In Support of Funding for Transit Service

Dear Senator Osten, Rep. Walker and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Transit for Connecticut, a statewide coalition of 33 business, environmental, social service, planning, transportation, and civic organizations advocating for improved and expanded bus service, I ask the Appropriations Committee to support funding necessary to maintain existing transit service across the state.

In this pivotal time for our economy, transit service is needed more than ever. Investing in transit not only creates jobs but transit gets people to their jobs. Use of transit relieves congestion on our roads and helps reduce harmful air pollution. Transit service helps senior citizens “age in place” and allows them to remain in their homes and transit service provides low income residents with transportation to job training, interviews, and places of employment.

Last year, residents and businesses from across the state joined together to oppose rail and bus fare increases, service reductions and a halt to major transportation projects. The legislature came through and accelerated the transfer of revenue from the new car sales tax into the Special Transportation Fund. The transfer of these funds allows for stability of services and project delivery. Please continue to provide this revenue.

It is a critical time for transportation in our state. Please approve the funding necessary to maintain existing bus service and provide the groundwork for the increased transit service that is needed now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Burnaska, Coordinator
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