

Dear Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding committee,

The Capitol Region Council of Governments supports the extension of the new Connecticut Fastrak to go East of the River.. We see connections from East of the River to the Fastrack system that connects Hartford to New Britain as an essential component of commuter transit from our towns to major employment centers West of the River as well as bringing employees from West of the River to the many jobs we have East of the River. After all, Connecticut Fastrack is functionally going to be Greater Hartford's light rail line which runs on rubber tires instead of steel wheels.

Utilizing Connecticut Fastrack will allow our whole region to rearrange the entire mass transit system, making for faster travel times, simpler routing, and reduced road congestion by giving people options to move around the area as best suits their needs. We think it will strengthen our traditional town centers and commercial districts economically, and create opportunities for enhanced Transit Oriented Development in those same areas.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Chip Beckett, Chairman CRCOG