



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATE
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LEADER

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I-95 Expansion Project in Norwalk Nearing Completion

I am pleased and excited to announce that the I-95 expansion project in Norwalk is close to complete, with the new northbound lane already open and the new southbound lane scheduled to open next month.

The project, which began in 2012, will reduce traffic by delivering an additional operating lane in each direction of the highway between Exits 14 and 15. The expansion gives drivers space and time to adjust their speeds outside of the main traffic flow as they transition to or from the interchange ramps. The short distance between the ramps, combined with volume of approximately 140,000 vehicles per day, has resulted in frequent delays and impacted safety.

On the whole, Connecticut residents spend more than 40 hours per year—a full workweek—in congestion. Connecticut loses billions of dollars in economic productivity per year as a result. This project, as well as those included in the governor's long-term vision for a best-in-class transportation system, aim to ameliorate those problems.

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Preserving Norwalk's Open Space

The White Barn Property is a community treasure and is one of Norwalk's few remaining expanses of undisturbed open space. This session, I lead passage of a bill that prevents taxpayer-purchased open space from being used to fulfill the open space percentage allocation required for cluster developments. This will protect the 5.5 acres of the White Barn Preserve and further preserve the land as a natural habitat to the wildlife that resides there.



Vets' Tax Exemption

I am very proud to share that the budget that was passed included language that would fully exempt military retirement pay from the state income tax. This is a jump up to 100 percent from the previous 50 percent and it will go into effect upon the governor's signature of the bill. The exemption applies to federal retirement pay for retired members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard (H.B. 7061).

