



**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 has concerns with certain sections of Committee Senate Bill 735 "An Act Improving Bicycle and Pedestrian Access."**

Section 1(5)(c) would require that no less than 1% of any funds expended on the construction, resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation or relocation of highways, roads or streets be used to provide facilities for all users, including, but not limited to, bikeways and sidewalks with appropriate curb cuts and ramps.

Section 3 would require that not less than 25% of funds received by the state from the federal government under the congestion mitigation and air quality improvement program and not less than 25% of the funds received by the state from the federal government under the highway safety improvement program shall be dedicated to projects that address bicycle and pedestrian needs.

CCM supports steps for improving bicycle and pedestrian access, including increased funding, but we are unsure about how the specific percentage were arrived at and we are concerned that a cookie-cutter approach may not work in all circumstances.

CCM asks that the Committee amend the bill to clarify that municipalities retain the option to use road funding as is needed for their community. Municipalities are struggling because of mandates. Placing more requirements on the way towns and cities spend their dollars will increase that burden, and could harm their ability to provide services to their communities.

CCM urges the Committee to **take no action** on S.B 735 before taking a closer look at the impact section 1(5)(c) and section (3) will have on municipal road project budgets.

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