

COMMITTEES:

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SEAPOW AND PROJECTION FORCES

AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND
RISK MANAGEMENT
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

ETHICS



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June 29, 2012

Secretary Ray LaHood
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write in support of applications submitted by The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) for a State of Good Repairs Grant and Bus Livability Grants. Although only a portion of the funding from these grants would be used in my District in eastern Connecticut, I believe that a more stable, accessible transit system is good for our entire state.

ConnDOT has continually strived to provide extensive and reliable public transportation options for our state's population. Through collaboration with towns, cities, and private stakeholders, ConnDOT has expanded ridership through projects such as the Stamford Transportation Center and the Norwich Intermodal Transportation Center, while also looking towards the future with projects such as the New Britain-Hartford Busway and the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield High-speed Rail Project.

Study after study shows a positive correlation between economic development, and proximity to bus rapid transit stations. Connecticut citizens and businesses, alike, will benefit from this targeted investment in infrastructure. With today's passage of a multi-year Surface Transportation Reauthorization, it is important that we move quickly on projects like this, providing the construction industry with the long-term work they have been denied as a result of multiple short-term extensions since 2009.

I wholeheartedly support these grant applications. Access to federal grants will help ConnDOT leverage additional public and private resources to bring Connecticut's transportation sector into the 21st century. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress