a few years down the line, now. There is no way to plan for this process unless

there is a rail system in place, fully funded and ready to go. There is no way that one backhoe full of dirt should be dug in to start the dream, that the State has a plan to end the traffic nightmare that envelopes this region.

As Pat Schuber noted, some will think a rail plan for the Meadowlands is too big and too costly. But it's time to look at the cost of not doing anything ambitious. The cost of doing nothing will be felt in the individual cost to individuals, businesses, and the environment. It will be felt in the cost of daily traffic jams that extend for miles in every direction morning and evening. It's time to do something right for the Meadowlands region. It's time for the State to make good on the promise to make the Meadowlands a positive force for the region, not a headache.

Those tracks have been around here a hundred years, and -- it was stated -- it's about time we used them. And with that, I'll shut up. Okay.

Thank you. I enjoyed addressing you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Always very blunt and to the point.

Thank you. Thank you.

Any comments, questions? (no response)

Nope. You're all set.

Next, we're going to go to Mr. Michael Luchkiw of Mills Corporation.

**MICHAEL LUCHKIW, ESQ.:** Mr. Chairman and panel members, good afternoon. My name is Michael Luchkiw. I'm with the law firm of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole and Wisler -- here representing the Mills/Mack-Cali development team. On behalf of the team, we appreciate the opportunity the Committee has provided to us to present testimony in support of rail service to

the sports complex and the Xanadu family entertainment development. In addition to mass transit, the Mills/Mack-Cali team also recognizes the need to improve overall transportation needs in and around the arena site. In fact, as Mr. Zoffinger mentioned before, Mills and Mack-Cali has already committed tens of millions of dollars of its own money toward road and other infrastructure improvements.

A rail system, which is well-planned, would certainly benefit not only the complex in the Xanadu development, but the entire region as a whole. We recognize that numerous plans have been developed for the complex over the years, but have not progressed to fruition for a myriad of reasons. However, the Mills/Mack-Cali team has taken the initial steps to assist the region to move this important rail initiative forward in an expeditious fashion, in light of the upcoming Federal reauthorization of transportation projects.

Coordination meetings have already been conducted with New Jersey Transit, Bergen County, and others, in order to identify opportunities for service to the arena site consistent with regional planning initiatives. As we proceed in negotiations with the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority to finalize a master development agreement, we will continue to coordinate and assist in the development of efficient and cost-effective rail service to the complex and to the Xanadu development. The region can expect our continued support for the development and implementation of a rail alternative to the sports complex.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Mills/Mack-Cali development team and the Xanadu project.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you.

Are there any questions from members of the Committee?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I have a question.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Yes.

Assemblywoman Heck.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Thank you.

You know, there have been many articles in the newspapers about Xanadu needing a mass transit plan. It's been in *The Record*, who will pay for a rail line to Xanadu. Now, George Zoffinger mentioned that 65 million, I believe it was--

MR. LUCHKIW: Correct.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: --is earmarked for transportation or--

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Not enough.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Not enough. But how much of that money is for mass transit, do you know?

MR. LUCHKIW: Just to confirm what Mr. Zoffinger said, we have committed \$65 million for transportation improvements. Roadway improvements, for sure, are going to be necessary in order to support the project. As Mr. Zoffinger said, depending upon the extent of roadway improvements, a portion of the money -- that 65 million -- could be carved off for rail improvements, as well.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: So it's going to include road improvements?

MR. LUCHKIW: Yes. Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: And if there's any money left over, then it might go to mass transportation?

MR. LUCHKIW: Potentially, it could. That's correct. Just as Mr. Zoffinger said.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Because you know my concern has always been that the developers pay for the mass transportation, not just your roadway. But again, that's not your situation. I just wanted to get that on the record.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Any other questions?

Assemblyman Sarlo.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: You know, we've heard a lot about the arena going to Newark, too, and I don't think there's anybody up here that wants to see that happen. We're all hoping it stays right here in the Meadowlands.

Your footprint still is open enough that it will accommodate the arena remaining here. Is that correct?

MR. LUCHKIW: That's absolutely correct, Assemblyman.

What we've done is, we've designed the project around the arena. In effect, the arena remains as the middle of the doughnut, if you will. And whatever may happen to the arena doesn't affect the project itself.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: I'm glad to hear that, because I know there's nobody up here that wants to see it go -- leave this area. I'm glad to hear it's still in the footprint.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Assemblyman Johnson.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I need a clarification. I heard your response to Assemblywoman Heck's question -- was if there's money left over after the road projects, it goes to rail. Is that correct?

