



Testimony of Ted von Rosenvinge
On behalf of American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut
Before the Transportation Committee
On HB 7202, An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure and
HB 7280 An Act Concerning Support for Transportation Infrastructure and the Creation of the
Connecticut Transportation Finance Authority.

Good Afternoon Sen. Leone, Rep. Lemar and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, my name is Ted von Rosenvinge and I am Chief Executive Officer of GeoDesign, Inc. located in Middlebury, CT. I am here today to speak in favor of HB 7202, An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure and most aspects of HB 7280, An Act Concerning Support for Transportation Infrastructure and the Creation of the Connecticut Transportation Finance Authority.

I am a member of the Board of Directors for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut. Since the early 1980's I have been involved with the design of many of ConnDOT's major infrastructure initiatives including the Q Bridge. Back in the mid 1980's we were investing in our transportation system; since then we have fallen behind.

Connecticut's infrastructure is failing-it's a simple fact. Just last week, the Speaker of the House posted a picture on Facebook of the gerrymandered supports holding up Route 84 in Hartford. It did not illicit confidence in our roads and bridges.

As a resident and engineer I am reminded of that awful day in 1983 when the roadway fell away in Greenwich killing 3 motorists. It was a sad and unnecessary day in our state's history. Keep in mind that today over 300 of our state's bridges are current cited as structurally deficient. It is an alarming statistic.

By comparison, I am involved with the design of more transportation projects outside of Connecticut than within our state. It saddens me that not only do I see more construction activity and investment outside of our borders but as I drive down our highways the signs that say "Connecticut Welcome Center" have "closed" stickers pasted on top, a symptom of the state of our transportation system that speaks volumes to all who travel and visit our state.

I know you will hear today that tolls are a hardship for Connecticut residents. Keep in mind the 2017 report card that found Connecticut drivers pay an additional \$864 per year because of the condition of Connecticut's roadways. Unless we act, this cost will only increase.

Maintenance of our infrastructure has been delayed but given the safety concerns, we no longer have that luxury. Tolls are an effective source of revenue already used successfully and for many years by all of our neighboring states to invest in their transportation systems. This is also a key investment in our economy. It is time to start catching up. The truth is-we simply can't wait any longer to address the infrastructure needs of the state. Tolls are an important part of the answer. I urge your support.