



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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**Public Hearing – March 8, 2021
Transportation Committee**

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

H.B. 6570 - AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AND MUNICIPAL ZONING.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports the objectives in H.B. 6570, An Act Concerning Transit-Oriented Development and Municipal Zoning and offers the following comments.

Section 1 of the bill requires the Department, in consultation with the Department of Housing, to identify five transit stations with state-owned parking lots and issue an RFI (request for information) for the construction of a transit oriented development (TOD) on such lots with an affordable housing component. Given the uncertainty surrounding what transit ridership will look like after the COVID pandemic, the Department recommends the legislation be amended to first identify potential development locations and postpone the requirement to issue an RFI until transit ridership projections stabilize. Issuing an RFI before transit ridership stabilizes may result in less than favorable responses. In addition, given the level of effort needed to properly screen and identify lots prime for TOD and potentially appropriate for a joint development, the Department recommends that the identification and reporting deadline be consistent with one another, February 1, 2022.

DOT is a strong supporter of TOD and our goal is to make our communities more vibrant, livable, safe, sustainable, less congested, multi-modal and promote economic development. The Department continuously makes significant investments in public transportation facilities, infrastructure and operations to help achieve these goals. For many years, the Department has worked with municipalities on TOD planning and welcomes future opportunities to continue to do so.

For further information or questions, please contact Anne Kleza (anne.kleza@ct.gov) or Pam Sucato (pamela.sucato@ct.gov) at the Department of Transportation, (860) 594-3013.