MR. LUCHKIW: Well, actually, how the 65 million is carved up has not been determined at this point in time. Admittedly, our initial focus was on roadway improvements, recognizing at the same time, however, that rail was important. But how that money is divided up has not yet been determined.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: Okay. Because my understanding was that rail would be a part of, possibly, not a residual piece, but a part of the planning in this project. That 65 million -- a part of that will be dedicated to, initially, putting in a rail service or looking into this -- or into this rail piece.

MR. LUCHKIW: We are certainly committed to the rail process. As I mentioned, we have been participating in various processes thus far. We've retained a couple of very well-respected consultants in the rail transportation field. We recognize that rail is extremely important to not only our project, but also to the greater Meadowlands region.

ASSEMBLYMAN JOHNSON: Okay.

Thank you, sir.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Just a question.

Oh, I'm sorry.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Yes.

Assemblywoman Heck.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Just so you realize that, and I'm sure you do, that any investment you make in mass transit will absolutely be important to you in bringing your customers to the site. So I would think that you would rethink just the amount of money that you're putting in, and make sure that it goes to mass transit. That's my opinion.

MR. LUCHKIW: It's a very good point. We are committed to a safe and efficient transportation system. And this certainly doesn't serve us at all if our patrons cannot get to and from our site easily. So we are committed to an extensive roadway, rail transportation improvements.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I hope that we'll be kept informed as to the progress you've made. And perhaps you might think about putting more dollars in so that we have that piece go into place quickly.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: I just want to point out, it's not only the customers coming, it's the people working.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Yes. Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: That's important, because, I mean, 19,000 people need a way to get there.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: But without the customers coming there will be no people working.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: There will be no people working. You're absolutely right. The chicken and the egg.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: That's right.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. LUCHKIW: Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Next, we have Walter Smith, from the Hartz Mountain organization.

**WALTER M. SMITH JR.:** Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Good morning.

MR. SMITH: Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this morning. On behalf of Hartz Mountain, its interest in the Meadowlands is the largest, single commercial property owner of the Meadowlands, it's tenants, and, we also believe, the other employers and employees in the Meadowlands region.

I've provided the Committee a copy of my statement. In the interest of time, I won't read all of it--

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: --if that's okay with you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: But I'd like to highlight a few things. Assemblyman, as you know, Hartz has long been a supporter of mass transit in this region. Hartz has subsidized mass transit through New Jersey Transit to its developments in Secaucus. It's also provided subsidized bus service to its waterfront properties in Weehawken, and it's also been a leader in getting the light rail project through its area on the Hudson River. And needless to say, we've been working with Assemblywoman Heck for years and years.

One of the members of the staff at Hartz Mountain, Dan Vitrolio (phonetic spelling), has long been a member of the Light Rail Advisory Committee. And we are committed to continuing that effort in the future.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I just want to take a moment, Mr. Chairman, to thank Walter M. Smith for the advice he gave me early on, as we were putting the panel together. You saved me years of aggravation, and you helped get the light rail moving much faster.

Thank you.

MR. SMITH: Thank you.

There are several developments you've heard about today. Bob Ceberio talked about the revised Meadowlands master plan. You've heard about two major developments here today. The Encap development, which is going to be a golf course -- 2,000 housing units, three-quarters of a million square feet of office space, up to 750 hotel rooms, and 100,000 square feet of retail space. You've heard about the Xanadu development that's four and three-quarters million square feet of commercial space, 2.2 million square feet of mall and entertainment uses, a million and three-quarter square feet of office space, 500 hotel rooms. In addition, it now appears the Continental Arena -- thank heaven -- is going to stay in operation with the Nets and the Devils and concerts, circuses, ice shows, and etc.

All of us who live in this area -- and I live only a few miles away -- are well familiar with the traffic nightmares for most of the events currently conducted at the arena. In the last year, there were almost 250 separate events at the Continental Arena site. Fifty-two of these were held during November and December, which are the peak shopping seasons, and one would think with a shopping mall and entertainment facility, one of the very busiest seasons here in the Meadowlands-- If you recall last year at the Christmas holiday season, Routes 4 and 17 and the roads around Garden State Plaza had to be shut down

because of the traffic, and that's without a Continental Arena supplying people to the site.

