

The Honorable Ned Lamont, Governor
State of Connecticut
210 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Hartford 400

Dear Governor Lamont:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is delighted to offer a letter of support for the Hartford 400 Plan and its core infrastructure proposal. The CRCOG Policy Board at its April 28, 2021 meeting authorized me by resolution to send a letter of support on their behalf. This major project is one solution to reconfiguring the Interstate 84 and 91 system through the center of the city of Hartford and the capital region. This project or others like it would address Connecticut's worst traffic bottleneck, create jobs, revitalize our community, and modernize our transportation system. We are confident that the Hartford400 plan answers President Biden's call to **Build Back Better**, and strongly encourage its inclusion in the American Jobs Plan.

As you know CRCOG represents the 1 million residents and 38 towns and cities in our state's capital region. CRCOG has long worked on issues related to the I-84 viaduct and the I-84/I-91 interchange. Knitting together the parts of Hartford cut off by the freeways, increasing access and use of the Connecticut river, and helping to address mobility challenges in the region are but a few of the reasons behind the support.

We applaud the Connecticut Department of Transportation's recent launch of the Greater Hartford Mobility Study and encourage your continued support of the Hartford400 or other similar initiatives. We have been an active part of this initiative and look forward to a positive outcome of the effort. Thanks to your efforts, we have a historic opportunity to correct the design errors of the past, address the long-term infrastructure needs of Connecticut's capital city, and transform the Greater Hartford region for generations to come. The Hartford400 is one plan that reconfigures I-84, I-91, Route 2, and the corresponding interchanges in Hartford and East Hartford to reclaim acres of prime real estate and accommodate an all-inclusive transportation system. It would undo historic injustices caused by the Interstate Highway System. Specifically, Hartford400 infrastructure reconnects Hartford's North End neighborhood to the riverfront and downtown, recaptures and expands the riverfront on both sides of the Connecticut River (a National Blueway River) and strengthens the connections between Hartford and East Hartford. In addition, the plan strengthens the resilience of critical river infrastructure by rehabilitating the levee system that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says is in dire need of repair.

We applaud the leadership decision to make transformative investments in our communities a centerpiece of our national recovery. Hartford400 or another similar project can become a flagship project for the American Jobs Act, and a national model for smart development that puts people back to work, fixes past planning mistakes, and revitalizes an entire region. The Capitol Region Council of Government respectfully requests your support for addressing the I-84, I-91, Route 2 infrastructure issues and making the Hartford400 or similar project a part of any national infrastructure investment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lyle D. Wray". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director
Capitol Region Council of Governments

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Chris Murphy, U.S. Senator
The Honorable John B. Larson, U.S. House of Representatives
Amy D. Jackson-Grove, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Joseph Giulietti, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation
David Lehman, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community
Development.