



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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**Public Hearing – March 6, 2019
Transportation Committee**

**Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Joe Giulietti
Department of Transportation**

H.B. 7202 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CONNECTICUT'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.

The Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is pleased to support Governor Lamont's efforts to create a sustainable source of funding for transportation infrastructure throughout the State of Connecticut.

Connecticut's highways and bridges are aging, in need of repair, and congested. Current transportation revenues are insufficient to maintain the existing infrastructure or make the types of improvements needed to reduce congestion. Gasoline tax revenues have been flat for ten years and are expected to begin declining as cars become more efficient, and as the sales of electric vehicles increase. A new source of revenue is needed that supplements the revenue currently being allocated to the Special Transportation Fund. The fund needs to be sustainable and sufficient to improve the condition of Connecticut's existing infrastructure and finance highway improvements that will reduce congestion.

Tolling is one potential source of revenue that could raise sufficient funding and meet the goals of being sustainable and directly related to one's use of the system. For the last few years, the State has been considering tolling as a potential new source of revenue to support its transportation programs. CTDOT conducted several studies to gain insight into how much revenue tolls might raise, and how tolling can help manage congestion on our busiest highways. The most recent from November 2018, "Connecticut Tolling Options and Evaluation Study", offered additional analysis that provides more detailed answers to questions raised during recent tolling discussions among elected officials, other policy-makers, stakeholders, and the public.

Each year, the Department develops a plan to design road, bridge, public transportation and other transportation facilities to acquire the necessary property interests and to construct those projects in a way that uses or leverages all of the available State and Federal funding to meet the state's most critical capital needs for the next five years. The **5-Year Capital Plan** is published late fall of each year and includes an Annual Capital Plan Report to inform the Department's stakeholders about the past year's program and outline the plan for the following year; and a spreadsheet that includes lists of projects, by mode and by year that the Department plans to fund with its state and federal capital funds. A link to the 5-Year Capital Plan can be found here: <https://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1383&Q=454340>.

Last state fiscal year about \$1.2 billion (\$580 million Federal and \$620 million State bonds) was expended on state-of-good-repair projects. While improvements were made to the condition of some asset classes, others were not adequately addressed. Overall, the current level of investment in our infrastructure does not allow for the transportation system to be maintained at an acceptable level. Reactive repair and maintenance projects are still commonplace, as opposed to a more desirable proactive/systematic approach to system preservation.

For further information or questions, please contact Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov) or Alicia Leite (alicia.leite@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.