



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
March 4, 2016

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut’s statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 96% of Connecticut’s population.

SB 19, “AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TRANSIT CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY”

CCM supports SB 19.

SB 19 would establish the Transit Corridor Development Assistance Authority (TCDAA) as a quasi-public agency to focus on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects around existing and future transit stations within the state. The TCDAA would be charged with coordinating the development of state transportation initiatives, leveraging state and private investments in order to assist communities and stimulate economic growth and housing opportunities.

CCM and its 159 member municipal leaders have long been strong advocates for additional investment and improvements to our state and local transportation infrastructure and for the continued development of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects. Municipal officials across Connecticut are innovators in the effort to improve how our communities develop with a focus on all modes of transportation -- from ports and airports, to rail and bus to automobiles and pedestrians.

The idea of the TCDAA as first proposed during the 2015 Legislative session, raised numerous questions and significant concerns among local leaders including whether the proposed TCDAA would usurp local control, the application of local zoning and land use regulations. Additional concerns were raised regarding the lack of municipal and regional representation on the TCDAA board and with the proposed condemnation authority of the TCDAA.

State and local officials worked together to address these concerns and SB 19 is the result of this collaboration. SB 19 is an example of State and local leaders working together as partners in governing, to find a way forward rather than a “we know what’s best for you” approach.

SB 19 is enabling legislation rather than a potential mandate, allowing municipalities to partner with the TCDA after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will delineate the parameters of any proposed development district and projects to be undertaken. SB 19 clearly states that local zoning, subdivision and wetlands regulations would apply to any development projects, and removes the condemnation authority language that raised concerns among local officials last session.

Additionally, SB 19 provides for local participation by allowing the CEO of the host municipality to participate and vote on any projects that would occur within their town or city, and provides the Director of the Regional Council of Governments a seat as an ex-officio non-voting member.

The key point of SB 19 is to assist and spur state and local transit development improve coordination between towns, cities and the State. SB 19 will create the needed authority to improve coordination with the development of TOD projects in and between communities and maximize the potential of public and private investments.

CCM urges the Committee to support SB 19.



If you have any questions, please contact Randy Collins, Advocacy Manager of CCM at rcollins@ccm-ct.org or (860) 707-6446.