

Transportation Strategy Board

January 11, 2011

Governor Dannel Malloy
Executive Office of the Governor
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Malloy,

There seems to be a strong consensus that growing the economy of Connecticut to create jobs for its citizens and taxes to support public services is critical to our future prosperity. Such economic growth must come from the private sector and from federal investment in research and development; state and local governments for the most part play a supporting role. That role, however, is critical in certain areas—education, public safety, and transportation infrastructure being prime examples, and economic growth is unlikely to occur unless government is effective in those crucial arenas.

These past twelve months, working closely with both the State's Department of Transportation and the Office of Policy and Management, the Transportation Strategy Board has attempted to determine the major projects and scope of investment in transportation infrastructure required to support the economic prosperity of the state. Broadly speaking these investments involve first repairing and maintaining the facilities we currently have in place, and second investing in improvements necessary to keep Connecticut competitive in the future, especially by exploiting the geographic advantages of a state that sits astride major regional transportation corridors.

While the magnitude of the additional investments recommended is not small, especially in the face of the extraordinary deficits in the current State budget, the Board felt it important to face up to the magnitude of the task both because unless a solution is found to the transportation infrastructure issues the State runs the risk of choking off future economic growth critical to the creation of additional jobs and increased tax revenues, and because knowing the scope of the problem is the first step in determining alternatives for managing it.

The Board is submitting two documents to you, first a "Strategic Framework for Investing in Connecticut's Transportation Infrastructure," and second, under separate cover, a 2011 update of the full report required by the legislature every four years.¹ Because increased levels of support are recommended even in this time of extraordinary fiscal stress, the "Strategic Framework" document categorizes potential transportation infrastructure investments by type of need and strategic value. While the specific project list for each category may be further refined, DOT feels they have provided a reasonable order of magnitude of financial needs for each of the categories.

¹ I wish to thank in particular Tom Maziarz, Policy Bureau Chief for DOT who, with input from DOT Bureau Chiefs and the Transportation Strategy Board members, did the bulk of the drafting of the former report, and then Undersecretary of the Office of Policy and Management Phil Smith and his staff, who did the drafting of the latter document.

The strategic framework document also suggests the kind of economic impact analysis and potential return on investment that should be an important ingredient in any decision about which specific transportation projects to fund, although much additional work needs to be done to strengthen this form of analysis.

Finally, it is hoped that the strategic framework document might serve as the basis for a public discussion about the scale of the investments needed to move Connecticut forward in what is an increasingly competitive global economy, as well as a dialogue about the near-term burdens and long-term rewards those infrastructure investments will entail for citizens of our State.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce D. Alexander
Chair, Transportation Strategy Board

Cc: President Pro Tempore Donald E. Williams, Jr.
Senator Martin M. Looney, Senate Majority Leader
Senator John P. McKinney, Senate Minority Leader
Speaker Christopher G. Donovan
Representative J. Brendan Sharkey, House Majority Leader
Representative Lawrence F. Cafero, House Minority Leader
Timothy Bannon, Chief of Staff, Executive Office of the Governor

Transportation Strategy Board Members

Bruce D. Alexander, Vice President, Yale University
Karen L. Burnaska, Coastal Corridor Transportation Investment Area
Robert M. Congdon, Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
John Filchak, I-395 Corridor Transportation Investment Area and Northeastern CT Council of Govts.
Mary Glassman, First Selectman of Simsbury, I-91 Transportation Investment Area
Jill Kelly, Connecticut Citizens Transportation Lobby
Commissioner Amey W. Marrella, Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection
Commissioner Joan M. McDonald, Connecticut Dept. of Economic and Community Development
Séan Moore, Greater Meridan Chamber of Commerce
Matthew Nemerson, Connecticut Technology Council
Commissioner Jeffrey Parker, Connecticut Dept. of Transportation
Lt. David Rosado, Connecticut State Police (representing Public Safety Commissioner James Thomas)
Philip Smith (representing Office of Policy and Management Secretary Brenda Sisco)
Lyle D. Wray, Capitol Region Council of Governments
Staff: Robert W. Hammersley, Manager, Office of Policy and Management