

Jul. 7. 2008 10:18AM

No. 1852 P. 2



M. Jodi Rell
GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

July 3, 2008

The Honorable Joseph Courtney
Congressman
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Courtney:

Thank you for taking my call recently on Route 11 and for working with me on this issue. As I expressed to you on the phone, the state views the completion of Route 11 as an integral part of our transportation system. As you also know, I have long supported its construction. It is my intention, as Governor, to move this project forward.

Frankly we have learned from other projects, including the New Haven rail yard, that cost estimates and financial plans are not soundly based without some level of detailed design and engineering work. Design and engineering efforts that will support a more definitive financial picture for the construction of Route 11 will be initiated immediately. To that end, I am directing the Department of Transportation (DOT) to take actions described below so that we may develop a final plan and obtain a Record of Decision:

- A Preliminary Engineering effort will be undertaken for the entire corridor between Route 82 and I-95. This review would build upon the planning layout contained in the approved Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS); and
- Concurrent with this effort, additional environmental work will be done in cooperation with state and federal resource agencies to develop a formal environmental mitigation plan for the Route 11 project.

The Department of Transportation has been in contact with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) concerning this proposed approach and it is the Department's understanding that FHWA concurs with our intent. FHWA has also indicated that existing federal high priority project (earmark) funding may be utilized for these engineering and environmental efforts to the level of \$4.4 million. I will put the necessary state match for these funds on the July 25th agenda of the State Bond Commission.

Jul. 7. 2008 *10:18AM

No. 1852 P. 302

It is anticipated that by using these funds, the design, engineering and environmental studies will be accomplished in a timely manner and will allow the state to assess all financing possibilities and formally commit to the long-term funding of Route 11's design and construction.

As you noted in your letter to me of June 23, 2008, "...if these funds are released, the state will use it as an opportunity to make long-awaited progress on developing an environmental mitigation plan that will address not only the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) publicly stated concerns with the project, but also overcome the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's objection to the plan and eventual permitting for it. In addition, it presents a chance for ConnDOT to further refine the route and craft more detailed cost estimate for the extension of Route 11 - a key element that will help the state better identify funding needs and mechanisms for the project." The actions I am outlining in this letter reflect your statement.

As to the Greenway funding, I will continue working with you to secure the use of those federal funds in a timely manner. As a show of good faith on behalf of the state of Connecticut, I will be seeking approval from the State Bond Commission at its July 25th meeting for \$2 million for the purchase of Greenway properties. It is my hope that you will meet with success in seeking release of \$10 million in federal earmarks for the Greenway given the action I am taking with DOT to finally move this project forward.

Your continued support for this important project is appreciated, and I look forward to working with you on furthering its progress.

Sincerely,



M. Jodi Reil
Governor