



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF CONNECTICUT, INC.
1890 Dixwell Avenue, Suite 203
Hamden, CT 06514-3183
203-288-7996 Fax 203-288-7998 www.lwvct.org

CGA Transportation Committee

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Support For:

SB No. 938 AAC AN INTEGRATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE STATE

Comments submitted by David Bayne, Transportation Specialist, LWVCT

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a non-partisan statewide organization comprised of 1600 members in 27 local chapters who are committed to effective public policy and the active participation of citizens in their government.

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut supports S.B. No. 938 (Raised) “An Act Concerning An Integrated Transportation Plan For The State.” The stated purpose of the Bill is “[t]o encourage proposals and projects that will link different modes of transportation, to foster the efficient movement of passengers and freight in and through the state.”

The League supports the planning and development of a balanced transportation system for Connecticut, and believes that the goals of transportation planning should be to improve – or at least maintain – air quality, conserve energy, and give all Connecticut residents the freedom to move about the state regardless of age, income or physical capacity. Connecticut’s transportation system should be coordinated, interlocking and multimodal. It should also be flexible so as to meet the changing needs of Connecticut’s residents and its economy in the 21st century.

The League, therefore, supports the creation of an integrated transportation plan for the State. In light of the Governor’s proposal to embark on a thirty year multi-billion dollar overhaul of Connecticut’s transportation infrastructure, such planning is essential. The League, however, would like to point out that the language of the Bill omits rail traffic.

Because rail transportation is a critical piece of the transportation puzzle in Southwestern Connecticut and will increasingly become more important in other areas of the state, particularly the New Haven to Springfield corridor, **the League urges the Legislature to add a direction to include rail traffic in the plan to be created by the Commissioner of Transportation.**

The Governor has asked the Legislature to make transportation a priority for Connecticut's government in order to revitalize our economy and to ensure Connecticut's competitiveness in the region and the nation in this new century. The League supports this goal, and believes that to be effective, transportation improvements need to be implemented in a way that integrates Connecticut's roads, rails, seaways and air traffic to the greatest extent possible.

The League, therefore, supports S.B. No. 938 (Raised) and requests that rail transportation be included in the plan to be created by the Commissioner of Transportation.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our comments on this important piece of legislation.