



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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**Public Hearing – April 6, 2015
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee**

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

**Governor's S.B. 947 – An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements,
Transportation and Other Purposes**

The Department of Transportation is pleased to support Governor's S.B. 947, AA Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes.

Governor Malloy's budget for the upcoming biennium demonstrates a clear focus on transportation – the beginning of an ambitious, progressive approach to addressing the state's infrastructure needs. The Governor has unveiled his vision for our transportation future in "Let's GO CT!" which includes a five year ramp-up plan, as well as a 30-year, long term strategy to transform our infrastructure and build for a better tomorrow. Funding for the five year ramp-up plan is included under a separate piece of legislation (H.B. 6840).

Under S.B. 947, the Governor includes a base capital program of \$671.4 million in fiscal year 2016 and \$693.3 million in fiscal year 2017 for special tax obligation bond authorizations, as well as \$70 million in each year for general obligation bonds. Funds for vital infrastructure improvements in the biennium include:

- \$250 million in the "Fix-it-First" road and bridge programs that will address reconstruction, repair or replacement of bridges and roads in need of immediate attention. This represents a \$10 million per year increase in "Fix-it-First" bridge funds over the current level.
- \$66 million in the State Bridge program
- \$26 million in the "Interstate" program, that provides for the maintenance and enhancement of the state's portion of the nationwide system of highways
- \$88 million in the "Intrastate" program that will fund improvements to the state's primary and secondary roads
- \$150 million in the "Resurfacing" program for ongoing restoration of the state's highways. This includes an additional \$6 million per year to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues.
- \$22.3 million for Urban Systems, which represents a \$5 million increase over the last biennium.
- \$36.1 million for environmental compliance and hazardous waste abatement
- \$46.2 million for renovation and repair to the Department's garages and other facilities
- \$413.4 million for Bus and Rail facilities and equipment that will provide funding for capital projects necessary to support two commuter railroads and Transit operations in eight urban

areas and 13 active transit districts. This represents approximately \$25 million more per year than the SFY 2015 level.

- \$20 million in Ports funding; \$8 million for reconstruction and improvements at the State Pier, and \$4 million for the General Aviation Program
- \$20.8 million for Highway and Bridge Renewal equipment. These funds will support the critical purchase of replacement snow plow trucks.

This bill also includes continued emphasis on municipal aid, with bond authorizations of \$10 million in each year for the Local Bridge Program; \$74 million in each year for Local Transportation capital improvements (a \$20 million per year increase over the current level); and \$60 million annually for the Town Aid Road grant program.

We believe the Governor's proposals provide a balanced approach to addressing the multi-modal needs of Connecticut's transportation system. Under S.B. 947 a solid base transportation program is provided, upon which additional transportation investments can be added, to transform our transportation infrastructure and build for a better tomorrow.

I look forward to working with you to implement a biennial budget that provides for the continued preservation and improvement of the State's transportation network, and enables us to deliver the best-in-class transportation system that the citizens of Connecticut deserve.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov) or CJ Strand (carl.strand@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.