

Transit for Connecticut

Helping People, the Economy and the Environment

Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing – February 25, 2015

In Support of the:
Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017: Transit Service and
Transportation for Employment Independence Program

Dear Sen. Bye, Rep. Walker and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Transit for Connecticut, a statewide coalition of 33 business, environmental, social service, planning and transportation organizations advocating for improved and expanded bus service, I ask the Appropriations Committee to support the transit budget expenditures in the Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.

In these critical economic times, transit service is needed more than ever. Investing in transit not only creates jobs but transit gets people to their jobs. Use of transit relieves congestion on our roads and helps reduce harmful air pollution.

The proposed budget reflects a shifting of Transportation for Employment Independence (TEIP) funding from the DSS budget into the DOT budget. The shifting of funds allows continuation of service for the Jobs Access Program and the Transportation-to-Work Program. This funding directly connects thousands of employees to their jobs all across the state. This service provides access to training, interviews, and places of employment. Jobs Access funds offer a path to self-sufficiency for low-income transit dependent residents.

It is a very exciting time for transportation in our state. Please approve the funding necessary to maintain existing bus service and provide the groundwork for the increased transit service that is needed now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Burnaska, Coordinator
Transit for Connecticut

Karen Burnaska, Coordinator, Transit for Connecticut
C/o Connecticut Fund for the Environment, 142 Temple Street, 3rd floor, New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 261-9243/kburnaska@ctenvironment.org