



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
SENATE REPUBLICAN OFFICES

Testimony in favor of
SB 595: AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION REFORM PLAN
Senate Republican Leader Kevin Kelly and
Deputy Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore Paul Formica

Senator Cassano, Representative Lemar, Senator Somers, Representative Carney and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 595: AN ACT CONCERNING THE FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION REFORM PLAN.

Connecticut Senate Republicans are again offering a plan to improve our transportation infrastructure and create jobs while requiring no tax hikes and no tolls. We call it Fiscal Accountability & Sustainable Transportation Reform CT ([FASTR CT](#)).

Our plan shows a path forward to invest in transportation, adopt responsible fiscal policies and establish accountability without asking more from overburdened middle-class families.

FASTR CT:

- addresses Connecticut's transportation funding challenges, including the solvency of the Special Transportation Fund (STF)
- makes smart, strategic long-term investments in roads and rail while creating good-paying Connecticut construction jobs
- creates a vetting process for all transportation projects
- allows for cash financing to be used for transportation projects
- dramatically cuts back on state borrowing

Connecticut Senate Republicans developed our FASTR CT no tolls, no tax hike solution because we understand that trust in government is a major issue for residents. We represent the voice of middle class families, so to restore that trust, our plan would replace the taxpayer dollars which have been diverted from transportation funding over the last decade in our state.

In 2019, we presented FASTR CT. If our plan had passed in 2019:

- we would have paid down our unfunded liabilities by \$1.5 billion
- we would have around \$2.5 billion in the Budget Reserve Fund today, more than enough to cover the Governor's budget

- we would have \$127 million per year in reduced pension payments that could be used to fund transportation projects for the next 10 years
- we would have a stable STF and would not be debating new mileage taxes, gas taxes, tolls, and other revenue enhancements which target middle class families' wallets
- we would no longer need to be issuing STO bonds and thereby would be strengthening our credit and indebtedness positions
- \$18.6 billion would have been infused into transportation funding, which would have translated into good-paying construction jobs by now.

A revised FASTR CT can work today. Our solution can bring relief to the STF. How much to transfer needs further budgetary analysis, but our solution can bring relief to the STF while not burdening Connecticut middle class families.

Let's work together to pass policies which improve our roads, rails and bridges and create good-paying Connecticut jobs. Let's adopt a responsible fiscal policy like FASTR CT: a long-term solution to better manage state dollars and leveraging federal aid.

We urge your support of SB 595.

Kevin Kelly
Senate Republican Leader

Paul Formica
Deputy Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore