



**Senate Bill 215**

**AAC the Development of a Transportation Engineering Recruitment Program**

**Testimony of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and the Department of Transportation (DOT)**

**Joint Committee on Transportation**

**March 7, 2022**

Good morning Senator Haskell, Representative Lemar, Senator Somers, Representative Carney and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 215.

DAS and DOT support **Senate Bill 215, An Act Concerning the Development of a Transportation Engineering Recruitment Program**. Engineering recruitment is highly competitive across the country between the public and private sector due to a shortage of engineers entering the workforce. As a result, DAS and DOT welcome this concept and seek to enhance the education and recruitment of engineers in the state. We support the goal that the committee is trying to achieve and believe this is an issue that needs continued attention given the historic funding DOT is poised to receive from passage of *The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*.

IIJA increases CTDOT's Transportation formula funding by 38% and provides over \$100 billion in national discretionary grant opportunities for fiscal years 2022-2026. This new funding combined with the significant numbers of current CTDOT employees retiring in the next few months will result in the immediate need for CTDOT to heavily recruit engineers for the foreseeable future.

Both agencies look forward to working with the members of the Committee on the language of the bill and urge the Committee to support this bill.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We look forward to working with the Committee to address this issue.