



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TIMOTHY T. STEWART
MAYOR

February 15, 2011

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Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Office of the Governor
State Capital
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: New Britain's Support for the New Britain-Hartford Busway Project

Dear Governor Malloy:

I write in strong support for the New Britain-Hartford Busway Project. I have been personally involved with this project for more than 10 years. Despite my own initial skepticism, I strongly believe this project provides the best current solution for integrating mass transit into the greater Hartford area. The New Britain-Hartford Busway is a solution that's right here and right now and will provide over 1,000 good paying jobs to Connecticut residents over the next several years. This project will show our State's ability to deliver on a major mass transit project, and in the long term would compliment an east-west pedestrian rail line if that project materialized in the future.

As a community, New Britain is already seeing the benefits of the Busway project. Interest and private dollars being invested in our downtown by developers has increased ten-fold in recent years. The coming of the Busway project also helped us focus our own efforts for improving downtown New Britain, and in 2007 we completed a *Downtown Plan and Strategy* that outlined the major steps that need to be made along with the Busway project to help revitalize our downtown. One of these steps included building a new \$35 million dollar Police Station in the downtown area which we are currently constructing using city dollars. Another step involved improving pedestrian access and the downtown streetscape. Related to this we are currently using a \$212,500 *Sustainable Communities Grant* to design these improvements and construction for these improvements will begin later this year.

We recognize that this project has its share of detractors, but I want you to know that we in New Britain continue to strongly support this project and urge your support as well.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Timothy T. Stewart".

Timothy T Stewart
Mayor, City of New Britain

cc: Comr. Jeffery A. Parker, CDOT