



ROTHA Contracting Company, Inc.
General Contracting
Construction Management

40 Waterville Rd
Avon, CT 06001

House Joint Resolution No. 1 Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment To Protect The Resources of The Special Transportation Fund

February 29, 2016

Public Hearing, Transportation Committee

I would like to take the time to introduce myself. My name is Robert Thavenius, President and founder of ROTHA Contracting Company, Inc. The Company has 20 Connecticut employees and is located in Avon.

We support this Resolution that would establish the Special Transportation Fund as a perpetual fund and ensure that revenues deposited into the Special Transportation Fund would be used for transportation purposes.

Connecticut's infrastructure is in a massive state of disrepair, following decades and decades of inaction.

- 70% of bridges maintained by CT DOT are 50 years or older
- Four movable bridges on the nation's busiest commuter rail line are over 100 years old
- Connecticut has 334 bridges and tunnels rated in "poor" condition - meaning their structural condition is rated no better than a 4 out of 10 under federal safety standards. Nearly a third of those bridges were built before 1950.
- On the New Haven Line, a whopping 76% of rail bridges were built before 1940.
- 10% of CT's bridges are structurally deficient and 25% are functionally obsolete, while 70% of bridges maintained by CT DOT are 50 years or older.
- Almost half - 47% - of state-maintained roads are in "fair" or "poor" condition.
- Traffic congestion in 2014 cost U.S. drivers 6.9 billion hours stuck in traffic and 3.1 billion gallons of extra fuel. The economic cost of traffic congestion in Connecticut alone is \$4.2 billion annually.

Transportation is important to the state economy:

- Corporate executives rate highway accessibility as the #1 factor in site selection decisions, according to 88.3% of respondents in Area Developments 29th Annual Corporate Survey.
- 77% of all job seekers served by The American Job Center Network cited transportation as the #1 barrier to employment.

Passage of this Joint Resolution is key to the state's ability to deliver much needed improvements across all modes of transportation. It lays a solid foundation much needed transportation investments.

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Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. If you have questions or would like to discuss this in more detail, please contact me at (860)678-7600 or BobT@rothacontracting.com.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Hovener

President

Sent Via: Email
C/C: File

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