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Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 8:39 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Cc: Senator Harp; Rep. Walker, Toni
Subject: HB 6350 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING
Attachments: Transit for CT testimony Appropriations Committee 2-20-13.doc

Transit for Connecticut
Helping People, the Economy and the Environment

Appropriations Committee
February 20, 2013

HB 6350: Governor's Proposed Budget
TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Dear Sen. Harp, Rep. Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of Transit for Connecticut, a statewide coalition of 33 business, social service, environmental, planning, transportation and civic organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the benefits of bus transit and advocating for increased investment in transit service, I request your consideration of the following issues regarding funding of transportation in HB 6350.

The Governor's proposed budget:

- reduces the state subsidy by increasing bus fares to \$1.50, effective January 1, 2014. This reduction in the state subsidy and increase in fares will also affect ADA paratransit fares, effective January 1, 2014.
- eliminates the state funding for the non-ADA Dial-A-Ride Program by \$576,361.
- eliminates \$3.1 million in DSS funding for the Transportation Employment Independence Program (TEIP).

The Governor's proposed budget also includes \$1.3 billion for construction of transportation infrastructure.

While Transit for Connecticut supports the \$1.3 billion for construction of transportation infrastructure, we oppose the Governor's proposed reductions for the following reasons:

1. Additional revenue from increased fares should be used to maintain and improve bus service.
2. An increase in fares and a reduction in the state subsidy will impact the most vulnerable users of transit by either costing them more money or reducing needed services.
3. The reduction in funding for the non-ADA Dial-A-Ride program will also impact the system's most vulnerable users.
4. The elimination of DSS TEIP funding will greatly affect the ability of residents to get to their jobs.

We urge you to reconsider the proposed reductions in transit funding. Maintaining and improving the state's bus service benefits the economy and the environment and provides necessary transportation options for all residents.

Thank you.

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