

Testimony of Commissioner James P. Redeker
Appropriations Committee
Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget
February 16, 2012, 12:00 p.m.
Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 2C

Good afternoon Chairwoman Harp, Chairwoman Walker, and members of the Committee. I am James P. Redeker, Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss Governor Dannel P. Malloy's recommended biennial operating budget for the Department of Transportation. The Department has made great strides in moving to an organization which is focused on results, performance and transparency. There is still much to do, but we are committed to delivering a transportation system and infrastructure that the citizens of Connecticut expect and deserve - an integrated, intermodal, economic engine that drives job growth, encourages smart development, improves the environment and promotes clean energy.

Governor Malloy's budget is an investment in our transportation infrastructure - our roads, bridges, ports, airports, buses, ferries, and trains are essential to the economic well-being of our state and our nation and the connection of this investment to create jobs.

Governor Malloy has recommended Special Transportation Fund appropriations of \$588.4 million for fiscal year 2013. In addition, the Governor's revised recommended Capital Program includes new Special Tax Obligation Bond Authorizations of \$90 million for state bridge improvements, for a total Capital Program of \$630.2 million in fiscal year 2013. It is important to note that as we continue to face fiscal uncertainty at the federal level, it is vital that Connecticut's commitment to transportation remain strong to ensure continued preservation of the state's infrastructure.

The Governor's budget proposes an increased commitment in Pay-As-You-Go funding for transportation projects with an investment of \$29.7 million in fiscal year 2013. This is essential, as it will enable the Department to undertake preservation and repair initiatives which are not eligible for state bonding. These monies fund minor maintenance projects that are vital to maintaining a state of good repair, reducing long term costs, and extending the useful life of our transportation infrastructure. This increase in funding will be instrumental in enabling the Department to further expand the Department's planned efforts to reduce the backlog of bridge repairs, pavement markings, highway signing, guide rail systems and drainage improvements. Also included in the Pay-As-You-Go funding is \$2 million to fund an expanded program for the maintenance and removal of trees along our roadways, strengthening the important mission to provide a safe transportation system.

Maintaining existing rail and transit services is a key element of the Department's operating budget. Funding for these services has been the fastest growing element of the Department's budget; however, these programs serve the mobility needs of over 75 million passengers annually. The Governor's proposed budget provides for the expansion of Shore Line East weekend train service, as well as night bus services in Waterbury. The Governor's

proposed budget also reflects annualized savings from the January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013 implementation of 4 percent fare increases to support bus and rail operations. The increase in fares will reduce the amount of subsidy required for the New Haven Line by providing additional revenue and reducing the fare differential between Metro North Railroad and the Department. In addition, implementation of the previously legislated rail fare increases of 1.25 percent effective January 1, 2012, and 1 percent effective January 1, 2013, will provide the necessary funding to support the purchase of M-8 cars, providing much needed improvements to the state's transit services.

I hope we can continue to work with you to maintain and improve the transportation system that the citizens of Connecticut deserve.

I will be pleased to respond to any of your questions.