

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION

Written Testimony

Submitted by Mary Tomolonius, Executive Director

Transportation Committee

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Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee, on behalf of the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT) I write in support of SB 1061, AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF OFF-DUTY SCHOOL BUSES TO PROVIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION. *To provide that the board of education of any school district may rent or lease any motor vehicle owned by such school district and used for the transportation of children, when such vehicle is not required for such purpose.*

- Despite the economic and environmental benefits of increased ridership on public transportation for state residents, the State's investment is insufficient to close the 1.8 million hour gap in the amount of bus service provided per year compared to the need identified in the 2007 Bus Transit Needs Analysis.
- In FY 2010 Connecticut continues to have limited or no public bus transportation available to 70 Connecticut towns. Surveys show that 60% of transit trips are for getting to and from work, with school and shopping trips the second and third most common reasons.
- Of the more than 3.5 million residents, 13.9% are 65 or older based on 2009 US census bureau statistics. (APTA) There will be a 64% increase between 2006 and 2030 of residents 65 and older, while the working residents will increase by only 5%. (CT Commission on Aging) This growing population means more seniors will be working past retirement and opting to age in place.
- You can't work if you can't get there. In FY 2010 the public utilized bus transportation for more than 36,000,000 trips.
- Utilizing public school buses to supplement the gaps in service is a cost effective. Additionally it provides the potential of offering the bus drivers full time employment.

I would urge each of you to support SB 1061. Let's show our citizens we are serious about providing alternative transportation options. Thank you.

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