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East Hampton

East enders oppose plan

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Staff writer Joseph Mallia contributed to this story.

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A busload of East Hampton residents, riled by a new proposal that would link their community by ferry to Connecticut, showed up in force at a Southold Town Hall hearing yesterday to denounce the idea.



The new route would run from New London, Conn., to East Hampton, with ferries docking somewhere between Amagansett and Montauk.

The irate East End residents hope to short-circuit the new route in its planning stages as part of a regional New York-Connecticut study called the Long Island Sound Waterborne Transportation Plan.

East Hampton Supervisor William E. McGintee said the proposed ferry service would worsen summer traffic congestion.

"All it will do is bring people who want to gamble at the Indian casino" in Connecticut, he said.

At the 3:30 p.m. meeting yesterday, Southold Town Hall quickly filled with more than 100 people, most opposed to any ferry expansion.

The public hearing was on a variety of proposed ferry routes, including a water taxi service in Peconic Bay, ferry service to Kennedy and LaGuardia airports and terminals in Manhattan and Staten Island.

A few people booed when Southold Supervisor Josh Horton said he supported new ferry service from Orient to East Hampton.

Ferry service is a hot-button issue in East Hampton, where for years local residents have opposed a water link to Orient, on the North Fork, where the Cross-Sound Ferry to New London now docks.

The new ferry service is part of a study sponsored by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, the Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency and the South Western Regional Planning Agency, of Connecticut.

Though East Hampton residents oppose the idea of a new ferry, Shelter Island residents want it.

Many New England vacationers snarl traffic on Shelter Island when they use it as a "land bridge" to reach the Hamptons.

Horton said East Hampton has an obligation to accept a ferry service.

And Montauk's deep harbor and busy commercial dock are clear signs that a ferry would also fit in there, said Horton.

Proposed routes

A look at some of the ferry services explored in the Long Island Sound Waterborne Transportation Plan.

Hunts Point

Midtown/Lower Manhattan

Port Authority of NY/NJ

Kennedy Airport

LaGuardia Airport

Larchmont/New Rochelle

Mamaroneck

Rye Playland

Port Chester

Stamford

Norwalk

Bridgeport

New Haven

New London

Glen Cove

Huntington

Port Jefferson

Calverton/Riverhead

Shinnecock Inlet

Sag Harbor

Greenport

Orient

Napeague Bay

Fort Pond Bay

Montauk

Note: Routes have not been mapped out for some ports

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