



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the  
Commissioner

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### **Public Hearing – March 1, 2011 Commerce Committee**

### **Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Jeffrey A. Parker Department of Transportation**

### **Governor's Bill No. 1003 – An Act Concerning the Connecticut Airport Authority.**

The Department of Transportation (Department) is pleased to support Governor's Senate Bill 1003, AAC the Connecticut Airport Authority.

Governor Malloy is proposing the creation of an independent airport authority for Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks and the five state owned and operated general aviation airports - Brainard Airport in Harford, Danielson Airport, Groton-New London Airport, Waterbury-Oxford Airport, and Windham Airport. The new Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) will be a separate and distinct entity allowed to operate independent of the state's contracting, procurement and hiring requirements that will provide these airports the flexibility to respond more quickly and efficiently to economic development opportunities and to the ever-changing airline industry.

Over the next few months, the Administration and ConnDOT will be working collaboratively with the General Assembly through S.B. 1003 to create an authority with full jurisdiction, discretion and the resources needed to manage, operate and develop the airports in lieu of the existing oversight roles of multiple boards and state agencies. Some broadly defined airport authority powers include the ability to:

- Adopt and approve all plans and procedures related to the operation, management and development of the airports including, but not limited to, safety, security and operational certification plans and specifications, master plans, business plans, minimum standards, mission statements, strategic plans, marketing plans, goals and objectives;
- Adopt and approve a system of benchmarking and performance assessment to track and report progress in achieving established goals and objectives;
- Establish the organizational structure including the number and type of positions, position descriptions, authorities, duties and responsibilities of management and staff;
- Establish and implement policy and procedures for the desired qualifications, outreach criteria, evaluation and hiring of management and staff;
- Adopt and approve the annual operating and capital budgets;
- Adopt and approve policy and procedure related to the development, lease and use of airport property including issuing and responding to RFPs, incentive packages, business and financial terms and conditions;
- Execute fully on behalf of the State all leases, concessions, operating agreements, permits, licenses and other documents providing for the development, access, use and/or occupancy of airport property;

- Establish and implement policy and procedures for solicitation, evaluation and contracting of vendors providing goods and services necessary or desirable for the operation, management and development of the airports.

The Department is proud of what we have accomplished through the years at Bradley and the five general aviation airports, but recognizes the constraints of operating in a governance structure that isn't always able to implement and respond to development opportunities and staffing needs as quickly as we would like. We are excited about the potential opportunities that lie ahead for these great transportation assets and their role in the future growth of our state and the region – and look forward to their continued success.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation at (860) 594-3013.