



Train Station, Guilford

## IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION

### WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

Connecticut residents, businesses, workers, and visitors deserve a reliable transportation system that moves people and goods on time, every time.

They deserve a safe system — bridges are in good repair, train derailments are a thing of the past, and fewer of our citizens are harmed while crossing the street or driving a car.

They deserve a system that supports multiple options. Families have safe sidewalks and bike lanes in their neighborhoods, roads are safer and less congested, and expanded and affordable rail and bus service allows everyone to participate in the economy and promotes a cleaner and healthier environment in which to live.

It's time for Connecticut to provide a stable, reliable and long-term funding source and start investing in its aging transportation infrastructure. There is not one area of need, nor one solution that will put the state on the path to a better, greener and more effective transit system — everything must be on the table.

### WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

#### Protect Funding

Since 2005, \$1.2 billion of the state's gas taxes have gone into the general fund, instead of being used as a down payment on the transportation improvements the state needs. Connecticut must quickly repair this breach of the public trust. Last year, lawmakers passed legislation restricting the use of transportation funds for transportation projects. That was a good start, but only an amendment to the state constitution can keep the transportation fund in a protected lockbox.

#### Expedite Projects

Improving ConnDOT's ability to deliver projects could add thousands of new jobs in Connecticut next year and expedite much needed improvements across all modes of transportation. Authorized funding must turn into designed and constructed projects in a timely fashion, which could have a positive, lasting effect on Connecticut's workforce, infrastructure, and economy. Expediting projects can be done in a number of ways, from faster design and bidding, to allowing regional agencies to take on more responsibility for small projects.

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## IMPROVING TRANSPORTATION continued

### Plan for the Uncertain Future

After 2014, Connecticut faces a transportation-funding cliff. Federal funding is projected to sharply decline, and authorities estimate that the state could see up to an 87% reduction in federal transportation funds. Connecticut needs a plan for this worst-case scenario, and can look to its peers: While Washington has not addressed the funding challenge, dozens of states — from Wyoming to Massachusetts — have chosen to dedicate more funding to transportation.

### Invest Wisely

Connecticut has huge needs, both to repair our infrastructure, and improve the highway and transit systems in key areas, including high-speed rail and increased rail service across the state. Million- and billion-dollar decisions about how to invest have to be justified and prioritized using cost-benefit analysis. The decisions must be made through a broad, statewide process with a long-range perspective of reducing congestion and improving the economy and the environment.

This year, in his budget address to the legislature, Governor Malloy reiterated his support for creating a lockbox for transportation funding. The Governor has also released a 30-year, \$100 billion transportation plan, with an immediate 5-year, \$10 billion ramp-up period that includes \$1.7 billion for rail improvements, \$43 million in bus improvements and \$101 million for bicycle and pedestrian trails. Funding for transportation projects will be part of the ongoing budget negotiations in 2015.

For more information  
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**Transit for Connecticut/  
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