



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE LAURA DEVLIN
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOURTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

85 BRETT LANE
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824
HOME: (203) 254-5275

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-1423
Laura.Devlin@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
FINANCE COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

In support of:

HB 5927, AN ACT PROHIBITING TRANSFERS FROM THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND

Transportation Committee
February 25, 2015

Dear Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address HB 5927, AN ACT PROHIBITING TRANSFERS FROM THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND.

It's no secret that Connecticut needs to invest more in its existing transportation infrastructure. In addition to the recurring problems of the Metro North New Haven line...

- ♦ There are more than 410 bridges with at least one structural deficiency – 20% more than ten years ago.
- ♦ The Federal Highway Administration has deemed nearly 1 in every 10 bridges in Connecticut “structurally deficient”.
- ♦ One in four bridges are “functionally obsolete.”
- ♦ 9 -10 more bridges become deficient each year to aging infrastructure.
- ♦ Number of bridge work items completed: 212
- ♦ Number of bridge work items backlogged: 4,080

The challenge we face is how to fund our transportation needs. Before we jump to more taxes, including tolls as a solution for more funding, we need to guarantee that the monies already collected and earmarked for transportation, are indeed spent on transportation.

According to CGS sec. 13b-69, Special Transportation Funds are supposed to be used exclusively to pay for transportation projects. PA 13-277 (sec. 76) underscored this policy by making this dedication of funds even clearer. Yet the Special Transportation Fund continues to be raided to fund operating and other state expenses. In 2013-2014 **the STF received a net \$91 million less than what was promised** and the current budget assumes a raid of \$20 million. This practice cannot continue.

If Connecticut is serious about investing in its transportation infrastructure, we need to start by ensuring the funds collected that are earmarked for transportation are actually spent on transportation. This bill would do that.

Implementing a lock box will ensure that monies collected for transportation are indeed spent on transportation. In his address to the General Assembly on January 7, Governor Malloy also proposed a lockbox and said that he is willing to take it a step further by seeking a Constitutional Amendment to protect the Special Transportation Fund from future raids.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposed bill.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Laura".

Laura Devlin
State Representative
134th District