



Testimony of Governor Dannel P. Malloy

Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee

Governor's House Bill 6840: *An Act Concerning Investments in Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure*

Monday, April 27, 2015

Chairmen Fonfara and Berger, Ranking Members Frantz and Davis, and distinguished members of the Connecticut General Assembly Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, I submit the following testimony in support of ***Governor's House Bill 6840 An Act Concerning Investments in Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure***- representing the Five year enhanced transportation capital program of the proposed State of Connecticut's *Lets Go CT* Transportation plan.

HB 6840 is a critical element of the *Lets Go CT* Transportation legislative package, another key piece is the creation of transportation funding lockbox both by statute and by constitutional amendment ([HB 6857 An Act Protecting Transportation Funds](#) and [HJ 63 Resolution Proposing a Constitutional Amendment to Protect Transportation Funds](#)). The creation of a lockbox is essential to ensure a covenant with the people of Connecticut that the Executive and Legislative branches of Government are serious about addressing the state's transportation issues by protecting all funds raised to support the transportation system will be used only for funding transportation purposes.

Connecticut's economic future and our ability to create and sustain jobs are directly linked to the overall condition of our roads, bridges, rails, buses, walkways and bikeways. That's why we need to start to create a "best in class" transportation system and the passage of Governor's House Bill 6840 will lead our state in this positive direction.

Historically, the State of Connecticut has underfunded and underinvested in our transportation infrastructure. Additionally, our transportation planning has been inadequate- whether it is designing replacement bridges and structures or thinking creatively to make improvements that will alleviate congestion on our roads, rails, and highways.

Over the last four years, together, my administration and the Connecticut General Assembly, we have started to change this trend by increasing transportation capital spending by 65 percent- levels never before seen in the State's history- and aggressively competing and winning on Federal Department of Transportation discretionary grant opportunities which are bringing long planned projects like the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail line to fruition.

Unfortunately, this progress to date merely keeps pace with maintaining a state of good repair. Connecticut families and businesses need a **bold vision** for the next 30 years in our state, the **time is now** to significantly change our course and start to address Connecticut's largest transportation capital needs on our highways, roads, rails, and bus lines.

The expanded capital program before you today represents over \$2.7 Billion in the next five years above the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Current Services program and puts Connecticut on a path to transportation progress. The funding will support projects in all facets of transportation throughout the state including:

- Design and engineering for the replacement of the Hartford Viaduct, Waterbury Mixmaster, Route 9 in Middletown;
- Repair the Gold Star Bridge in New London
- Design and construction of the Orange, Barnum and Merritt 7 stations on the New Haven Line and Danbury branch line, continued expansion and development of stations on the Hartford Line, development of a Madison station and East Lyme (Niantic) Station on Shoreline East Commuter Rail Line;
- Provide real-time location technology across our entire CTTransit fleet, as well as our Metro-North trains;
- Creation of CTFastrak East Bus Rapid transit program
- Enhancements of Urban bikeway, pedestrian connectivity, trails and alternative mobility programs.

In all, the projects presented to you for consideration in HB 6840 as part of the state's 5-year enhanced transportation program have been vetted and discussed thoroughly by the Department of Transportation and the collaborative TransformCT public information process, and are programmed on a detailed funding schedule which accounts for human and capital resources to complete these projects.

My administration- including officials of the Office of Policy and Management and Department of Transportation - look forward to working with the Connecticut General Assembly, the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, and members of the Transportation Bonding Subcommittee, on finalizing a long term transportation program that greatly exceeds the

current transportation base program levels, puts Connecticut on the path toward achieving a best in class transportation system, and is a true comprehensive solution for meeting our state's transportation needs.

Thank you and I urge passage of Governor's House Bill 6840 An Act Concerning Investments in Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure.