



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6799

LCO No. 3786

Referred to Committee on Planning and Development

Introduced by:

(PD)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CONNECTICUT TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT AUTHORITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) There is hereby established and created a body
2 politic and corporate, constituting a public instrumentality and
3 political subdivision of the state of Connecticut established and created
4 for the performance of an essential public and governmental function,
5 to be known as the Connecticut Transportation Investment Authority.
6 The authority shall not be construed to be a department, institution or
7 agency of the state.

8 (b) The powers of the authority shall be vested in and exercised by a
9 board of directors. The membership of the board shall consist of (1)
10 five ex-officio members who shall include the Secretary of the Office of
11 Policy and Management or the secretary's designee, the
12 Commissioners of Public Safety, Transportation, Environmental
13 Protection and Economic and Community Development or their
14 designees; (2) five public or institutional representatives, three of
15 whom shall be appointed by the Governor and one appointed by the
16 president pro tempore of the Senate and one by the speaker of the

17 House of Representatives; and (3) one representative of each of the
18 transportation areas established pursuant to subsection (c) of section 2
19 of this act, one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor, one by
20 the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one by the
21 minority leader of the House of Representatives, one by the majority
22 leader of the Senate and one by the minority leader of the Senate. The
23 members representing the transportation investment areas shall be
24 selected from a list submitted by each transportation investment area
25 coalition. Each nominee shall have significant experience in state and
26 local government processes and one shall be a chief elected official.
27 Each shall be from a different congressional district. The terms of
28 initial appointments shall expire as follows: Two shall expire three
29 years after the date of appointment; one shall expire four years from
30 the date of appointment and one shall expire five years from the date
31 of appointment. Thereafter the members shall serve a term of five
32 years. All appointed members shall have relevant strategic planning
33 experience and shall reflect appropriate balance of geography and
34 other perspectives. At the end of a term a member may continue to
35 serve until a successor is appointed and qualified. A member shall be
36 eligible for one additional term. Any vacancy occurring other than by
37 expiration of a term shall be filled in the same manner as the original
38 appointment for the balance of the unexpired term.

39 (c) Directors may engage in private employment, or in a profession
40 or business, subject to any applicable laws, rules and regulations of the
41 state or federal government regarding official ethics or conflict of
42 interest. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, it shall not
43 constitute a conflict of interest for a trustee, director, partner or officer
44 of any person, firm or corporation, or any individual having a financial
45 interest in a person, firm or corporation, to serve as a member of the
46 board of directors of the service other than as one of the two members
47 who are representatives of the general public with no financial interest
48 in the hazardous waste disposal industry, provided such trustee,
49 director, partner, officer or individual shall abstain from deliberation,
50 action or vote by the service in specific respect to such person, firm or

51 corporation.

52 (d) A majority of the voting directors of the authority shall
53 constitute a quorum. For the transaction of any business or the exercise
54 of any power of the service, the service shall have power to act by a
55 majority of the directors present at any meeting at which a quorum is
56 in attendance.

57 (e) The authority may delegate to four or more of its directors such
58 board powers and duties as it may deem necessary and proper in
59 conformity with the provisions of the general statutes.

60 (f) The chairperson of the board of directors shall be appointed by
61 the Governor from the members representing the public or
62 institutional sector. The chairperson shall serve at the pleasure of the
63 Governor. The chairperson shall be the executive officer of the service
64 and shall preside at all meetings, employ and supervise the staff of the
65 service subject to the approval of the board, implement policy
66 decisions of the board and perform any other duty or function
67 assigned by the board or by law. The chairperson shall be a voting
68 member of the board and, in case of a tie vote, the side on which the
69 chairperson votes shall be deemed to prevail.

70 (g) The chairperson shall be entitled to compensation, within
71 available resources, in such amount as the board of directors
72 determines. The other directors shall be entitled to reimbursement for
73 necessary traveling expenses incurred during the performance of
74 official duties and shall receive compensation at a rate of one hundred
75 dollars for each day they are engaged in the duties of the board.

76 (h) The Governor may remove any director for inefficiency, neglect
77 of duty or misconduct in office after giving such director a copy of the
78 charges and an opportunity to be heard, in person or by counsel, in
79 defense, upon not less than ten days' notice. If any director shall be so
80 removed, the Governor shall file in the office of the Secretary of the
81 State a complete statement of charges made against such director and

82 the findings thereon, together with a complete record of the
83 proceedings.

84 (i) The authority shall meet at least quarterly. It shall establish (1) a
85 human resources committee, with responsibility for organizational
86 succession and related matters, pursuant to subsection (g) of section 2
87 of this act, consisting of the chairperson, the Commissioner of
88 Transportation and three other members from the private, institutional
89 or municipal sectors, and (2) a strategy development committee, to
90 develop, monitor and modify the transportation investment strategy
91 required pursuant to subsection (c) of section 2 of this act, consisting of
92 the chairperson and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
93 Management or the secretary's designee and the Commissioners of
94 Public Safety, Transportation, Environmental Protection and Economic
95 and Community Development or their designees.

96 (j) The authority shall terminate July 1, 2011.

