

HARTFORD – **Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01)** issued the following statement in support of the New Britain-Hartford Busway. Earlier today a federal grant agreement was signed at a ceremony at Central Connecticut State University giving the go ahead to begin project construction.

“With today’s federal grant agreement, an important step has been taken towards enhancing multimodal transportation in Connecticut. The New Britain-Hartford Busway is a significant project that will create jobs and expand transportation options by making Union Station a true intermodal hub, spurring transit oriented development, and relieving congestion on I-84. I would like to applaud Governor Malloy, the Department of Transportation, FTA Administrator Rogoff, and my colleagues in the Congressional Delegation for bringing this project to fruition.

“From its inception 14 years ago under Governor John Rowland, to further development under Governor M. Jodi Rell, and now final execution under Governor Malloy the Busway has enjoyed bipartisan support. Failure to act on this project would have cost Connecticut significant federal funding and vital jobs that our construction industry has been looking for throughout our area. Additionally, for many of our current businesses leaders in the metro-Hartford area - the Aetna, The Hartford and our local chambers of commerce - this project was seen as an important piece of our transportation infrastructure.

“This money was not transferable to another project. Much like the reallocated high speed rail funding that Connecticut received following the state of Florida’s rejection, failure to act on this funding would have reallocated it elsewhere in the country.

“Again I applaud Governor Malloy for his decisive action. When other states failed to act on transportation funding, his vision has made this project a reality. I am pleased that this project is moving forward and will continue to work to improve Connecticut’s transportation system by supporting initiatives such as expanding commuter rail access to connect Bristol and Waterbury.”

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