Recently -- actually a month ago tomorrow, the 15th of March -- there was a hockey game between the Devils and the Rangers at Continental Arena on Saturday afternoon at 3:00. I've provided the Committee with copies of photographs that I had taken after that event, to show you what can happen to the traffic in this region in an event where only 19,000 people attended. The promotional data for the Xanadu development, alone, says they'll have between 18 and 20 million visitors a year. That's something in the order of 50,000 visitors per day. That's five times that hockey game.

Without assured mass transit, total chaos can't be avoided. In the past few years, we've had the opportunity to witness what light rail has done on the waterfront. The Meadowlands cannot afford to put millions of square feet of commercial development in place before rail service is provided. All of us in the Meadowlands region depend on you and depend on it. We believe the hearing today is a good first step to identifying the needs and issues relating to large-scale development and a regional mass transit system. It's essential that the timing of these large-scale developments be directly tied to the provision of rail service. To allow these developments to proceed prior to the availability of rail service will have a devastating impact, not only on the Meadowlands roadway system, but on all of its residents, businesses, and employees that use it on a daily basis.

Thank you very much.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you.

Would you leave a copy of your testimony with the--

MR. SMITH: You have it. I left you one.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: We already have it. Okay, good, good. I just want to make sure she has it.

MR. SMITH: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Very good.

Thank you.

Next, we have William Wright, from the New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers.

**WILLIAM R. WRIGHT:** Good afternoon.

There were certain other factors involved -- funding of the mass transit. Funding is very important, because right now the funds for auto use, which is a means of transportation according to past Transit Commissioner Weinstein and others, denies one in four mobility, due to age, health, economic status, or fear of road rage. So that any development that goes in without any form of rail mass transit, because the bus gets stuck in the traffic the same as the autos do, would be doomed to fail.

The gas tax is an ideal situation to go for mass transit, because the general feeling is, or the general statistical proof is that the gas tax only covers -- and this is U.S. DOT's own figures -- roughly two-thirds of the Federal and state highways. No money from gasoline tax goes to county roads and bridges, municipal streets, police traffic control, fire and rescue costs. So right there, we're looking for funds. New Jersey has the third-lowest gasoline tax.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: That's not correct. Money does go through the Transportation Trust Fund, which is funded through the gas tax, to local roads, to a number of the projects that you just mentioned. So the



information you have there is incorrect. Because in New Jersey, the gas tax is dedicated to the funding of the Transportation Trust Fund, which does a lot of what you're talking about. So that Federal information is not correct.

MR. WRIGHT: Except most of the local -- the county and municipal roads are still paid, primarily, through the real estate tax. That's a major section of them. It's a major section.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: It's a major section, but there is funding. There's local aid, and most municipalities in the State receive money on a yearly basis through the Transportation Trust Fund, which provides money for paving. So paving is provided locally through the Transportation Trust Fund, which is funded through the gas tax. So, now, again, it's a mixed bag there.

MR. WRIGHT: It's a mixed bag.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: It's not-- But you said it wasn't, and I just wanted to clarify that.

MR. WRIGHT: Okay. But the point being that, the transportation of 100 percent of the people is not covered. It's only covered, roughly, 75 percent of the people who drive to places like -- any point not auto-served.

Now, continuing on that, I've looked at Assemblywoman Heck's plan to extend the Bergen-Pascack Line out into the area. It's a great plan. It's a great first step. It's what should be done. The next step should be to continue on to the Pascack Valley Line and extend it up into New York state, where the Pascack goes. Excellent first steps. What's needed in the Meadowlands area is a light rail distributor loop, which can easily be accommodated by extending the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail through the arches, through the Secaucus Transfer,

out into the southeastern corner of the (indiscernible) also, extending westward through the industrial park in Lyndhurst, passed the projected golf and residential development, over the bridge into Newark, either of the two bridges, to extend that.

All of these have merit. All of these need to be built relatively quickly to ensure that the operation goes in as the development goes in, and there isn't pressure to widen roads and use up main street. So I would like to support, very much, Assemblywoman Heck's plan to extend the Bergen-Pascack end and continue on north, and to make sure that we devise a fair means of supporting rail transit as we do the road transit.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much.

Next, Jim Kirkos, Chairman (*sic*) of the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce.

**JAMES KIRKOS:** Good morning. I am Jim Kirkos, President of the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce, an organization that has been pleased to work with many of you here today. Our interest in transportation- and transit-related issues has been well-documented over the years.

When Rich Fritsky stepped down as president of the Chamber last year, one of the more difficult aspects of our transition was finding space for all the transportation and transit studies and documents that he had accumulated over the years. Fortunately, he continues to work with us on these issues, and we maintain the institutional memory of that work.

As for today, I will be very brief and straightforward. Chairman Doria, Assemblyman Sarlo, members of the Light Rail Committee, you should,

of course, be thanked for taking the lead on calling the public attention to this issue. The County of Bergen, the Sports and Exposition Authority, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission, New Jersey Transit, and DOT should also be congratulated for working together to do the planning to find the answers and to make something real happen. In the past, this was not always the case. In recent years, as you all well know, many plans as to how best to bring rail into the sports complex have been forwarded and many ideas about connectors and stations throughout the region have been put on the table. And while all of them have some merit, not all of them work.

We, too, have submitted many recommendations over the years, and we'll be prepared to do so again, believing as we do that light rail can be brought down from Bergen and the north, along the Pascack Valley Line, and that commuter rail can be brought up from the Secaucus Connection and the south, along the Bergen Line, utilizing a joining connection.

Our focus today, however, is not on the detail, but on the overarching philosophy and the fundamental factors that must be considered and addressed. At the Chamber, representing the business community of this region, this is what we consider to be essential: That we must bring rail into the sports complex. That it must be brought in, in such a way that connectivity for the entire region is maximized. That it must be about both the sports complex and its neighbors, and our ability to give life to the economic goals and objectives of a new master plan. That it must be about both the patrons of the sports complex and the hundreds of thousands of people who work and live in the region who hunger for mobility. That it must be planned so to allow the greatest possibility and flexibility. That it must be creatively linked to New

Jersey's statewide transit network and to our existing and operating infrastructure. That it must be open to the new technologies and the real promise of the Bergen-Passaic rail plan, while remaining flexible enough to utilize regular commuter rail. Options must be left open. That we must get out of our collective boxes to capitalize the system that fulfills the above by tapping creative funding mechanisms that will give new meaning to the old term *public-private venture*.

You can be assured that we will be a partner and a strong advocate going forward. We take comfort in the fact that the issue is being addressed, that there is a spirit of cooperation among the agencies, the departments, and the counties, and that there is a commitment to delivering and not just talking.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you very much.

Any comments or questions from the Committee? (no response)

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Thank you, Jim.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: If not, Art Vatsky, New Jersey BPU.  
(no response) He left. Okay.

Next is Fred Brody, Brody, Inc.

**F R E D B R O D Y:** Mr. Chairman and members of the panel, I want to thank you very much for this opportunity to discuss some new and innovative technology for mass transit in the Meadowlands area.

My name is Fred Brody. I was in the transportation industry for over 25 years, prior to starting my marketing/consulting business four years ago. During that time as a business owner, I lobbied in support of transportation issues, including the deregulation of the trucking industry, ISTEA-- In 1999, I

served as a commissioner on the Regional Intergovernmental Transportation Study Commission, which recommended changes to the transportation development districts to become transportation enhancement districts, which was the first regional approach to congestion mitigation. I'm currently Chairman of the Monmouth County Transportation Council; a board member of the Regional Plan Association's New Jersey Committee, chaired by Governor Florio; and a trustee of New Jersey Business and Industry's PAC New Jobs, which is one of the largest in the state.

After being involved with the transportation infrastructure issues for almost 30 years, I've witnessed the problems New Jersey faces regarding congestion and its cost to our economy. I firmly believe there is an answer to congestion and circulation problems in certain high-density areas like the redevelopment of the Meadowlands. It is a public transportation system that falls under the category of PRT or personal rapid transit, which could supplement light rail. Specifically, we are here today to represent a company, who, over the last 20 years, has pioneered the development of a futuristic public transportation system and has customized a design called Sky Web.

The people of our State have a rich history of scientific innovation and being ahead of the curve. Some of the New Jersey scientific achievements have been benefitting the world. So, in the spirit of Thomas Edison, we are here today because we have a vision for New Jersey: To be the first state to install the Sky Web system. Sky Web had its product launch this past Friday in friendly Minnesota. We brought a copy of the press article covering that, which appeared in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, and can provide the e-mail source.

According to Representative Mark Olson, a Minnesota legislator, he said, "What you are looking at is the Microsoft of public transportation." Railroad economist and Federal Railroad administrator Scheffer Lang said, "PRT is the next major innovation in transportation since the automobile and the airplane." These words deserve careful thought, especially for those of us in New Jersey, the most congested state in the nation. We have an unprecedented opportunity now at our doorstep.

