



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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**Public Hearing – March 5, 2014
Transportation Committee**

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

Raised S.B. 338 – An Act Concerning State-Wide Transportation Projects.

As written, the Department of Transportation (Department) is unclear on the intent and purpose of Raised S.B. 338, AAC State-Wide Transportation Projects.

The Department agrees and recognizes that coordination among neighboring New England States and the greater-mid Atlantic region is critical to a well-connected transportation system that supports regional growth, economic competitiveness and maintains a high quality of life in the New England region. To accomplish this, a number of regional entities already exist to facilitate communication and cooperation of projects and initiatives.

The Department is a member and actively participates with the following multi-modal transportation-related organizations: The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the Northeast Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the Coalition of Northeastern Governors, the New England Transportation Commissioners Compact, the Northeast Corridor Coalition, the I-95 Corridor Coalition, the Conference of New England Governors Transportation Coalition, the Eastern-Canadian Premiers and New England Governors Association, and the Transportation and Climate Change Initiative (a collaboration of Mid-Atlantic and New England States). In addition, the Department is currently jointly leading an effort to establish a New England Regional Freight Initiative comprised of the State Departments of Transportation in the New England region and our energy and environmental counterpart state agencies.

Many of these organizations have subcommittees that focus on specific transportation-related issues that benefit from regional coordination such as oversize/overweight truck movements, tolling, procurement of materials, etc. These partnerships allow for the exchange of best practices, common planning approaches, and the sharing of information about individual state projects and their potential impacts to neighboring states, and the opportunities for joint collaboration.

The Department's ongoing relationships and partnerships have resulted in the adoption of proven best practices and innovative project development and delivery methods. Key examples include work on a bridge in Weston using a construction alternative called "Bridge in a Backpack", transit oriented development in Stamford and along CTfastrak and the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Corridor, use of Construction Manager at Risk project delivery for aspects of the New Haven Rail Yard project, and accelerated bridge construction on I-84 in Southington. The upcoming project in Southington will be the replacement of a bridge over a weekend instead of rebuilding the bridge, in place, over a period of months, if not years with prolonged traffic detours.

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.