



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the  
Commissioner

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**Public Hearing – February 4, 2013**  
**Transportation Committee**

**Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Jim Redeker**  
**Department of Transportation**

**Proposed H.B. No. 5253 - An Act Studying the Sale of Land Acquired by the Department of Transportation for the Purposes of Improvements to Route 7 and the Use of the Proceeds of Such Sale to Upgrade the Danbury Branch of the New Haven Commuter Railroad Line.**

The Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) retains highway corridors it has purchased in the past for future transportation uses. A comprehensive policy needs to be developed to address the selling of all excess highway corridor property before a study specific to Route 7 can commence.

Additionally, funds need to be appropriated to undertake this type of study as it cannot be undertaken within available appropriations. If conducted, this study must be inclusive of other state and local entities, including but not limited to the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Office of Policy and Management, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Regional Planning Organizations and the local towns that control local land use and zoning.

It should be noted that the Department has agreed in concept with the planning and development of the Norwalk River Valley Trail as a multi-use trail that utilizes this corridor. Prior to dispossession of the Route 7 Expressway right of way, an easement for the trail should be defined.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato, Legislative Program Manager for the Department of Transportation, at (860) 594-3013.