



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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Appropriations Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Eucalitto  
Department of Transportation

Good morning, Chairwoman Walker, Chairwoman Osten, and distinguished members of the Committee. I am Garrett Eucalitto, Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss Governor Ned Lamont's recommended 2024 and 2025 biennial operating budget for the Department of Transportation (CTDOT).

Governor Lamont's proposed budget recognizes the critical role transportation plays not only in the daily lives of our residents, but also in the long-term economic vitality and future success of our state. The proposed funding for the upcoming biennium will enable the Department to continue to provide the citizens of Connecticut with a safe and efficient intermodal transportation network.

The Governor has recommended Special Transportation Fund appropriations for the Department of \$900 million for fiscal year 2024, and \$924 million for fiscal year 2025. The details of the proposed budget follow.

The Governor's proposed Personal Services budget of \$228.1 million in fiscal year 2024 and \$231.5 million in fiscal year 2025 provides funding for Department employees that plan, design, maintain, and provide support for a safe highway and bridge and public transportation system. The appropriated amounts include annualized funding for the 206 positions added in the midterm budget to support the implementation of an expanded federal capital program provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (aka Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA)). The proposed authorized count of 3515 reflects a *reduction* of 52 positions that are transferred to the Department of Administrative Services as part of the centralization of information technology functions.

The Governor's recommended Other Expenses appropriation is \$57.7 million in each year of the biennium. The proposed budget includes *increases* required for the cost of highway maintenance and electrical commodities; motor vehicle fuel; premises related contractual services; and drug enforcement training and media outreach related to the regulation of recreational cannabis use by adults. It is important to note that the Department's Other Expenses account contains funding dedicated to safety-related fixed costs, including snow removal materials and contractual services; fleet repairs and fuel for the Department's fleet of trucks, loaders, and other heavy equipment; highway and electrical items (such as guide rail, posts, concrete barriers and lights); highway illumination; and the costs for operating more than 100 Department facilities.

A key component of the Department's mission is maintaining existing rail and transit services that have historically served the mobility needs of over 80 million passengers annually. The Department works continually with service operators to achieve savings while striving to provide exceptional services within

available resources. The Governor is proposing \$232.3 million in fiscal year 2024 and \$244.4 million in fiscal year 2025 for the Rail Operations appropriation; \$252.5 million in 2024 and \$261.4 million in 2025 for Bus Operations; as well as \$40.4 million in each year for the ADA Para-Transit Program. In recognition of ridership trends that are expected to continue, the proposed funding levels for Rail Operations support 86% service levels on the New Haven Line, 44% levels on Shore Line East, and 100% on the Hartford Line, when compared to service levels prior to the COVID pandemic. In the Bus Operations appropriation, where ridership levels are back at pre-pandemic numbers, funding is proposed to *expand* bus services to support enhanced workforce transportation in various regions across the state. And, in the ADA Para-Transit Program account, reduced ridership has led to a corresponding budget adjustment.

The Pay-As-You-Go Transportation Projects (PAYGO) account provides operating funding for transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvements, augmenting the Department's Capital Transportation Infrastructure Program. The Governor's proposed PAYGO budget of approximately \$18 million in each year of the biennium includes funding of \$525,000 in FY 2024 and \$575,000 in FY 2025 for the CT Work Zone Safety Awareness Program, to facilitate a robust campaign that improves awareness of the importance of traveling in and through work zones safely in all Connecticut communities, helping to ensure the safety and well-being of all highway workers and ultimately save lives.

The Governor's recommended appropriations for the Department include \$60 million in each year of the biennium for the Town Aid Road Grant, which has been bonded in recent years.

The Governor's Budget also recommends authorizations of Special Tax Obligation bonds in FY 2024 and FY 2025 of \$1.51 and \$1.49 billion respectively. This Capital Budget includes funding to sustain our transportation infrastructure in a state of good repair, and also the addition of \$250 million in each year of the biennium to support the required match to an anticipated increase in Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) funds for the Northeast Corridor.

I look forward to working with you on implementing a biennial budget that allows for continued preservation and operation of the state's transportation network.

For further information or questions, please contact Anne Kleza ([anne.kleza@ct.gov](mailto:anne.kleza@ct.gov)) at the Department of Transportation at (860) 594-3013.