Now to tell the story about this system in more detail, I'd like to introduce Bruce Haydu. Bruce is a native of the Jersey shore, a certified financial planner in Red Bank for 22 years, and has a 15-year affiliation and friendship with Ed Anderson, the founder of Taxi 2000 Corporation and the inventor of Sky Web. Bruce has not lost his vision for seeing the first PRT system in New Jersey, and I'd like to introduce him, now, to tell you why.

Bruce Haydu.

**BRUCE HAYDU:** Thanks, Fred.

Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity.

I'd like to briefly touch on the following points. We all know the problem that's been alluded to many times today, but I'm going to talk about the product to solve the problem -- the details of the Sky Web system, the economy of Sky Web, and the compelling reasons to look at it from an economic point of view, defining the market, the key people and management team, product development, immediate objectives.

The problem is congestion, in a word, and the large budget deficits that have to continue to fund conventional transit systems out of taxpayers

dollars. That cannot continue, as it stands, into the future without the taxpayer feeling overburdened.

The product is Sky Web. It's a low-cost, high-capacity, flexible system providing a level of service unheard of with current conventional transit, and it is designed to operate at a profit. What is the Sky Web system? It belongs in a category of transportation known as PRT, personal rapid transit. These are fully automated transportation systems with small, on-demand driverless vehicles running on an elevated network of guideways offering individual trips without stops. PRT has no timetables and no fixed routes. The vehicles wait at stations for passengers and depart when a passenger boards. So you were talking about frequency -- this is on demand. There are no schedules. He or she travels alone or with companions of choice, all in seated comfort.

The vehicle's computer determines the most rapid route and the vehicle makes no stops until it's reached its destination, resulting in consistently short travel time. These service characteristics are comparable to an automobile. And after all, what we're competing with is the automobile. The reason why we have such low ridership on conventional transportation systems is because nothing yet has matched the convenience of the automobile. That's why we can't get people out of them. This does.

In congested urban areas, PRT is superior to all other modes of transport, including automobiles. In suburbs or along freeway routes, the carrying capacity of Sky Web is equal to three lanes of freeway traffic, taking only seven feet of width space compared to 50 feet of freeway width space. Another attractive feature of this system is the low environmental impact. All that is needed is a hole in the ground every 90 feet for the post supporting a light

weight, three-foot by three-foot aluminum guideway on which passenger vehicles run. These quiet and emission-free cars are propelled and slowed by electric linear induction motors. The fuel efficiency of these motors is equivalent to about 85 miles per gallon.

The economics of the Taxi 2000 Sky Web system is as follows. They have employed a least-cost--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: May I interrupt you for a minute.

MR. HAYDU: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Because this is not like a monorail. This is different.

MR. HAYDU: No, it is not. Correct.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: It's different than a monorail, okay.

MR. HAYDU: It is not a monorail.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: We have your handout, and it does look very, very interesting. But I would, respectfully, suggest, since you've started somewhere else, that you, perhaps, make arrangements with our Chairman to do a PowerPoint presentation, because this is unique--

MR. HAYDU: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: --and we would like to-- I, at least, would like to know more about it.

How about you, Paul?

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Absolutely.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Right.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: It sounds like a very interesting concept.



ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: It sounds very interesting. And probably with many more uses than just in the Meadowlands

MR. HAYDU: Absolutely.

MR. BRODY: Correct, that's exactly right.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: So I would, respectfully, suggest that we give you the amount of focus and time you might need to properly present this. Reading the flyer or listening to you speak about something completely alien is not going to do the trick today. Because again, I think you need to meet with us and, perhaps, New Jersey Transit as well.

MR. BRODY: Yes. We've been invited, too.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Yes. So I'm going to take that opportunity to invite you to meet with the panel. And Joe Wax (phonetic spelling), I think, representing Chairman Doria, will set up a meeting date. So don't leave. I don't want you to leave, but I don't want you to just keep telling us about something that we cannot envision.

MR. HAYDU: If I could drive one point across--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Yes, go ahead.

MR. HAYDU: --before we leave the table. This system is not designed to replace light or heavy rail.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: No, we know that.

MR. HAYDU: That's a paramount objective.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: It's something in conjunction with, to maximize.

MR. HAYDU: Correct. It is designed to maximize the use of light rail.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Yes.

