



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING



Evonne M. Klein
Commissioner

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

March 4, 2016

Evonne M. Klein, Commissioner
Department of Housing

**GOVERNOR'S BILL NO. 19 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TRANSIT CORRIDOR
DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY**

Senator Osten, Representative Miller, and distinguished members of the Planning & Development Committee. My name is Evonne Klein and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Housing (DOH). Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Governor's Bill 19, which would create the Transit Corridor Development Assistance Authority (TCDA), whose main focus would be on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) projects within a half-mile radius of any transit station.

The Department of Housing **SUPPORTS Governor's Bill 19: An Act Establishing the Transit Corridor Development Assistance Authority** as introduced by legislative leadership, on behalf of Governor Malloy. Should this be approved, the TCDA would bring together the relevant state agencies and leadership to be a resource for municipal chief elected officials where the development would occur. This engagement of stakeholders is critical to the success of these capital projects, from the planning stage through completion. Housing is a vital component of transit-oriented development and for the Department to have a seat at the table will ensure coordination of efforts and funding.

As Commissioner of DOH, Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), and as a board member of the Capitol Region Development Authority (CRDA), I have seen firsthand the success that follows when the priorities and goals of organizations are aligned. The TCDA would mirror CRDA in many ways, an organization that takes a holistic approach to development. The main focus of CRDA is to stimulate economic development and new investment in and around the greater Hartford region while also expanding housing developments as a way to enhance the economic and cultural vitality of the area. The TCDA board will be able to incorporate best practices from other boards like CRDA and CHFA into their processes as they become established.

As we know, housing is a critical part of transit-oriented development. For TOD to be successful in Connecticut, this means we need to be building both market rate and affordable housing close to transit and close to jobs. It is clear that TOD expands access to affordable housing, stimulates the economy, and provides the opportunity to upgrade crucial infrastructure where it is needed most.

The Department of Housing supports Governor Malloy's proposed bill, as drafted. We are excited for the opportunity to expand affordable housing opportunities along transit corridors in Connecticut and we urge the committee to support this legislation.