



**TESTIMONY**  
of the  
**CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES**  
to the  
**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

March 9, 2009

CCM is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local governments - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 93% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony to you on issues of concern to towns and cities.

**CCM supports Raised Senate Bill 1093 "An Act Providing Funds For Municipal Matching Grants For Demand-Responsive Transportation For Elderly Persons With Disabilities."**

S.B. 1093 would appropriate four million dollars to the Department of Transportation from the Special Transportation Fund, for the purpose of providing municipal matching grants for demand-responsive transportation for elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

In 1999, the Dial-A-Ride program was created to make state matching grants to municipalities for elderly and disabled demand responsive transportation programs; it was not until 2005 that the funds were made available. In 2005 the successful implementation of a municipal matching grant program to expand Dial-A-Ride services was realized. The program was allocated \$5 million a year each for 2005-06 and 2006-07.

The Dial-A-Ride program for the elderly and disabled is driven by local needs and delivered by municipalities and transit districts. Today the vast majority of towns in Connecticut operate dial-a-ride programs for the elderly and disabled; 62 towns offer services through a transit district and 97 towns operate programs directly. Only 10 towns are without a dial-a-ride program.

At a time when demand for existing service and requests for expanded service increase daily, municipal dial-a-ride programs are struggling to maintain existing service given a static level of funding is available. Some towns have reduced service to meet their budget constraints.

If enacted, S.B 1093 would address these budget constraints by providing four million dollars in municipal matching grants.

CCM urges the Committee to **favorably report** S.B 1093.

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If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Legislative Analyst  
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