

The New Haven Register (nhregister.com), Serving New Haven, CT

---

News > Metro

## Land of opportunity: West Haven foresees big future in New Haven Harbor rehab project

Saturday, June 5, 2010

By Amanda Pinto, Register Staff  
apinto@newhavenregister.com

---

WEST HAVEN — City officials Friday met with local and federal representatives to lay out potential plans for the West River area of New Haven Harbor — a design that could include a five-story office building that could help revive the area.

The plan hinges on the construction of a bulkhead that has been washed away and must be rebuilt in order to make the property marketable to developers, help create jobs and catalyze economic stability, Mayor John M. Picard said.

The project is estimated to cost \$2 million, and the city is applying for a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to pay half. The other half would come from the state, Picard said. He added that city taxpayers have not had to pay for any of the studies so far done on the site.

The meeting included U.S. Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, D-3, and Economic Development Administration Regional Director Willie Taylor.

The pair made several stops in the area to discuss potential Economic Development Administration projects.

"In today's difficult economy, it is essential that we support projects like these that can create jobs, helping hard-working Americans and their families," DeLauro said in a statement. "These are all projects that I and local leaders have supported and encouraged over the years."

Upon completion, the bulkhead project will make 15 to 20 acres of waterfront property ready for development, Picard said.

The city has already has permits for the area from the state Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Picard said he was optimistic authorities would give West Haven the funds.

"I'm very, very confident that with the bulkhead in place we'll have developers ready to move very quickly, because we have the bulkhead finished and an anchor business in place," he said.

That anchor business, Bilco Co., is ready to move from its aging headquarters into a new building to be constructed on the site, keeping jobs in the city, Picard said.

The city owns about 4.5 acres of the property, the rest of it is owned by Bilco, said Eileen Buckheit, commissioner of planning and development.

Contact Amanda Pinto at 203-789-5734.

---

URL: <http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/06/05/news/metro/cc1whbulkhead060510.prt>

© 2010 nhregister.com, a **Journal Register** Property