



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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VICE CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 3, 2009

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee;

I ask that you consider HB 6562 in order to fulfill the state mandate that Police Officers be trained in pursuit and safe driving practices. This was a bill that was passed ten years ago but was never funded. Unfortunately, we have a situation in the State of Connecticut where most officers do not get any training after they have gone through the police academy. In order to rectify this, I propose that Connecticut consider a driver training facility.

I am hoping that this bill begins the discussion of such a need for a facility. Today, you will hear from police officers, widows of police officers and concerned citizens which will highlight the need for such a facility.

If one were to take into account the cost to municipalities in terms of insurance liabilities and the cost to personal lives when a fatality occurs due to lack of training, I know the value of such a facility will be understood.

The potential for such a facility could also be explored in terms of co operating with Homeland Security and or the National Guard. I know that both agencies also have needs in terms of training in this area.

Exploring the possibility of making such a facility a regional facility for other states might also offer Connecticut the ability to turn this project into an economic development project. The next closest facility is in Maryland and they are constructing a facility in Indian Town Gap Military Reservation in Pennsylvania.

Thus far, the University of Connecticut Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering have offered to do the engineering work and the site work. This project will be a research project for the students and use new technologies on its construction and research in terms of pavement and pavement treatments.

In the years between 1986 and 2007 there were 69 pursuit related fatalities in Connecticut. In the City of Hartford for just one case of settling a lawsuit regarding pursuit resulting in a person becoming a quadriplegic the cost to the city was \$6.9 million.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason W. Bartlett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end of the last name.

Jason W. Bartlett
State Representative District 2

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF A POLICE OFFICER TRAINING FACILITY
House Bill Number 6562**

**Testimony
Submitted**

by

**James Mahoney
Executive Program Director - Connecticut Transportation Institute
University of Connecticut**

and

**Dr. Michael Accorsi
Department Head - Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Connecticut**

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill No. 6562, *AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POLICE OFFICER TRAINING FACILITY*

The construction of a police officer training facility for driver training is of interest to the Connecticut Transportation Institute and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Connecticut. A facility of this nature would provide research and learning opportunities for UConn students.

The facility would provide an opportunity to conduct research on different types of pavements and pavement treatments under conditions that would allow a thorough evaluation without having to obtain traffic protection and causing delays to the motoring public. It would also provide an opportunity to experiment with cutting edge technologies without risking the serviceability of roadways. The facility could also be used to demonstrate state-of-the-art maintenance techniques to practioners from around Connecticut without the risk of exposing groups of people to work zone hazards.

This facility would also provide civil engineering students conducting their senior design projects with the opportunity to work on the various design phases of this project. While the design work performed by the students would need to be verified by a licensed designer, their work could be used for the exploration of initial layouts and other conceptual design layouts. This would provide an opportunity for students to work on a project that has real time applications.

This facility would provide many excellent research and learning opportunities that would help not only with police officer training, but would serve a tool for improving all of Connecticut's pavement infrastructure.

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