MR. HAYDU: A lot of talk has been about utilizing the transfer--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I have looked at this, and an immediate thought came to my mind, because there is a problem in Weehawken in getting the people to the ferry. This might be a wonderful way to take care of that.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: It eliminates a lot of the transfers that we've been talking about.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Yes. Yes.

MR. HAYDU: Yes. There are no transfers required once you get on the car.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: But, I mean-- I think they have to walk--

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: It gets from the hub to the destination.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Right, Paul. I think they have to walk a thousand feet to the ferry.

MR. BRODY: Yes. That's all on demand.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: So I would say to you that this looks very interesting. Please make those arrangements. But, yes, complete what you want to complete.

MR. BRODY: Well, I just wanted to say that it is not in competition with the light rail.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: No, we know that.

MR. BRODY: I know that there are a lot of light rail interest. But my point is that we're trying to solve a 21st century problem with 19th century technology. And that cannot continue.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: And that's why I'm saying, you might want to address New Jersey Transit because they have -- near the Weehawken Tunnel-- They're coming out, and they'd have to go across four lanes of traffic, right.

MR. BRODY: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: So, perhaps, that's good. Good.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: Also, at the end of the Camden/Trenton, from the Trenton to the State House.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Yes. And Camden/Trenton to the State House.

MR. HAYDU: If I could--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: So there might be several ways of using this.

MR. HAYDU: If I could just spend 30 seconds and give you my closing comments.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Go ahead.

MR. HAYDU: In conclusion, the groundwork has been laid. The time, energy, and expertise utilizing tens of thousands of man hours has been invested. To date, total R and D investment into Sky Web has exceeded \$33 million, 10 million from the University of Minnesota, and over 23 million from the Raytheon Corporation. Now a viable and revolutionary new public

transportation system is ready to be implemented. All it needs is someone's vision.

To beg two questions: One, who will have the foresight, innovative spirit, and vision to install the first PRT system -- and I might add, hopefully, in New Jersey. And two, who will lead New Jersey to yet another historical, scientific endeavor that will benefit the world? As a proud New Jerseyan, I have given careful thought to Shef Lang's quote, and he is a gentleman who was a Federal Railroad economist and engineer. He passed away about a month ago, but he was behind the PRT concept. And his quote was, "PRT is the next major innovation in transportation since the automobile and the airplane."

I can visualize the first PRT system being installed in New Jersey, whether it's linking office building lobbies with metro park to a near light rail station, or any other office park for that matter; whether it's efficiently moving millions of people annually from all over the greater New York, New Jersey, metropolitan area to and from the futuristic destination of Xanadu -- perhaps by running a direct link from Penn Station, Newark, or any other transfer station -- so that Xanadu's acreage can be occupied by attractions and people instead of parked cars. Easing congestion along the Parkway or the Turnpike -- again, one of these lines can carry as many people during the same time as three lanes of freeway traffic; or whether other applications that we can think of together can serve as an example for the rest of the world.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you see my vision.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: And we'll make sure you see our Committee Aide here before--

MR. BRODY: Yes. We'll be submitting all these comments. I left them home.

Thank you.

MR. HAYDU: Thank you again.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Just so, as we bring this to a close, is there-- Who else would like to be--

Okay. Art Vatsky, right?

**A R T V A T S K Y:** Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Al, and that's it? Okay.

Oh, I'm sorry, sir. Chris Haines (*sic*) from the Washington Group. Okay.

Art. Art Vatsky representing the Board of Public Utilities.

MR. VATSKY: Yes. This is the mike? (referring to PA microphone)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: That's the mike. (referring to PA microphone)

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Is that correct, the Board of Public Utilities?

MR. VATSKY: Yes. I'm here representing the Board of Public Utilities. I serve them as the North Jersey Clean City Coordinator, which is an organization that's funded and organized through the U.S. Department of Energy and, in New Jersey, is acted through the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. Regarding the situation for the Meadowland service: Obviously, the

Meadowlands, with either of the systems discussed today, is a destination. And in transportation, we talk about the origin and destination pair. The origin and destination pair are going to be stations on the light rail line or stations on the heavy rail line.

