

Transit for Connecticut

Helping People, the Economy and the Environment

Appropriations Committee
Public Hearing – February 26, 2021

In Support of Funding for Transit Service

Dear Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Transit for Connecticut, a statewide coalition of 33 business, environmental, social service, planning, transportation, and civic organizations advocating for improved and expanded bus service, I ask the Appropriations Committee to support funding necessary to maintain existing transit service across the state.

Connecticut must maintain the funding for transit service, including funding express services, with the view that we are not finished with the pandemic and expect ridership to continue to return as the mass vaccination plan continues. The services need to be in place after July 1. Building trust and awareness in bus transit takes months or years to establish. Cutting essential service can set back this transportation mode for years beyond the period when service is cut. The state's economy depends on bus transit.

In addition, transit service helps senior citizens “age in place” and allows them to remain in their homes and transit service provides low income residents with transportation to job training, interviews, and places of employment.

It is a critical time for transportation in our state. Please approve the funding necessary to maintain existing bus service and provide the groundwork for the increased transit service that is needed now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

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