



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – March 13, 2014
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Testimony of Commissioner Jim Redeker
Department of Transportation

Governor's Bill No. 29 - An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.

The Department of Transportation (Department) strongly supports Governor's Senate Bill 29, AA Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.

As part of his midterm budget, the Governor has recommended an increase to the Transportation Capital Program of \$69.8 million, revising the total from the \$593.8 million currently authorized for SFY 2015 to \$663.6 million. This increase demonstrates the Governor's ongoing commitment to transportation - a commitment that has increased the Department's Capital program by 165 percent since FY 2010.

The Governor's proposed adjustments for FY 2015 include recommended increases to Special Tax Obligation (STO) bond authorizations of \$49.75 million, offset by the transfer of \$60 million for the Town Aid Road program from STO bonds to General Obligation (GO) bonds. The \$49.75 million of recommended increases will provide the funding required to address the following critical needs identified by the Department:

- \$17.65 million in additional funds for Bus and Rail Facilities and Equipment. This will support station improvements on the New Haven Line and new commuter stations for New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Program.
- \$6.7 million in additional funds for Environmental Compliance and Hazardous Waste abatement. These funds will be used to complete waste site remediation, calcium chloride tank upgrades and salt shed roof replacements.
- \$10 million in new funds to support the implementation of a federally mandated comprehensive Transportation Asset Management Plan.
- \$10 million for the Local Bridge Program. This \$10 million will allow the Department to assist municipalities in addressing a number of deficient municipal bridges.
- \$5.4 million for Highway and Bridge Renewal Equipment. This funding provides for the purchase of snow plow trucks and pay loaders, as well as other essential highway and bridge maintenance equipment. Large annual fluctuations in past truck purchases have resulted in a significant percentage of trucks recently reaching the end of their useful life. An ongoing equipment

replacement program is a critical aspect of properly managing fleet equipment and controlling overall fleet repair expenses.

Governor Malloy's proposals provide a targeted influx of funding in a few key areas to support both State and municipal transportation initiatives, ensuring that Connecticut's transportation system enhances the general quality of life in the State, supports economic development, and moves people and goods in a safe, efficient manner.

The Department looks forward to working with the Committee to implement a midterm budget that provides for the continued preservation and improvement of the State's transportation network, and enables us to deliver the superior transportation system that the citizens of Connecticut deserve.

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