



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

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**David A. Lehman**  
Commissioner

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**3/6/18**

**Re: H.B. 7202 AN ACT CONCERNING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CONNECTICUT'S  
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

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Senator Leone, Senator Martin, Representative Lemar, Representative Devlin and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 7202: An Act Concerning the Sustainability of Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure.

As you are aware, our mission at the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting cultural and tourism assets.

The lack of investment in Connecticut's infrastructure over the past several decades affects residents from every corner of the state. Be it the Gold Star Bridge in New London, the Mixmaster in Waterbury, the I-84 viaduct through Hartford, or targeted improvements to relieve congestion on I-95, these projects are among the highest transportation priorities for the Department of Transportation. The Governor's Bill HB 7202 would allow for the construction and operation of tolls to raise revenue in order to help fund these projects and many more. These investments are crucial if Connecticut is going to be able to compete with other states for both businesses and residents.

According to a recent CNBC study, Connecticut has the fourth worst infrastructure in the United States which causes a huge financial burden on residents every year. TRIP, a national transportation research group found that:

- Driving on deficient roads costs Connecticut motorists a total of \$6.1 billion annually in the form of additional vehicle operating costs, congestion-related delays and traffic crashes.
- Drivers in our state's largest urban areas incur annual costs of \$2,378 in Bridgeport-Stamford, \$2,355 in Hartford and \$2,190 in New Haven due to driving on deficient roads.
- Loss of productivity due to mounting congestion causes residents to lose 49 hours in Bridgeport-Stamford, 45 hours in Hartford, and 40 hour in New Haven a year.



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Connecticut, like every other state in this country must compete and our crumbling infrastructure is affecting our competitiveness. We must look for new ways to raise revenues and tolling is the only viable option going forward to fix the state's infrastructure.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our thoughts on this bill.