



Making Great Communities Happen
**Connecticut Chapter of the
American Planning Association**

Government Relations Chair: Jana Butts Roberson, AICP janaroberson@outlook.com www.ccapa.org

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – March 6, 2015

POSITION STATEMENT ON RAISED BILL 6851

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT TRANSIT CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

INTRODUCTION

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association has over 400 members who are governmental and consulting planners, land use attorneys, citizen planners, and other professionals engaged in planning and managing land use, economic development, housing, transportation, and conservation for local, regional, and State governments, private businesses and other entities.

OVERVIEW

Raised Bill 6851 would implement the Governor's budget recommendations by establishing the Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority.

ANALYSIS

The creation of the Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority is an excellent application of the State's adopted growth management principles. CCAPA is very encouraged that the State has taken significant measures to coordinate planning for residential development with transportation planning for mass transit system improvements and extensions.

However, there are concerns that the proposed powers of the Transit Corridor Development Authority in regard to condemnation and eminent domain could potentially lead to social equity abuses. CCAPA recommends a more democratic condemnation process wherein municipalities, their sub-authorities and corporations (WPCA's, utilities, et al) as well as Councils of Government and regional authorities such as the MDC would have standing to intervene in condemnation proceedings.

Additionally, it is suggested that the Governor and the leaders of the General Assembly should each appoint three members with the Governor additionally appointing the chair.

CCAPA POSITION ON RAISED BILL 6851

CCAPA supports the proposal to establish the Connecticut Transit Corridor Development Authority but has concerns regarding social equity, condemnation and eminent domain. Additionally, CCAPA recommends a more balanced appointment of Transit Corridor Development Authority members.