

July 15, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Applications

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the the Connecticut Public Transportation Council, I am writing to express our support for the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) grant applications for funding under the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) FY 2024 Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP-NEC) discretionary grant program. CTDOT seeks funding for the following four projects:

- Hartford Line Rail Program: Double Track (Phase 3B)
- Track Improvement and Mobility Enhancement (TIME)-1
- Cos Cob Bridge Replacement
- Hartford Station Relocation – Greater Hartford Mobility Study (GHMS)

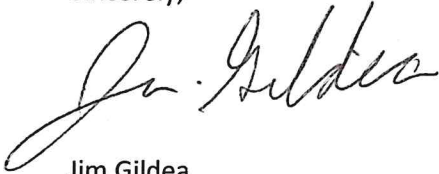
These four projects are critical to the State of Connecticut's passenger rail system and to the future economic, social, and environmental well-being of our state. Each addresses a critical need, including improvements to safety, economic strength and global competitiveness, equity, climate, and sustainability. Taken together, these projects represent a holistic transformation of the state rail network consistent with the USDOT's strategic goals. Furthermore, all of these projects have been identified on the Northeast Corridor Project Inventory as projects that would reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, and enhance intercity passenger rail service through faster speeds, greater capacity, and improved reliability.

CTDOT is prepared to manage and oversee these generational investments to the state's rail infrastructure.

The Connecticut Public Transportation Council strongly encourages your favorable consideration of these projects for funding through the FSP-NEC Grant Program

Your agency's time and consideration are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Gildea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Gildea" clearly distinguishable.

Jim Gildea
Chair, Connecticut Public Transportation Council