And the factor I wish to bring to light is the fact that the congestion we'll be avoiding on the highways and near the destination, the Meadowlands, might be replaced, in part, by the congestion we'll have at our train stations due to parking, vehicles who park at the train stations. Now, there is, as municipalities know, the concern about developing parking spaces for vehicles, individual vehicles, at municipalities to handle the demand of the station. This is a major factor in almost every meeting I've gone to in North Bergen in Bergen County, and I've seen it being discussed in Long Island -- Long Island Railroad. Obviously, one -- and the facts are, statistically, that people who want to avoid taking other than mass transit -- take private transit, take a car -- are usually within half a mile of the train station or less, half a mile.

Most of our municipalities are of moderate density. Certainly Teaneck, the town where I reside, has 7,000 people per square mile -- moderate density. Many potential riders will either have to take their cars, go that very short ride, creating traffic congestion in our municipalities, or they'd have to take -- and what I know is being considered in Teaneck -- is a jitney service. The jitney service is a small service in addition to the New Jersey Transit service that I suspect will be provided to these train stations. The jitney is available -- I believe, the buses themselves are available through New Jersey Transit for municipalities to operate.

How does the NJBPU become part of this? The NJBPU is the State agency authorized to distribute Federal dollars to buy alternative fuel vehicles and hybrid vehicles. I have the brochure here that talks about the rebate, okay, that the BPU is currently authorized to provide, to some State agencies, to buy these kinds of vehicles. The vehicles are the set of jitney buses, but they would not be dependent on petroleum fuel to a great extent. In order to opt into this money, they have to be using fuels like natural gas. The hybrid vehicles -- which use about half the petroleum of regular gasoline or diesel fuel would be -- use biodiesel fuel.

These are all, if we're lucky-- The rail systems that we developed will have at their origins these vehicles which are clean, which extend out to the catchment base that the Chairman was speaking about, so that people don't have to take their heavy-duty vehicles to ride a short distance through the main parts of their towns and park them, creating the expense and the congestion that we're trying to avoid. Further, they reduce our need for petroleum just as the light rail and heavy rail will do, as well.

By the way, biodiesel is also useable on the DMUs as an alternate to petroleum diesel. Biodiesel is grown diesel fuel made from soy beans, canola oil, or even fat-fryer waste oil. So we have a chance here of completing a loop of reducing energy dependence, improving fuel efficiency, and reducing congestion in a positive, 21st century way.

That concludes my comments. Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Thank you, Art.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Thank you.

You're going to hand those out?

MR. VATSKY: Yes.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Thank you.

MR. VATSKY: Okay.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: The representative of the Washington Group. We don't have your name -- just for the record, sir.

**CHRIS KANE:** Chris Kane.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Chris Kane from--

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Do you want to spell it for the young lady.

MR. KANE: K-A-N-E, C-H-R-I-S.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Go ahead, Mr. Kane.

MR. KANE: Assembly members, my name is Chris Kane. I'm Vice President of Project Development for Washington Group. We're the designer, builder, and the operator of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail project. The project has been mentioned today, and I wanted to let you know we'd be glad to present, in more detail, what a connection from the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail system might look like to the Meadowlands development project. We have studied it.

Just for the Assembly members information, the current system is carrying 16,000 passengers a day from Bayonne to Hoboken. When the next segment is completed up to the North Bergen Park-n-Ride, the ridership will increase to 50,000 passengers a day. This is still far less than the capacity that was identified in the EIS. The system is capable of 100,000 passengers a day. So there is a great deal of capacity that could be utilized to help resolve the problems in this area.



I won't go into all the benefits, but, obviously, moving workers to jobs could be greatly enhanced by extending the Hudson-Bergen project up to the Meadowlands, as well as reducing congestion. There's also a benefit that could result from placing a park-n-ride facility at the Meadowlands, to allow passengers -- who normally would take Route 3 East towards the Lincoln Tunnel, adding to that congestion, and getting off to the waterfront at Weehawken -- to park their cars there and to take the light rail all the way in, and relieve congestion to the Lincoln Tunnel, which has been a big problem for the Port Authority.

Again, we would be glad to present this in more detail to the panel. It does warrant more in-depth study. There seem to be great opportunities for a number of stakeholders in exploring this as a way to help solve the problem.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Yes. I think that it is something that we should look at more seriously. I think the concept of the park-n-ride is very important, and the availability of the space for people to leave their cars and to take the light rail to an intermodal exchange spot, whether it be at the Hoboken Terminal to PATH, or whether it would be the ferries at Hoboken or Jersey City. I think that's very important. As I pointed out earlier, and Assemblywoman Heck agreed, the number of changes you have to make, the transfers, impacts negatively upon people's desire to take any type of public transportation. If you have too many transfers, people do not necessarily use the public transit. Also, the cost factor has to be taken in. You have to have a combination ticket, otherwise the cost is too excessive. Again, they will not use public transit.

