



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – March 1, 2011 Program Review and Investigations Committee

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

H.B. 6482 – An Act Authorizing the Department of Transportation to Conduct a Pilot Project Based on Design-Build and other Alternative Contracting Methods.

Other than Emergency Declarations, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation (Department) has no statutory authority to implement projects in any manner other than Design-Bid-Build.

The Department is responsible for hundreds of projects at any point in time that involve all modes of travel, a growing value range, several federal agencies (Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, etc.) with a myriad of federal aid grant and project/program funding requirements/arrangements. Some projects may have specific timeframes established for the use of the funds. There have been many technological advances through the years and more innovations are being pursued. Accelerated project delivery methods should be considered to enable Connecticut to best utilize funding opportunities and satisfy public expectations on transportation projects.

In 2009, the Department requested a study by the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering (CASE) on Design-Build (DB) as a potential project delivery methodology in Connecticut. The study notes that several states have passed DB enabling legislation for transportation projects since 2009 due to the release of federal stimulus funds and the need to construct the projects in a timely manner. As of June 2010, Connecticut remained one of only four states without enabling DB legislation for transportation projects.

In 2010, the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee studied the Department's project delivery process. The study included consideration of creative contracting authority and recommended that "legislation be enacted to permit the department to use design-build and other alternative contracting approaches on a pilot basis."

Currently, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has statutory approval to utilize Design-Build. DPW also has statutory authority to utilize Construction Manager at Risk-Guaranteed Maximum Price (CMR-GMP). DPW has assessed advantages and disadvantages of these methods as compared to Design-Bid-Build. These experiences can be drawn upon to implement the accelerated project delivery methodologies at ConnDOT.

The successful execution of a DB contract provides several benefits, including time savings, cost savings, and improved quality. CMR-GMP provides a quality based contractor, as well as construction cost controls. Transportation facilities, such as train stations, airport terminals, and transportation maintenance facilities all offer possibilities for use of CMR-GMP.

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