

Chairman:

Patricia J. Checko

Berlin, CT

Vice-Chairman:

Michele Sadlosky

Newington, CT

Secretary-Treasurer:

Charles K. Brown,
Jr.

Director of Health

Kevin Borrup

Newington, CT

Ann Marie Diloreto

Wethersfield, CT

Barbara Gilbert

Rocky Hill, CT

Deborah P. Henault

Wethersfield, CT

Jennifer Hill

Wethersfield, CT

Raymond Jarema

Berlin, CT

Lecia Paonessa

Berlin, CT

Judith A. Sartucci

Rocky Hill, CT

Marti Stiglich

Rocky Hill, CT

David Wemett

Newington, CT

Roy Zatarian

Newington, CT



TO: Co-Chairs and Members of the Transportation Committee

DATE: January 31, 2020

RE: Testimony on Bill# LCO 373: **AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CONNECTICUT'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE.**

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Central Connecticut Health District (CCHD). Our agency has been serving nearly 100,000 people in the four member towns, Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield, since 1996. The CADH testimony provided a good overview of what local health departments and districts are required to provide under the 10 essential services.

We support the language in the proposed bill to revise membership to the Transportation Policy Council. However, we feel that inclusion of a public health professional would be a critical addition to this council to ensure that health is considered in all policies for several reasons.

First, transportation issues are one of the key social determinants of health that contribute to health inequities within our state. Assuring that public health professionals are part of the conversation as the council addresses transportation policy issues helps to bring these issues to the forefront before policies are enacted and our most vulnerable populations are again impacted.

Second, transportation is not solely reliant upon machines. Active transportation, like walking and biking, should be considered as part of each policy that the council takes on. Additionally, how the health of communities is affected by transportation policies should also be a consideration. Policies such as Complete Streets take into account how the entire community utilizes transportation and incorporates design choices that limit the impact of vehicular traffic on the health of those groups within communities that are most vulnerable. It is this type of perspective that a public health professional can bring to the council, along with access to data on the health impacts of past transportation choices, like increased asthma rates in communities adjacent to our most traveled transportation corridors.

Finally, the choices we make about transportation have an impact on our environment in a variety of ways. Increased traffic and vehicular noise can affect communities along with the potential for pollution related impacts. Climate changes related to transportation related policies affect the health of our population over the long-term, both at the individual level and across the

2080 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 100, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
www.ccthd.org

PUBLIC HEALTH for BERLIN, NEWINGTON, ROCKY HILL, WETHERSFIELD





globe. Public health professionals are evaluating these health effects and can provide invaluable information to choosing our path forward that may limit the negative effects upon our climate.

Local public health is at the front lines of prevention, protection and promotion of the health of our communities. We strive to **Promote** health programs and policies that support good health; **Prevent** disease outbreaks and conditions that give rise to poor health; and **Protect** you from health threats-the everyday and the exceptional.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charles K. Brown Jr., MPH

Board Secretary/Treasurer and District Director of Health

