

April 3, 2018

Governor Dannel P. Malloy
State Capitol
210 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

Senator Martin Looney, President Pro Tempore
Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Representative Joe Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House
Legislative Office Building, Room 4105
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Subject: Urgent Need for Action on Special Transportation Fund

Dear Governor Malloy, Senate President Looney and Speaker Aresimowicz:

CRCOG wrote to you in February of this year regarding funding problems with the Special Transportation Fund (STF fund). In response to a briefing from CT DOT Commissioner Redeker, the CRCOG Transportation Committee and the CRCOG Policy Board have had multiple discussions of the current transportation funding situation.

Although there are three-time horizons for transportation funding challenges, immediate needs for Fiscal Year 2019; medium term needs in the next five years and longer-term needs in the 10 to 15-year range, we urge immediate action to address the shortfall this year in the 50 to 60-million-dollar range to avoid further damage to the transportation system in the state.

Specifically, CRCOG strongly urges the Administration and General Assembly to find a solution to the STF funding challenges for Fiscal Year 2019 before scheduled adjournment next month.

For this legislative session, we believe that the goal should be to develop sufficient revenue to meet these key objectives:

- Maintain current transportation operations,
- Maintain current transit service levels,
- Carry out the planned capital program for Fiscal Year 2019,
- Sustain the LOTCIP with uninterrupted funding for municipalities in our regions, and;
- Restore a second payment to Town Aid Road funding.

If the estimated required amount of \$60 million is correct, relatively minor revenue adjustments would meet this goal. CRCOG supports the following menu of revenue choices – which is far greater than the amount needed for Fiscal Year 2019. Given the relatively small amount required for Fiscal Year 2019, the revenue changes could be relatively modest in the current year budget. Supported options include:

- Advancing the new car sales tax transfer to the general fund (this alone could meet the targeted amount),
- Gas tax increase, and;
- Road tolling.

Attached please find a map of the state showing the extensive nature of Local Transportation Improvement Program projects that are at risk should action to fund the STF in 2019 not be taken.

We believe that transportation investment is critical for economic growth of our region and the state and we urge prompt action to address the STF shortfall as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Marcia Leclerc, Chair
Capitol Region Council of Governments

CC:

Senator Carlo Leone, Transportation Co-Chair
Senator Toni Boucher, Transportation Co Chair
Representative Antonio Guerrero, Transportation Co-Chair

