



Greater Waterbury Transit District
C/O Yvonne Denise Smith-Isaac, M.D.
67 Farrington Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06706

Tel: 203 573-8627
Fax: 203 573-8627
Email: GWTD8@aol.com
Website: www.gwtd.org

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Sen. Donald DeFronzo, Co-Chair
Rep. Antonio Guerrero, Co-Chair
Transportation Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive
Transportation (CGS 13b-38bb) **State Bill No. SB1093**

Dear Chairmen DeFronzo and Guerrero:

Three years ago the Greater Waterbury Transit District (GWTD) established a regional Dial-A-Ride service to provide transportation for elderly and disabled residents in the Waterbury Region. The GWTD Dial-A-Ride service provides between 700 and 900 rides a month to elderly and disabled residents of Cheshire, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Prospect, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, and Wolcott.

The GWTD Dial-A-Ride service is a successful regional effort that provides needed rides to people who have few transportation options. The service is funded entirely by the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation (CGS 13b-38bb). The Governor's proposed FY10-FY11 biennial budget has eliminated funding for this program.

The GWTD Dial-A-Ride service is an effective regional program. In the current fiscal environment, regional approaches to providing needed services should be supported. The GWTD Board urges committee members to consider reinstating funding for the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation.

Sincerely,


Yvonne Smith-Isaac, MD
Chairman