

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING

February 28, 2011

Governor's Bill 6394 AAC Fare Increases on the New Haven Line and the Elimination of the Transportation Strategy Board

Dear Sen. Maynard, Rep. Guerrero and Members of the Transportation Committee,

As members of the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB), we feel it is important to comment on the Governor's Bill 6394, AAC Fare Increases on the New Haven Line and the Elimination of the Transportation Strategy Board. However, we are speaking as individuals and do not represent the Board.

The formation of the TSB in 2001 was very good in that it stressed the importance of establishing a long-range transportation strategy based on input from public and private stakeholders and decision makers. The TSB's membership consists of the Commissioners of Transportation, Environmental Protection, Economic and Community Development and Public Safety along with the Secretary of the Office of Policy & Management, members of the business community and representatives from all geographic areas of the state.

The key to an effective and comprehensive long-range transportation strategy is the integration of transportation planning with economic development, environmental goals and land use planning. The TSB recognized this fact and also recognized the need to develop a dedicated, stable funding source to preserve our infrastructure and make investments to improve the state's economy, environment and the quality of life for all residents.

As you discuss the elimination of the TSB, we hope that the final determination will include continuing the process begun by the TSB to develop a comprehensive, integrated long-range transportation strategy based on input from all affected sectors, with a funding schedule, evaluation criteria, and recommended priority projects needed to implement the strategy included.

Thank you for your consideration.

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