

New Haven Register

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I-95, I-84 traffic expected to worsen

State Department of Transportation plans for the future

By Brianna Gurciullo
STAFF WRITER

What would you like transportation in Connecticut to look like in 2055?

It's not too late for members of the public to tell the state Department of Transportation what they want as the agency finalizes a federally mandated long-range plan for Connecticut's roads, bridges, rail lines, ports, waterways, airports, transit services, and bike and pedestrian infrastructure. The last time DOT released such a blue-

print was in 2018.

DOT held an initial comment period for the 2055 plan last year. Now that a draft has been published, residents can submit comments through May 22 and ask questions at virtual meetings on April 22.

The long-term plan doesn't list specific projects like other DOT planning documents; instead, it lays out goals and priorities. One of those goals is to reduce congestion.

Traffic jams are expected to get worse by 2055 as the state's population, the miles driven by

motor vehicles on Connecticut roads and economic activity grow, according to the draft plan. Total vehicle miles traveled, or VMT, is expected to surpass pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels by 2028.

"Vital corridors such as I-95 and I-84 will be particularly impacted by more frequent bottlenecks and delays," the plan says.

Right now, congestion is "most extensive" in the Bridgeport, Stamford and New Haven areas, according to the plan. And the most congested corridors, it

Traffic continues on A4



Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media

Northbound afternoon traffic on Interstate 95 in Fairfield in 2024. One of the goals of a long-term plan by the state Department of Transportation is to reduce traffic congestion.



Photos by Ned Gerard/Hearst Connecticut Media

Mayor Justin Elicker held a news conference in front of a fire damaged multifamily home on Avon Street in New Haven on Tuesday. Below, Elicker speaks at the news conference.

Actions against landlord charged with code violations announced

By Brian Zahn
STAFF WRITER

NEW HAVEN — With the smell of burnt wood still lingering in the air from a mid-March fire and over the occasional chirp of a smoke detector, audible from the sidewalk, Mayor Justin Elicker stood on Avon Street and said the city was delivering a message to a landlord for "countless egregious violations" — "Enough is enough, and we've had enough."

Elicker and several other city officials gathered in front of 56-58 Avon St., boarded up with plywood, to announce enforcement actions against Bethany-based

Violations continues on A4



State tax refunds on the rise

Federal changes help boost higher returns, Conn. officials say

By Paul Hughes
STAFF WRITER

HARTFORD — Refunds of state taxes in Connecticut, including the personal income tax, are exceeding budgeted expectations as the tax-filing season nears its conclusion, according to state officials.

The increase in state tax refunds is likely related to federal tax changes made in the so-called One Big Beautiful Bill Act, including a quadrupling of the deduction for state and local taxes on the federal income tax, the state comptroller's office said. Federal refunds are trending up, too, according to the IRS.

The latest state budget projections anticipate \$2.1 billion will be refunded to Connecticut tax-

Refunds continues on A10

NORTH HAVEN

Residents urge more funding for schools, firefighters

By Jessica Simms
STAFF WRITER

NORTH HAVEN — While North Haven Public Schools would like to hire three more special education teachers, a speech and language pathologist and an occupational therapist to support special education students next school year, Superintendent Patrick Stirk said that can't happen through

North Haven continues on A4

Milford woman wants to build indoor batting cages in Devon

By Mark Zaretsky
STAFF WRITER

MILFORD — A Milford woman plans to open a 6,200-square-foot indoor recreational softball practice facility that would provide both batting cages and pitching lanes in a portion of a former moving company warehouse at 674 Naugatuck Ave.

The Planning and Zoning Board unanimously approved a special exception to allow for recreation training activities for the facility in the Devon section last week.

The PZB also approved the

applicant's request to lower the parking requirement from the 49.5 required for a health club or gymnasium use to 10, after R.E.P.S. LLC co-owner and President Jeanette Tierney told the PZB that youth participants would be dropped off and she didn't anticipate needing all those spaces.

One of the 10 spaces will be accessible for people with disabilities.

There currently are 42 spaces on the property with one handicapped accessible space.

The facility would have four batting lanes and one pitching lane and would only be open by

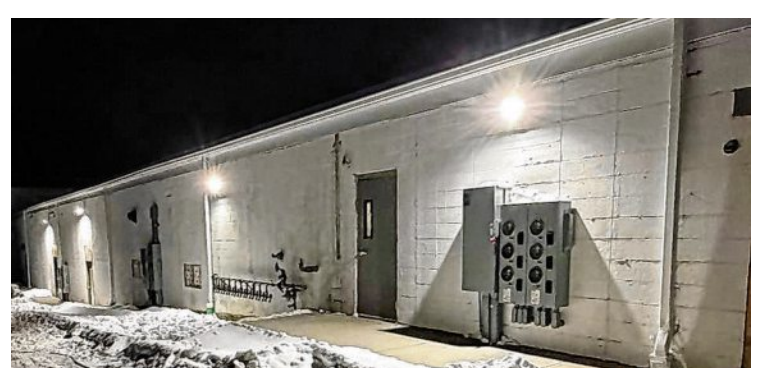
appointment when the lanes are scheduled, Tierney told the commission.

Its hours of operation would be 8 a.m.-10 p.m. by appointment only on Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, Tierney said.

Tierney told the commission that "the actual use and operation of our facility differ significantly from the type of activity that (health club or gymnasium) classification represents," and it "is not a traditional health club or gym."

Just one person spoke during

Batting continues on A10



Courtesy of R.E.P.S. LLC

An exterior view of the proposed future location of the R.E.P.S. LLC 6,200-square-foot indoor recreational softball practice facility that would provide both batting cages and pitching lanes in a portion of a former moving company warehouse at 674 Naugatuck Ave. in Milford's Devon section.

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