

HOUSE TO TAKE UP TRANSPORTATION BILL NEXT WEEK; INCLUDES MILLIONS FOR CT PROJECTS

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WASHINGTON, D.C.- Next week the House of Representatives will vote on the reauthorization of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), H.R. 3550, which will authorize \$275 billion in highway and transit funding nationwide over a six year period, meaning millions per year for Connecticut, including funding for transportation projects in the First District.

"While I am disappointed that the funding levels in this bill are less than the \$375 billion originally supported by the Transportation Committee, this legislation does contain critical highway funding for the State of Connecticut," said Larson. "In addition to highway funding, the bill authorizes millions for transportation projects throughout the First District that we have been working on for some time and are key to region's transportation plans. However, investing in infrastructure is vital to rejuvenating our economy, creating and sustaining value-added jobs in our communities. I am deeply troubled by the President's threat to veto this bill at its fully funded level, once again standing in the way of efforts that will truly stimulate the economy."

Projects in the bill for the First District include:

- \$6 million for buses and bus related facilities for the New Britain-Hartford Busway
- \$4 million for buses and bus-related facilities for the Hartford Downtown Circulator
- \$2 million to undertake improvements associated with Coltsville Area Redevelopment, Hartford
- \$2 million to upgrade Mark Twain Drive, Hartford
- \$2 million to construct bus-related facility for the Northwestern Connecticut Central Transit District, Torrington
- Expansion of the Northern New England High Speed Rail Corridor to include the train routes from Boston, Massachusetts, to Albany, New York, and from Springfield, Massachusetts, to New Haven, Connecticut
- Authorization for alternatives analysis and preliminary engineering for the New Haven, Connecticut-Hartford, Connecticut-Springfield, Massachusetts Commuter Line

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