

TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN



Mobilizing the Region

April 5, 2007

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on the proposed bonding for existing and new parking garages near Yankee Stadium.

The Tri-State Transportation Campaign is a non profit policy organization working for a more balanced, environmentally-friendly, and equitable transportation system in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

From the beginning, we have been strong critics of the Yankee Stadium project. We believe the transportation planning in this project is terrible, and will lead to an increase in congestion and pollution in a neighborhood that already suffers from incredibly high rates of asthma.

A major problem with the current Yankee Stadium plan is its overabundance of parking. This project as it stands will increase parking supply by 55%. Any traffic expert not under contract to the sponsors of this project will tell you that more parking capacity invites more driving. The new parking will encourage more fans to drive to games. More traffic will worsen already bad game-day traffic congestion and air pollution in the South Bronx.

Plus, without a residential permit parking program in place in nearby neighborhoods on game days, there is no guarantee that the Yankees fans will pay for parking in garages, rather than search for free on street parking.

It's no surprise that entrepreneurs won't touch this proposal. It is ill- conceived and should not be further subsidized by city taxpayers.

Last year, Mayor Bloomberg and Governor Pataki promised that a new Metro-North station would be built next to Yankee Stadium. Given that MTA's fiscal state and increasing cost projections, there is no guarantee that this station will be built. If any public subsidies are to go to transportation infrastructure near the stadium, they should go towards this station, not parking garages.

In January, Mayor Bloomberg announced his PlanYC initiative, which envisions a city in 2030 with faster travel times, more green space, and with the cleanest air of any big city in the USA. Providing more public subsidies for parking garages - especially when funds for a transit station are precarious at best - flies in the face of these goals. It's hard to take an initiative like PlanYC seriously when the city is throwing money at parking for a transit-oriented site like Yankee Stadium.

We oppose any and all government subsidies for parking garages next to Yankee Stadium, and believe the IDA should vote against this bonding proposal.

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