



**TESTIMONY TO THE FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE
REGARDING SB 1004**

On behalf to the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority (GBT) which provides transit service to ten communities in Eastern Fairfield County and Western New Haven County, we are commenting on the Governor's proposed budget for transit operations. Our service is critical to restoring the economic health of Connecticut. Thousand of individuals depend on GBT each day to access employment and hundreds of employers have access to a larger labor pool thanks to our services. If gas prices increase as expected demand for our service will grow significantly.

We fully support the amounts proposed for capital uses in SB 1004. We currently have a backlog of projects needing state match. This funding will enable GBT and all other transit agencies in Connecticut to bring their systems to a state of good repair. In some cases this will also enable transit systems to reduce operating costs in addition to providing more reliable service. For example we are currently forced to replace bus and paratransit vans at a later date than the normal life cycle for those vehicles, adding to our maintenance costs and reducing reliability. The funding in this bill will enable us to end this practice.

Every \$1 invested in transit capital yields a \$3 return. Transit investment is one of the best job creators of any infrastructure class. The amounts recommend are critical in improving the economic health of Connecticut – a very worthy investment.

Sincerely,

**Ron Kilcoyne
General Manager/CEO**