



TRANSPORTATION IS CRITICAL TO ECONOMIC GROWTH



Transportation is critical to our region, and this year, the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce has an opportunity to improve, significantly, the region's transportation infrastructure through runway expansion at Tweed New Haven Airport. Increasing the length of the runway will greatly support economic development in the region and bring in more airlines, non-stop flights for both business and leisure travel, and access to destinations beyond the region.

Furthermore, an Economic Impact Analysis of Tweed Airport prepared by the firm of SH&E, an ICF International Company, determined the economic impact is associated with three kinds of activity—airport businesses and tenants, capital improvement projects at the airport, and the spending of visitors who arrive by aircraft.

The Greater New Haven region is home to strong and growing sectors of the economy, specifically the healthcare and regional higher education systems. Transportation to and from New Haven should be considered when looking at the region's economic development strategy, as it is host to many business conferences and association meetings due to cutting-edge research coming from higher education systems.

This current legislative session, the Energy and Technology Committee is considering language in House Bill 5350, that would remove a statutory limit on the length of Tweed's main runway. Garrett Sheehan, the Chamber's new President, testified last Tuesday before the Committee, specifically in support of Section 2c of this bill that would allow runway expansion at Tweed.

This month, the state Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth released its official report to lawmakers for consideration in the current legislative session. The Commission, comprised largely of leaders from the state's business community, made recommendations to turn around Connecticut's finances and economy, including the Tweed runway expansion.

Many of the Commission's recommendations appear to be good for business, but some would increase tax burdens on businesses. The Commission invested a significant amount of time and research in reaching its conclusions. Commission Co-Chairmen James Smith, former CEO of Webster Bank, and Robert Patricelli, former CEO of Women's Health USA, will speak in detail about their work and recommendations at Connecticut Business Day on Wednesday, March 14. The recommendations deserve our full review and consideration.

Connecticut Business Day begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. The morning kicks off with remarks from CBIA president and CEO, Joe Brennan, and Governor Dannel Malloy, followed by facilitated discussions on labor and workforce development, fiscal policy, and transportation from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Business Day offers a great opportunity for our partners to meet with lawmakers and tell them how important a reliable transportation infrastructure is to the state's success. This year, there is real momentum to improve Tweed. Adding your voice to this call to remove barriers to runway expansion at Tweed can help us achieve our goal.

We invite business leaders to join us on our bus trip to Connecticut Business Day. Round-trip motor coach transportation is provided by Dattco. The bus will depart at 7:30 a.m. from North Haven Commuter Lot, West Lot at Route 40 @ Devine Street (Exit 1) West Lot in North Haven. The event is free. **To register or learn more, visit www.gnhcc.com or call 203-782-4342.**