

**Testimony of the City of New Haven
Submitted to the Commerce Committee**

In Support of

**HB 5040 – AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR TRAFFIC CALMING
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WESTVILLE VILLAGE**

Submitted by

Jim Travers, Director Transportation, Traffic and Parking, City of New Haven
February 28, 2012

Senator Lebeau, Rep. Berger, Sen. Frantz, Rep. Camillo and members of the Commerce Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to support HB 5040 “An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Economic Development and Complete Streets improvements in Westville Village”.

Westville Village is a recognized Historic District that includes a small dense commercial area along Whalley Avenue and Fountain Street in New Haven. What was once the center of a small mill village that developed into an industrial and commercial center – Westville Village is now a regional shopping and dining destination with a growing artistic community and a weekly farmers’ market.

These activities lend to a high volume of pedestrian traffic along a busy thoroughfare and the traffic along state- and local roads in the village (notably along Fountain Street and Whalley Avenue) disrupts the flow and walkability of this vibrant commercial center.

This funding would enable improvements throughout Westville Village and will help to continue the efforts to revitalize this important economic development center. Improvements to include street trees and landscaping, other streetscape amenities including but not limited to bus shelters, changes to the physical improvements within local and state roadways all within the context of the Complete Streets movement.