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**Connecticut Council of Small Towns**  
**Before the Planning & Development Committee**  
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**SB-19, AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TRANSIT CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) **supports the intent of SB-19** - to assist municipalities in creating more walkable, livable communities through transit oriented development. This is certainly a laudable goal.

Investment in local infrastructure and economic development are critical to Connecticut's economic vitality and quality of life. The state has made important strides in funding programs to improve local roads and bridges which are vital to creating a safe transportation network to support our residents and businesses.

COST is pleased that this year's bill does not include provisions authorizing the use of eminent domain or allowing the authority to bypass local zoning and land use regulations. In addition, it is our understanding that the bill does not impose any mandates on municipalities relative to transit corridor development and, instead, provides that the municipality may voluntarily request assistance from the authority.

Moreover, the bill provides for the involvement of municipal leaders and the Councils of Government (COG) to ensure that decisions are consistent with the interests of the community and the region. A meaningful role for municipal leaders and COGs is critical.

COST is continuing to reach out to our member towns to obtain feedback on the proposal. Given the potential impact of the bill on our small towns, COST respectfully requests to be involved in any discussions moving forward to ensure that the language of the bill appropriately balances the development of a transit corridor development assistance authority with the interests of the municipality and its residents and businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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