



Testimony of Kevin Hussain
On Behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut
Before the Transportation Committee
On LCO. 373, An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure

January 31, 2020

Good Afternoon Sen. Leone, Rep. Lemar and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Kevin Hussain and I am an Engineering Manager and Assistant Project Manager with AI Engineers located in Middletown, CT. I am here today on behalf of the Board of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut (ACEC-CT) representing almost 2,000 highly skilled engineers employed by 60 member-companies located throughout the state. I am here to speak on the draft legislation before you which is designed to create a dedicated funding stream to support transportation infrastructure.

A significant goal of our organization is to educate and promote a better understanding of the infrastructure needs of the state and its residents. With that in mind, it is critical to understand that Connecticut's infrastructure is failing.

In 2018, a report by TRIP (a national, non-profit transportation research group based in Washington, DC) found 308 of the state's bridges structurally deficient and in need of repair. That same year, the American Society of Civil Engineers Infrastructure Report Card gave Connecticut an overall grade of C- saying, "it actually costs each driver in Connecticut an extra \$864 per year driving on CT roads in need of repair." Connecticut residents deserve better.

Our transportation network is integral to the success of our state's economy. The importance of a robust transportation network has been well documented by business analysts, economists and the research community alike. That is why we are here today, we need to provide a sustainable and dedicated funding source to address our failing infrastructure needs.

It is clear that the current sources of funding for Connecticut's Transportation Program are simply not adequate to meet the state's needs for a safe and efficient transportation system. Connecticut is at a critical crossroads as it looks to remain competitive while facing the challenge of reconstructing an aging infrastructure that suffers from years of deferred maintenance and underinvestment. The time is now to create a dedicated funding stream to accomplish the goal.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions.