



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL POLICY DIVISION

June 20, 2014

Mark Hood
Department of Economic and Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Notice of Scoping:
New Britain Infrastructure/Roadway Improvements along Route 71

Dear Mark:

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has reviewed the Notice of Scoping for the proposed *New Britain Infrastructure/Roadway Improvements along Route 71* and submits the following comments and question:

- The scoping notice begins with:

"The City of New Britain is requesting state financial assistance for certain infrastructure/roadway improvements along Hartford Road (CT Route 71) and the Route 9 northbound off-ramp at Hartford Road..."

The scoping notice goes on to mention a "long-standing problem of limited left-turn capacity from the Route 9 northbound off-ramp onto Route 71" and says "construction of an additional left-turn lane will help to alleviate traffic congestion in the area". Work to alleviate such problems does not appear to be included in either the state or regional transportation improvement program (TIP) and, typically, such actions would fall under the purview of CT DOT.

- Please describe what you envision to be DECD's "action" under CEPA;
- Please describe the extent to which DECD and DOT have coordinated on these proposed actions, given the requirements of Section 22a-1a-2 of the CEPA regulations;
- Presuming DECD is committed to assessing the potential impacts on the environment from the proposed actions, please describe the process by which DECD determined the proposed actions to be consistent with the State C&D Plan under CGS Section 16a-31(a); and
- Is there a possible role for DECD in helping municipalities use existing revenue sharing mechanisms to support development without being constrained by municipal boundaries? By eliminating the need for redundant infrastructure, revenue sharing would seemingly improve the efficiency of investments in economic and community development.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to DECD's Notice of Scoping and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bruce Wittchen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bruce Wittchen
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