

**Testimony of Richard Jacob, Associate Vice President for Federal and State Relations, Yale University,  
Concerning Draft Bill LCO #373, "An Act Concerning the Sustainability of  
Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure"  
January 31, 2020**

Senator Leone, Representative Lemar, and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to comment on draft bill LCO 373, "An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure." Yale University urges the Committee to approve draft bill LCO 373 because it would raise critically needed funds for infrastructure improvements and it would mandate a capital planning process.

Yale has high confidence in the future of the Connecticut economy, especially in our dynamic hometown of New Haven. New Haven has many assets that can drive growth: a creative and energetic workforce, outstanding colleges and universities, and excellent quality of life, while still being competitive in cost of living with our closest competitors in Boston and New York. However, Connecticut does not have the transportation networks to support the economy that we all desperately need. Startup companies have cited transportation as a reason for moving to a larger city, and students have said the difficulty of traveling around Connecticut discourages them from staying in the state after graduation. These are just two of the many reasons why Connecticut should move with a sense of urgency to improve its transportation network.

According to U.S. News and World Report, Connecticut's infrastructure ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation. We have six of the country's 100 worst traffic bottlenecks and one in ten of our bridges are structurally deficient. When our roads and trails are stuck in the 20th century, businesses, students, and residents are left feeling defeatist about the state's future.

Connecticut residents and businesses need a clear and rational plan for infrastructure improvements. We believe that high-speed rail, expanded air services, and the transformation of our highways are critical for our state's future. We must restore Connecticut's investment in infrastructure. Enactment of LCO 373 is the first step in developing a transportation system that is competitive for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.