



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the
Commissioner

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Public Hearing – March 4, 2016 Planning and Development Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Jim Redeker Department of Transportation

S.B. 19 – An Act Establishing the Transit Corridor Development Assistance Authority.

The Department of Transportation (CTDOT) strongly supports Governor Malloy's proposal to establish the Transit Corridor Development Assistance Authority (TCDA) in SB 19.

Promoting Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) at our transit stations is an important goal for the Department. The proposed TCDA would provide critical assistance and capabilities including financial, lending, and technical resources needed for TOD projects to be successful. Smaller communities often do not have the resources to employ these types of development services and expertise, and frequently approach state agencies for assistance. SB 19 will make such services available to those communities that want assistance from the TCDA. The TCDA will act only when invited by the community and shall act on behalf of the community.

In addition, the Department supports the proposal because the establishment of the Authority will promote and implement transit-oriented development around the transit stations and services that the Department owns and operates. This type of carefully planned mixed use development around our stations will boost ridership, make more effective use of our major transit systems, and support economic development in our city and town centers.

This proposal will further support energy efficiency and livable community goals typical of compact mixed-use development that occurs in existing community centers. These centers already have good public infrastructure, and they typically have easy walking access to jobs, housing, and services such as stores and restaurants. The ease of walking and access to transit result in a reduced number of vehicle trips and fuel consumption, and therefore reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Finally, an Authority that has the necessary capabilities, expertise, and staff that can serve communities throughout the state will be an invaluable resource for municipalities to manage complex development projects.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov) or CJ Strand (carl.strand@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.