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**House Bill 5547, An Act Establishing A Task Force To Streamline
The Process For Approving Bridge Projects
Public Hearing – Transportation Committee
February 4, 2013**

CCIA Position: Supports Underlying Concept

Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc. (CCIA) represents many sectors of the commercial construction industry in the state. Formed over 40 years ago, CCIA is an organization of associations, where those segments of the commercial construction industry work together to advance and promote their shared interests. CCIA is comprised of over 300 members, including contractors, subcontractors, material producers, suppliers and affiliated organizations. CCIA members have a long history of providing quality work for the public benefit.

CCIA supports the concept underlying Proposed Bill 5547, An Act Establishing A Task Force To Streamline The Process For Approving Bridge Projects because properly streamlining the process for approving bridge projects, and other appropriate efficiencies in the project development process could yield significant benefits in the state. It is our understanding that this Bill is targeted at local bridge projects, but, if approached properly, its overall effect could create a significant increase in jobs, economic activity, and the safety of the traveling public.

Several CCIA divisions work with ConnDOT on a regular basis. Those divisions are aware that ConnDOT and DEEP have been meeting on a regular basis to streamline and expedite project delivery. The legislature should consider these and other efficiencies that are underway before organizing a task force that may distract resources from productive initiatives and potentially interfere with the gains that are being made.

CCIA has been in support of ConnDOT in its efforts to “LEAN” the permitting process with DEEP. Additionally, the Department has recently completed a “LEAN” review of the contracting and agreement process and has implemented electronic bidding. ConnDOT has deployed a new approach to bridge maintenance, and has re-scoped paving projects to use DOT procurement in lieu of DAS to expedite project delivery. ConnDOT has organized a dedicated bridge group and is preparing to deploy advanced construction techniques and alternative delivery methods.

There is more work to be done and CCIA supports any measure that could help improve project delivery. For years, the industry has advocated for improving the process. To the extent this bill maintains the momentum that is underway and enhances the process, we would welcome the attention of the legislature.

For additional information, please contact Don Shubert, CCIA President, at 860-529-6855.

