

November 22, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: New Haven-Hartford-Springfield (NHHS) Rail Program Phase 3B Doubletrack Project in West Hartford, Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield, CT – FY22 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) application under the Federal Railroad Administration's FY2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program for the **New Haven-Hartford-Springfield (NHHS) Rail Program Phase 3B Doubletrack Project** in West Hartford, Windsor, Windsor Locks, and Enfield, CT. CTDOT is requesting \$83.6 million in CRISI funding to improve safety, efficiency, and reliability on the CTrail Hartford Line. The project will mitigate congestion at intercity passenger and freight rail chokepoints to support more efficient travel and goods movement, enhance multimodal connections, and improve intercity passenger rail.

The CTrail Hartford Line passenger service was launched in June 2018 with the completion of Phases 1, 2, 3A, and 3A North of the NHHS Rail Program. Approximately 62 miles in length, the Hartford Line has serviced more than one million riders since CTrail launched. The existing service operates 24 trips between New Haven and Springfield and 34 trips between Hartford and New Haven, CT.

Phase 3B focuses on track, signal, and grade crossing improvements for three single-track sections (totaling approximately 4.8 miles of track improvements) to add 18 additional trips between Hartford and Springfield and 10 additional trips between Hartford and New Haven. The NHHS Rail Program Phase 3B Doubletrack Project will improve grade-crossing safety and increase capacity for the Hartford Line corridor. By accelerating the mode-shift from single-occupant vehicles to intercity passenger rail, the Project will reduce climate change impacts and provide more efficient transportation options for the State of Connecticut and destinations beyond.

CRCOG looks forward to continuing our partnership with CTDOT to cooperatively advance this effort and to ensure the project's placement in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and in CRCOG's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). CRCOG strongly supports CTDOT's application, and we respectfully encourage you to approve this request for funding.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart  
Executive Director

cc: Joseph J. Giulietti, Commissioner, CTDOT  
CRCOG Policy Board  
CRCOG Transportation Committee