So I think that we need to explore this further, and I thank you for coming here today. We will be talking to your further.

MR. KANE: Okay. I do have a map of the system and how it might be extended, if anyone is interested.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: If you could give us that, we'd appreciate it.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: That would be great.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN SARLO: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Next we have Al Cafiero, who is the Transportation Aide to Senator Gerry Cardinale.

**A L B E R T F. C A F I E R O:** I'm also the Chairman of the Transit Committee of Bergen County, at least until the end of the month, when I relinquish my job. I have a few comments, besides my prepared remarks, about what people have said before.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Yes. Go ahead, Al.

MR. CAFIERO: Okay. First of all, I remember reading -- this is a little bit before my time -- when the traction companies, the trolley cars, were built by the developers at their own cost to get the people to their amusements parks and their developments. What has happened to private enterprise?

I think \$65 million for this place is peanuts. It should be -- at least 25 percent of the cost of the project should go to transportation. And that's my opinion. Furthermore, about what Congressman Rothman said: "Where are we going to get the money?" I don't think anybody here remembers, much, the Great Depression. During the Great Depression, there was a need to put people to work. We got a lot of projects going -- post offices, dams, roads, electric

systems. We had the WPA and the PWA, and I remember that. Unfortunately, I'm old enough to.

Also, I remember something somebody here had mentioned, one of the previous speakers, that they had reams of testimony about the rail to the sports complex. Part of that testimony is from the Transit Committee of Bergen County.

Now, let me go through my statement. What I am proposing, or the Transit Committee is proposing, and this was in the -- since the early '80s, we were talking about this before all this congestion. A light rail line by extending the Newark City subway to the sports complex. Now, why light rail? Light rail could go to the venues, could be circulated around the sports complex, and brings the people a drop at a time, not the big surges. So you can have more frequent service every 15 minutes, even five minutes, depending on the time, what the project is. Light rail can carry almost as many people as heavy rail, and much more conveniently.

Also, this line can be extended north along the shoulders of the Turnpike to Lombardi, where you can have all the parking space, and further north to Leonia to connect with the Northern Line, and eventually even as far as Nyack, so you can have a Nyack-to-Newark connection. Now, who wants to go from Nyack to Newark? Very few people. But people want to go along to intermediate stops. It isn't from end to end for travel, it's very small. It's in between travel. And also, you can connect to -- if they build a new bridge, Tappan Zee Bridge, to White Plains. So we have a diagonal connector, which we sorely need in New Jersey. This line could connect with the Bergen Line, the

Pascack Line, the West Shore -- where that goes -- and the Boonton Line. It could connect to everything going to Newark and to the airport.

In fact, I've left everything mainly in here, and I don't have to repeat that. It goes into the record. I know it's getting late, and I'm getting tired, and you're getting tired, and we're getting tired, so maybe we ought to go home.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Any questions or comments for Al?  
(no response)

Thank you, Al, for your patience. We appreciate it, and we'll make sure that your testimony is put into the record.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: I just wanted to thank Al.

Actually, I was invited to a meeting with Frank Catanya (phonetic spelling) and Pat Roma at Palisades Park, and Al Cafiero and another gentleman -- I can't remember his name -- came up to me, and they were the first ones who got me interested in moving towards light rail.

Thank you, Al, for all your work.

ASSEMBLYMAN ROONEY: The same here, in 1977.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Thank you. Thank you, Al.

MR. CAFIERO: Thank you.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: At this point, any comments from the members of the Committee, before we end?

Is there anyone further who wants to speak? (no response) I don't think so.

Any comments from the members of the Committee?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: It was a great meeting.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: I think it was a very good meeting. I think it was a good first start. We need to take the input from this meeting, review it, and then move further on possible future discussions that we need to have. There is no question that we need public transportation, mass transit into the Meadowlands area. It should have been done when the Meadowlands was built in the 1970s. If we don't do it now, then shame on all of us.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Absolutely.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: Because it's necessary as the development takes place.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: And long overdue.

ASSEMBLYMAN DORIA: And long overdue.

So thank you all, and we will be following up on this at another meeting in the future.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN HECK: Thank you, Joseph.

**(MEETING CONCLUDED)**