

Written Testimony
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Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
General Obligation Bonding Subcommittee
March 20, 2025

Senator Miller, Representative Napoli, Senator Hwang, Representative Piscopo and members of the General Obligation Bonding Subcommittee:

Thank you for the invitation to appear before you today to discuss Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) capital bonding requests for the upcoming biennium. On behalf of our agency, I would like to thank Governor Lamont and the General Assembly – including all of you on this panel – for your consistent and crucial support.

Governor Lamont's vision for seamless customer relations; the convenience to conduct transactions in-person and online; and a focus on improvement continues to be driving force in how the agency serves the people of the state of Connecticut. I would be remiss in not also recognizing the daily efforts of the dedicated, hard-working DMV employees who make a difference in residents' lives.

The Governor's proposed FY26-27 General Obligation (GO) capital bonding program allocation for the DMV will enable the agency to maintain and strategically invest in existing buildings; to continue to align our infrastructure with operations; and to allow us to look to the future. Requested DMV capital projects are prioritized with the following objectives in mind: 1) provision of convenient, accessible settings for our customers to transact their in-person DMV business in our Public Rooms; and 2) critical upkeep to spaces that support safety and health for our outstanding DMV staff.

As you know, the DMV's service delivery model has modernized, with the ratio of in-person to online transactions changing meaningfully in recent years. At its core, though, the DMV remains a people- and transaction-based enterprise; we serve as the state's front door and many still choose – out of comfort and necessity – to transact their DMV business in-person.

Specifically, GO bond funding (amount: \$15 million) would enable purchase and applicable renovations for new space to replace the existing Wethersfield office which, although it has served the state extremely well, has developed a number of significant systems issues over time, including roof and window replacement needs, façade improvements, and HVAC repairs, to name just the most urgent. Ongoing costs to maintain are expensive and growing. Due to the age of the structure, the cost of retrofitting and replacement is prohibitive – and it is time to look for a new building.

Additionally, the agency's GO bonding allocation would support various ongoing alterations and improvements to buildings and grounds throughout the DMV's eight state-owned spaces. In addition to emergency repairs, bond funds will support priorities like fire, safety, and ADA compliance; office development and parking renovations; and roofing and other structural stabilization.

As a former legislator, I know that bonding is a critical, long-term investment in our people, physical structures, and services. Our agency has been fortunate to earn the support of the Lamont Administration and the General Assembly with previous capital investment requests, and as the DMV maintains a portfolio of high transaction, busy, and public-facing buildings of varying size and increasing age – the agency again

is seeking your support.

For the subcommittee's information, current locations where customers can receive DMV in-person services:

Type	No.	Locations
DMV Locations	14	Bridgeport – Danbury – Enfield – Hamden - New Britain – Norwalk – Norwich - Old Saybrook – Putnam – Stamford - Waterbury – Wethersfield – Willimantic - Winsted
DMV Testing Sites	3	Cheshire (Class D) - Mansfield and Winsted (CDL)
Partner - AAA Northeast	12	Avon – Cromwell – Danbury – Enfield – Fairfield – Glastonbury – Manchester – Norwalk – Old Saybrook – Southington – Waterford – West Hartford
Partner – Nutmeg Financial Credit Union	2	Orange – Stratford

Should members of the subcommittee have questions moving forward, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you.

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

DMV35000--Department of Motor Vehicles

Title	Request YR 2026	Request YR 2027
Emergency Infrastructure Repairs all locations	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Install Ballards or Barriers at Cheshire Testing Center	\$0	\$75,000
Replace Two Furnaces in Cheshire	\$0	\$30,000
Hook up Septic to Public Sewer in Cheshire	\$100,000	\$0
Replace HVAC units in Cheshire	\$65,000	\$0
Repave Parking Lot and Repair Islands in Enfield	\$0	\$475,000
Replace Cheshire Roof	\$0	\$300,000
Renovate Second Floor for Office Space in Hamden	\$2,000,000	\$0
Reengineer drainage in rear parking lot, repair sidewalks & handicapped ramps, install ballards and pave at Norwalk	\$1,000,000	\$0
Install Generator in Norwalk	\$0	\$175,000
Replace Cracked Glass/Window	\$20,000	\$0
Purchase new location to consolidate Old Saybrook and Norwich offices	\$0	\$10,000,000
Install generator in Old Saybrook	\$0	\$175,000
New Roof and Rooftop HVAC units at Wethersfield	\$4,000,000	\$0
Masonry Repairs to Façade and Front Entrance in Wethersfield	\$3,000,000	\$0
Replace vinyl flooring on 1st floor of Wethersfield	\$500,000	\$0
Increase Generator Capacity at Wethersfield	\$0	\$200,000
Relocate Wethersfield Administrative office to new location	\$0	\$1,000,000
Relocate Wethersfield Branch to new location	\$1,000,000	\$0
Acquire site for Commercial Driver's License Testing Center	\$1,500,000	\$0
Dedicated driver license road testing locations (2 areas in state)	\$2,000,000	\$0
Purchase New Location for Wethersfield Office (DAS to Purchase/Manage Necessary Renovations or Retrofits)	\$15,000,000	\$0
TOTALS	\$31,185,000	\$13,430,000

Project Title	Bond Type	Authorization Language	Project Description
Emergency Infrastructure Repairs all locations	GO	Bond TBD	We frequently have to do unexpected emergency infrastructure repairs and improvements, including fire, safety and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, improvements to state-owned buildings and grounds, including energy conservation and off-site improvements, and preservation of unoccupied buildings and grounds, including office development, acquisition, renovations for additional parking, roofing failures and security improvements at state occupied buildings. We have eight state owned buildings across the state of various ages and size, which inevitably need various types of repairs. The funds would be used for the unexpected repairs that were not planned in our Capital Plan.
Install Ballards or Barriers at Cheshire Testing Center	GO	Bond TBD	Install bollards or a barrier along the front of the building to prevent a vehicle from jumping the curb and hitting pedestrian or the building
Replace Two Furnaces in Cheshire	GO	Bond TBD	Replace two furnaces with energy rated furnaces to improve heating efficiencies. One of three furnaces was replaced in 2011.
Hook up Septic to Public Sewer in Cheshire	GO	Bond TBD	Hook up Cheshire location to sewer rather than current septic tank
Replace HVAC units in Cheshire	GO	Bond TBD	Replace inefficient HVAC units at the Cheshire location
Repave Parking Lot and Repair Islands in Enfield	GO	Bond TBD	Remove the islands that are in very poor condition due to years of damage by plowings, and no maintenance. Determine if islands should be replaced, or fencing installed for traffic direction. Repave entire lot.
Replace Cheshire Roof	GO	Bond TBD	Replace aging roof at Cheshire location
Renovate Second Floor for Office Space in Hamden	GO	Bond TBD	The 2nd floor of the Hamden branch, approximately 13,000 square feet, is unfinished and vacant. The building is owned by the DMV and has turnkey space on the 2nd floor. The space needs flooring, electrical, lighting fixtures, bathroom renovations, walls, partitions, doors and office furniture before it can be utilized. We would like to renovate this space with the plan to relocate a unit(s) from Wethersfield to Hamden. Our Wethersfield facility is overcrowded, resulting in inefficient use of available space that directly impacts our customer service. This location could potentially accommodate one or two units, as well as an emergency operations center. This would be the first step in the reorganization of the offices/units at the Wethersfield facility.
Reengineer drainage in rear parking lot, repair sidewalks & handicapped ramps, install ballards and pave at Norwalk	GO	Bond TBD	The rear parking lot of the branch has a serious drainage issue which causes water to be diverted across the parking lot. It has resulted in numerous potholes and cracked asphalt, and in the winter poses a dangerous icing problem. The drainage needs to be redesigned to change the water course and repaved for safe travel. The sidewalks around the branch are pitted and in poor condition causing safety hazards for pedestrians.
Install Generator in Norwalk	GO	Bond TBD	There is no back-up generator installed at this state-owned office. The inclusion of an emergency generator and related electrical work will allow the office to continue operations during power outages.
Replace Cracked Glass/Window	GO	Bond TBD	Replace damage windows at the Norwalk location
Purchase new location to consolidate Old Saybrook and Norwich offices	GO	Bond TBD	This project would be to purchase and renovate an existing building, or purchase a lot and build a new facility that would consolidate the Old Saybrook and Norwich DMVs. We would be looking for a central location in the Southeastern part of the State with easy access from the highway, adequate parking, and large enough to maximize customer service.
Install generator in Old Saybrook	GO	Bond TBD	There is no back-up generator installed at this state-owned office. The inclusion of an emergency generator and related electrical work will allow the office to continue operations during power outages.
New Roof and Rooftop HVAC units at Wethersfield	GO	Bond TBD	The DMV would like to replace our aging HVAC systems at the Wethersfield facility. We have multiple systems throughout the building that are in need of replacement including roof top units, exterior first floor units, and cassettes. The current units do not meet energy conservation guidelines. We would like to replace the units to realize energy efficiencies and a more controlled and reliable cooling system. The project should take into consideration the replacement of the HVAC units as well as ancillary engineering considerations. The building will be fully staffed and must remain open during installation.
Masonry Repairs to Façade and Front Entrance in Wethersfield	GO	Bond TBD	Repairs/replacement of the cornice, pillars, and front entrance of the Wethersfield building. The brick and mortar are original to the 1962 building and is crumbling in areas posing a significant safety issue. The entire building needs to be repointed, the roof cornice repaired and the entrance to the front of the building made handicapped accessible. The bricks and stairs at the front entrance need to be replaced. (see install of handicapped ramp)
Replace vinyl flooring on 1st floor of Wethersfield	GO	Bond TBD	Replace aged and damaged flooring on the first floor of the Wethersfield location
Increase Generator Capacity at Wethersfield	GO	Bond TBD	Most Branch functions can already be performed during a power outage. Additional panels would allow for more back-office functions to operate during an outage, minimizing any work-flow stoppages and back-log.
Relocate Wethersfield Administrative office to new location	GO	Bond TBD	Relocation costs associated with transferring back office to a new location in Greater Hartford.
Relocate Wethersfield Branch to new location	GO	Bond TBD	Relocation costs associated with transferring branch to a new location in Greater Hartford.
Acquire site for Commercial Driver's License Testing Center	GO	Bond TBD	FMSCA adopted a CDL Permit Test Final Rule which requires our CDL test course to be at least 130' x 320'. DMV currently conducts testing of applicants for a commercial driver license (CDL) at the Regional Market in Hartford. We were notified that the area we use for testing will no longer be available to us as of March 31, 2018 and we need a suitable location to continue testing of trucks and buses. We have been given a courtesy extension, but we need to find a suitable alternate site. At a minimum we are looking for a lot in Central CT where we could set up a test course, but ideally would like a location large enough to accommodate two courses.
Dedicated driver license road testing locations (2 areas in state)	GO	Bond TBD	Acquire two sites within the state to provide driver license road testing locations.
Purchase New Location for Wethersfield Office (DAS to Purchase/Manage Necessary Renovations or Retrofits)	GO	Bond TBD	Funding necessary to purchase a new building in the Greater Hartford area to serve as a branch and back off location to replace the existing Wethersfield location.