



## ***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE***

January 31, 2020

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent all of Connecticut's towns and cities.

### ***“AAC THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CONNECTICUT'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE”***

The current proposal would enable the implementation of limited tolling on large commercial trucks at select bridges in order to improve and expand Connecticut's transportation infrastructure.

CCM's 2020 Legislative Agenda has included a statement supporting current efforts to develop and implement a bi-partisan plan to address identified transportation infrastructure needs and enhance all areas of the existing transportation network in order to promote economic growth throughout the state. This plan must identify and allocate appropriate resources which may include the establishment of limited tolling and will enable the state to leverage all available federal funding resources.

Any plan that is developed must include consistent and reliable funding that will ensure our existing infrastructure is safe, provide for needed improvement and expansion and serve to attract new companies to our state and lay the foundation for needed economic growth.

Now is the time we must make a choice, that choice must move Connecticut forward.

- Connecticut has over 17,365 miles of road of which more than 70% are classified as in poor to mediocre condition.
- Connecticut has 4,225 bridges and culverts of which approximately 25% classified as structurally deficient or obsolete.
- We have an aging rail system and a bus network that is not user friendly or efficient, which discourages people from using mass transit, forcing them into cars and onto congested highways.

These are the facts that we must face and that collectively we must address.

CCM supports the inclusion of the language in Section 5 of the bill that will provide discretion to the DOT to prioritize the completion of local transportation projects to mitigate increased traffic due to diversions related to the presence of a local toll gantry.

Finally, regardless of the funding source, it is essential that we honor the Transportation Lock Box that was overwhelmingly approved by Connecticut voters. It's a covenant you have with residents. Monies deposited in the Special Transportation Fund must be used to supplement existing revenues that have been dedicated to the Special Transportation Fund and not be allowed to supplant existing funding if we expect to see any meaningful improvement to our transportation infrastructure.



If you have any questions, please contact M. Randall Collins Jr. of CCM at [rcollins@ccm-ct.org](mailto:rcollins@ccm-ct.org) or (860) 707-6446.