Testimony of Commissioner Joseph Giulietti
Appropriations Committee
Fiscal Year 2020 – Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget
March 8, 2019 1:00 p.m.
Legislative Office Building, Hearing Room 2C

Good morning Chairwoman Walker, Chairwoman Osten, and members of the Committee. I am Joseph Giulietti, Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss Governor Ned Lamont’s recommended biennial operating budget for the Department of Transportation.

Governor Lamont’s proposed budget recognizes the critical role transportation plays not only in the daily lives of our citizens, but also in the long-term economic vitality and future success of our state. The proposed funding for the upcoming biennium will enable the Department to continue to provide the citizens of Connecticut with a safe and efficient intermodal transportation network, and, the Governor’s recommendations for tolling set the stage for a sustainable path forward to fund transportation infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, which the state so desperately needs.

The Governor has recommended Special Transportation Fund appropriations of $717.7 million for fiscal year 2020, and $734.5 million for fiscal year 2021. The details of the proposed budget follow.

The Governor’s proposed Personal Services budget of $185.2 million in fiscal year 2020 and $195.2 million in fiscal year 2021 provides funding for Department employees that plan, design, maintain, and provide support for a safe highway and bridge and public transportation system. The proposed authorized count of 3412 includes 50 new positions, and funding in a new dedicated account, for implementation of work required under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from the state Transportation Separate Storm Sewer Systems (TS4).

The Governor’s proposed Other Expenses appropriation is $53.4 million in both years. It is important to note that the Department’s Other Expenses account contains funding dedicated to safety-related fixed costs, including snow removal materials and contractual services; fleet repairs and fuel for the Department’s fleet of trucks, loaders, and other heavy equipment; highway and electrical items (such as guide rail, posts, concrete barriers and lights); highway illumination; and the costs for operating more than 100 Department facilities.

A key component of the Department’s mission is maintaining existing rail and transit services that serve the mobility needs of over 80 million passengers annually. These services, along with the ADA Paratransit Program, represent approximately 63 percent of the Department’s operating budget. The Governor is proposing $215.6 million in fiscal year 2020 and $215.9 million in fiscal year 2021 for the Rail Operations appropriation; $196.6 million in 2020 and $201.5 million in 2021 for Bus Operations; as well as $43.3 million in 2020 and $44.8 million in 2021 for the ADA Para-Transit Program. The Department works continually with service operators to achieve savings while striving to provide exceptional services within available resources.

I look forward to working with you on implementing a biennial budget that allows for continued preservation and operation of the state’s transportation network.

I will gladly respond to your questions.