



# JILL BARRETT



PRINCIPAL PLANNER

## OVERVIEW

Ms. Barrett has over 30 years of experience in community organizing, public open space advocacy, public involvement program development, and project management. The breadth of Ms. Barrett's experience includes: spearheading an urban greening organization; leading community efforts to preserve open space through land acquisition, park planning and recreational development; managing public education and participation activities for large-scale remediation projects; developing public outreach programs for every mode of transportation and contributing to numerous urban improvement activities, including the development of a corridor plan for her Hartford neighborhood.

## OUTREACH STRATEGY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Barrett's training as a community organizer and planner, coupled with her longstanding civic volunteer activities, brings a unique combination to the transportation and environmental planning fields. She is expert at identifying community issues and key stakeholders and bringing diverse people and groups together to form consensus. She has a deep understanding of how communities can work with or work against public projects depending on the timing and extent of public involvement.

## COMMUNICATION AND FACILITATION

Ms. Barrett understands how to develop a public relations strategy for projects. She is skilled at identifying community contacts and utilizing non-traditional communication networks to inform and involve the public in projects, including populations that are traditionally underserved. Ms. Barrett has expertise in developing relations with media organizations, including the press, radio, and television. She has developed websites, newsletters, flyers, fact sheets and meeting handouts for dozens of projects. Ms. Barrett has extensive experience with planning and facilitating public meetings, conducting focus groups, organizing workshops, making public presentations, building and working with effective committees and moderating hearings.

## TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Ms. Barrett has managed public outreach for large scale projects such as the State of Connecticut's largest brownfields cleanup project (2003 to present) where an entire neighborhood was built over former landfill and New York State's \$70 million Lake Champlain Bridge Project (2009 to present) where a three-year planning process had to be collapsed into three months when the bridge's sudden closure resulted in a 100-mile land detour. She has also managed small scale projects such as facilitating three workshops with residents and businesses to create a vision for Putnam CT's downtown and preparing for and moderating a public hearing for a controversial proposal at Sikorsky Airport in Stratford, CT. A number of Ms Barrett's projects have been high profile in the media, requiring sensitivity and responsiveness. Her environmental projects have focused on public communication, education and outreach on brownfields risk and cleanup, stormwater and wastewater management topics. Ms. Barrett's transportation experience includes numerous projects in the area of airports, freight, rail, intermodal centers, bridges, traffic calming and corridor planning.

## EDUCATION

- B.A. Sociology, 1971
- M.S.W. Social Work (Community Organizing), 1973
- Certificate of Training for Nonprofit Administrators, Hartford Graduate Center, 1982
- M.R.P. Regional Planning (Environmental Concentration), 2001

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Planning Association, Connecticut Chapter (CCAPA)
- Connecticut Institute of Transportation Engineers (CTITE)
- Capitol Region Council of Governments, Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee
- City of Hartford (CT) Green Ribbon Task Force
- Hartford Public Library, Corporator

## YEARS EXPERIENCE

- 9 Years with firm
- 30 Years in industry





## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### **TWEED AIRPORT RUNWAY PAVING | NEW HAVEN, CT | 2010**

Administrators from Tweed Airport in New Haven, CT met with Ms. Barrett to devise an outreach program ten days before the municipally-owned airport planned to begin a runway pavement project. Like many airports that are located next to residential neighborhoods, the airport had encountered skirmishes with neighbors while implementing improvement projects and this paving project would need to be done in the evening hours from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. when air traffic is lightest. Within 24 hours Ms. Barrett had produced a flyer inviting neighbors to two open house sessions to occur the following week and developed a brochure in Q&A format explaining the project. This brochure detailed the reasons for nighttime construction and a work schedule that corresponded to a chart that indicated the relative noise of the various construction tasks. Within two days a webpage was designed to illustrate the progress of the paving project. By viewing the aerial photo on the webpage, nearby residents could track where construction would occur that evening in relation to their own home. This page was updated every morning as status reports were received from the construction supervisor. Local media coverage was positive; relations with the airport were not antagonistic as in previous projects.

### **LAKE CHAMPLAIN BRIDGE | VERMONT AND NEW YORK | 2009-ONGOING**

When transportation officials from New York and Vermont initiated a planning process to determine what to do about a beloved but deteriorating 1929 bridge spanning the lake between the two states, they knew they needed to heavily engage the public in a dialogue about the lake crossing. What they did not know was the bridge would need to be closed three months later, stranding local communities, with few options for getting across the lake. Closing the bridge resulted in a 100-mile land detour over rural roads. Ms. Barrett was an integral part of the outreach team of planners, engineers and officials who, with significant and compelling public input, quickly arrived at a decision to build a new bridge at its existing location. Local hardship to residents and businesses, unrelenting media attention locally and nationally and a project team that worked 24/7 resulted in extraordinary collaboration. Public outreach and communication tools included: an engaged Public Advisory Committee, several public meetings, frequent e-blasts to a stakeholder list of nearly 2,000, a design charrette, a website that was updated daily with progress reports and photographs on all aspects of the project – bridge demolition, selection of a new bridge design, construction of a new temporary ferry facilities and the new bridge, slated for opening in October 2011. Through public outreach, remarkable and prompt consensus on a new design was reached. Within 72 hours, some 3,300 people using an on-line survey expressed their preferences on a design for the new bridge and two thirds favored the design that now is under construction.

### **INTERMODAL CENTER | BRIDGEPORT, CT | 2008**

The City of Bridgeport CT transformed a dark, dingy bus station located in parking garage to a sun-filled intermodal center with outdoor bays with shelters and a roof. Shortly after launching the new facility, bus patrons complained the outdoor waiting areas did not provide protection from driving rain and snow and the Transit District looked to an architect team to provide a solution. Working with the architect and Transit District staff, Ms. Barrett reached out to bus patrons to listen to their concerns and asked for their input on design solutions. Understanding that transit users traditionally do not participate in public meetings, Ms. Barrett organized open house style meetings with light refreshments in the station during the peak evening hours to maximize the potential of feedback from the people who would benefit from station improvements.

### **NEWHALL REMEDIATION PROJECT | HAMDEN, CT | 2003-PRESENT**

Since 2003 Ms. Barrett has served as the CT Department of Environmental Protection's Public Relations Coordinator for the state's largest superfund cleanup project. Some 300 properties, mostly homes but also churches, a few businesses, public parks and schools, were built over former landfills created to fill in wetlands that were considered a health hazard in the early 1900's. Ms. Barrett has seen the project through initial community meetings, environmental investigations of the site and development of a cleanup plan to the initiation of removal of the first truckloads of fill in 2010. She was responsible for summarizing complex technical documents





into language laypeople could understand, developing a website, facilitating meetings, advising the CT Department of Environmental Protection on outreach strategy, developing a video explaining the cleanup and producing periodic newsletters and construction update bulletins.

## ADDITIONAL PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### Public Involvement: Airport

- Waterbury - Part 150 Noise Study (CT) 2009
- Sikorsky Airport Master Plan (CT) 2008
- Danielson Airport Master Plan (CT) 2008
- North Central State Airport (RI) 2010-11
- New England General Aviation Systems Plan (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT) 2011

### Public Involvement: Freight & Rail

- Boston to Montreal High Speed Rail Feasibility and Planning Study (MA, NH, VT) 2003
- I-93 Manchester-Boston Transit Investment Study (NH, MA) 2008
- MBTA Merrimack River Bridge Project, Haverhill (MA) 2009 -
- Vermont Rail Policy Plan (VT) 2007
- Metropolitan Washington Consideration of Freight in Regional Planning (DC) 2006
- Mass Freight and Rail Plan (MA) 2010
- Vermont Freight Plan (VT) 2009 -

### Intermodal Centers & Transit

- I-93 Manchester-Boston Transit Investment Study (NH, MA) 2008
- Southeast Connecticut Intermodal Connections Study (CT) 2005
- Bridgeport Intermodal Center (CT) 2009
- Regional Intermodal Transportation Center Study, New London (CT) 2009
- South Norwalk Intermodal Transportation Center Study (CT) 2008

### Public Involvement: Transportation Planning

- Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) Public Involvement Manual 2008
- Bristol - Route 72 Corridor Study (CT) 2007
- Williston, Essex, Essex Junction -Circ-Williston EIS, (VT) 2005 -
- Methuen/Dracut - Rte 110-113 Rotary Project (MA) 2007
- CT Rest Areas and Service Plazas Study (CT) 2008
- Montachusett Regional Transportation Plan Update (MA) 2007
- Poughkeepsie - Route 9 Corridor Study (NY) 2007
- Stamford Ferry Feasibility Study (CT) 2009
- Portsmouth Public Relations (Traffic Calming) (RI) 2007
- VT Western Corridor Transportation Management Plan (VT) 2009
- Lake Champlain Bridge (NY, VT) 2009 -
- Livingston Avenue Bridge (VT) 2010 -

### Public Involvement: Environmental

- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Clean Vessel Program (CT) 2007
- Newhall Neighborhood Superfund Site Project (CT) 2003 -
- Georgetown Redevelopment (CT) 2007
- Norwich Facility Plan (CT) 2007
- New London Stormwater Management Study (CT) 2010
- Greater Bridgeport Commission Long Term CSO Control Plan (CT) 2010 -

