

February 11, 2015

Connecticut General Assembly
Joint Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 2300
Hartford, CT 06106

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 481, An Act Concerning the Development of an Enhanced Accident Response Plan.

Dear Senator Andrew Maynard, Representative Antonio Guerrero, Senator Toni Boucher, and Distinguished Members of the Transportation Committee:

We are writing in support of proposed **Senate Bill 481, An Act Concerning the Development of an Enhanced Accident Response Plan.**

The Capitol Region Council of Governments has been working with emergency responders since 1997 to help facilitate better management of traffic incidents. We have sponsored meetings, workshops and training on the topic; we have shared national best practices with the responders in our Region; and we have participated in the development of the Transportation Strategy Board's 2003 White Paper on Incident Management; and we were active in the subsequent Statewide Incident Management Steering Committee established in response to a recommendation in that White Paper.

Through this work, we have learned that improving the response to traffic incidents is an effort that can protect lives, reduce congestion, and add to the economy. But because the response to an incident can involve several different State and local agencies as well as the private sector, support for a traffic incident management program must come from the highest levels of government. A plan developed and implemented in response to this legislation will go a long way to assure good, safe, quick clearance of traffic incidents.

We applaud the inclusion of the Department of Transportation and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in the development of this plan. We respectfully suggest that the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection also be part of the plan development. And further that local responders including the fire services, the towing industry, EMTs and others be invited to participate as stakeholders in this effort.

We appreciate this opportunity to add our voice in support of this bill. If we can be of service in providing additional information the traffic incident management program in the Capitol Region, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lyle D. Wray
Executive Director