97 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) The purpose of the Connecticut Transportation
98 Investment Authority shall be to establish, monitor and implement a
99 comprehensive, state-wide transportation strategy that enhances the
100 economic vitality and overall quality of life in the state. In achieving its
101 purpose the authority shall be guided by the following principles and
102 objectives: (1) The recognition of transportation as the cornerstone of
103 the state's economic vitality and overall quality of life; (2) the
104 inseparable relationship of transportation and land use planning; (3)
105 an awareness of the connection between the state and national,
106 continental and international economies; (4) the importance of mobility
107 of people and goods within the state; (5) the leveraging of existing
108 transportation assets and infrastructure, especially in urban centers,
109 and the reduction of auto-oriented demands; (6) the use of technology
110 to expand capacity, enhance safety and to access funding alternatives;
111 (7) the sources and methodologies for funding investments in
112 transportation infrastructure as annual maintenance costs; (8) the value
113 of listening to transportation customers in evaluating transportation

114 investments and prioritizing projects; (9) the need for the state, along
115 with the northeast states and the Maritime provinces, to play a
116 leadership role in developing and advocating a transportation strategy
117 for the region and continent; (10) the expediting of analytical decision-
118 making related to transportation initiatives approved within the
119 strategy; and (11) the role of the private sector, public agencies and
120 institution in encouraging and delivering goods with and through the
121 state.

122 (b) The authority shall have power to:

123 (1) Employ a staff, which shall be exempt from the provisions of
124 chapter 67 of the general statutes, and to fix their duties, qualifications
125 and compensation;

126 (2) Establish offices where necessary in the state of Connecticut;

127 (3) Make and enter into any contract or agreement necessary or
128 incidental to the performance of its duties and execution of its powers;

129 (4) Sue and be sued;

130 (5) Have a seal and alter it at pleasure;

131 (6) Make and alter bylaws and rules with respect to the exercise of
132 its own powers;

133 (7) Conduct such hearings, examinations and investigations as may
134 be necessary and appropriate to the conduct of its operations and the
135 fulfillment of its responsibilities;

136 (8) Obtain access to public records and apply for the process of
137 subpoena if necessary to produce books, papers, records and other
138 data;

139 (9) Purchase, lease or rent such real and personal property as it may
140 deem necessary, convenient or desirable and to lease to a third party
141 any real or personal property acquired;

142 (10) Receive and accept aid or contributions including money,
143 property, labor and other things of value from any source;

144 (11) Invest any funds not needed for immediate use or disbursement
145 in obligations issued or guaranteed by the United States of America or
146 the state of Connecticut and in other obligations which are legal
147 investments for savings banks in this state; and

148 (12) Adopt regular procedures for exercising its powers not in
149 conflict with the general statutes.

150 (c) On or before October 1, 2001, and biennially thereafter, the
151 authority shall develop a transportation strategy based on the strategic
152 framework published by the Connecticut Regional Institute for the 21st
153 Century. The strategy shall articulate goals for the economy and
154 quality of life in the state and shall include (1) establishment of five
155 transportation investment areas that assigns each municipality to one
156 or more areas, (2) recommendations for major transportation
157 investments and coordinated land use strategies in such areas, and (3)
158 linking the five transportation investment areas with the state plan of
159 conservation and development. The authority shall monitor, amend
160 and implement the strategy. The strategy shall be submitted to the
161 Governor and the General Assembly. The authority shall submit a
162 report on the strategy to the joint standing committee of the General
163 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to transportation on
164 or before April 1, 2002, and every six months thereafter.

165 (d) The authority shall participate in and coordinate transportation
166 issues and interests with other states, Canada, federally recognized
167 Native American nations and the state congressional delegation.

168 (e) On or before October 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the
169 Commissioner of Transportation shall submit the capital and operating
170 budget of the Department of Transportation to the authority for its
171 review and recommendation. The authority shall submit a report of its
172 findings and recommendations on such budget to the Governor and

173 the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2001, and annually
174 thereafter.

175 (f) No contract of any state agency, department or institution that
176 substantially impacts the transportation strategy will be effective
177 unless approved by the authority.

178 (g) On or before October 1, 2001, and annually thereafter, the
179 authority shall conduct a review of the organizational structure of the
180 Department of Transportation which shall include an assessment of
181 the skills necessary to manage the department successfully. The
182 authority shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations on
183 the organizational structure of the department to the Governor and the
184 General Assembly on or before December 1, 2001, and annually
185 thereafter. No appointment to any position within the Department of
186 Transportation shall be effective without approval of the authority.
187 The authority may recommend persons to fill any vacancy in the office
188 of the Commissioner of Transportation and may make
189 recommendations on removal.

190 Sec. 3. (NEW) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
191 shall provide the necessary personnel and resources to assist the
192 Connecticut Transportation Investment Authority in performing its
193 tasks under this act.

194 Sec. 4. The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated to the Connecticut
195 Transportation Investment Authority from the General Fund, for the
196 fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, for the purposes of this act.

197 Sec. 5. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a comprehensive governmental structure for the development and implementation of a state policy linking transportation investment with land use planning.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]