



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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**Public Hearing – February 28, 2014
Transportation Committee**

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

Raised H.B. 5291 – An Act Establishing “Red Zones” on Connecticut’s Highways.

The Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is opposed to Raised H.B. 5291, AA Establishing “Red Zones” on Connecticut Highways and offers the following rationale.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires the states to adhere to the provisions of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for all traffic control devices on roadways. The use of red colored pavement for this application is not allowed.

The theory behind merging traffic where a lane ends is that both vehicles will adjust their speed to merge safely. Assigning priority to one vehicle over another will create potential aggressive driving behavior in the vehicle given priority and may lead to road rage and crashes.

In a previous version of the MUTCD, the advance warning signs prior to this condition were revised to try to better convey to motorists the need to adjust their speeds to merge. The latest version of the MUTCD has revised the pavement markings for use under this situation. CTDOT is currently implementing these changes in the field when roads are repaved and/ or the pavement markings are reapplied.

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