



## ***Banks Committee***

March 2, 2021

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members representing 168 towns and cities.

### **S.B 150 “An Act Establishing the Connecticut Infrastructure Authority.”**

CCM supports S.B 150, (1) establish a quasi-public agency called, Connecticut Infrastructure Authority, to assist with financing of infrastructure projects as defined in lines 18-31 of the bill, and (2) encourage and support the development of public-private partnerships for state-funded infrastructure improvement projects. The Bank will provide financial assistance for such projects through the provision of grants, loans and financial assistance.

While CCM supports the underlying bill and its intent, we have a question and a suggestion for the proponents. First, why in Section 4, does it require a municipality to gain permission from the Department of Transportation or other relevant agency before submitting an application for financing to the Bank? This seems obstructive to a municipality's access to financing through the Bank. CCM would suggest deleting the following language in lines 255-260, *“provided the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and the Department of Transportation, or other appropriate state agency as the case may be, grants permission to such municipality or transit district to undertake such infrastructure improvement project pursuant to section 9 of this act.”* Second, the bill names directors to be appointed to the Board in Section 3, however it falls short of providing local municipal representation on the Board. CCM would suggest that a municipal representative be appointed to the Board of such Bank. We are happy to work with the proponents to suggest such representative.

Overall, CCM and its member towns and cities appreciate any efforts that will help maintain existing infrastructure and spur the development of new infrastructure in the state. These investments will benefit both state, local and regional economies through the creation of jobs and by broadening the local tax base.



If you have any questions, please contact Donna Hamzy, Advocacy Manager of CCM at [dhamzy@ccm-ct.org](mailto:dhamzy@ccm-ct.org) or (203) 843-0705.