

October 18, 2022

Ms. Faith Hall, Grant Lead
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
W84-322
Washington, DC 20590

Re: CTDOT Application to FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities PILOT Discretionary Grant Program for Greater Hartford Mobility Study

Dear Ms. Hall:

On behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), I would like to express our strong support for the application submitted by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) under the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2022 Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program to facilitate several Greater Hartford Mobility Study (GHMS) initiatives that aim to address the impacts of mid-20th century highway construction in the greater Hartford region.

Through a Tier 1 (NEPA) study and preliminary engineering, CTDOT is requesting \$15 million under the RCP program to advance elements of the GHMS, including but not limited to, modifications to the I-84 viaduct, the I-84/I-91 interchange, I-84/Route 2 Mixmaster, the Hartford Line rail service and Union Station, as well as expanded bus rapid transit service. The resulting projects would remove barriers and improve connections between historically divided communities, neighborhoods, employment centers, and the Connecticut River.

The RCP program aims to reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation facilities such as highways and rail lines that create barriers to community connectivity, including mobility, access, or economic development. There are several aspects of this application that are of interest to CRCOG, including:

- Removal of physical barriers that divide communities and prevent access to the Connecticut River and adjacent resources
- Reducing physical space occupied by highways
- Improving local connections between neighborhoods, facilitating enhanced access to educational opportunities and jobs
- Enhanced access to public transportation, particularly the Hartford line and CTfastrak
- Opportunities to expand the region's micro-mobility network, leading to reductions in vehicle miles traveled and carbon emissions

On behalf of CRCOG, I appreciate your consideration of CTDOT's application to the 2022 RCP grant program. CRCOG looks forward to continuing our partnership with CTDOT to cooperatively advance this effort and to ensure its placement in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and CRCOG's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The advancement of

this project would certainly serve to improve our nation's infrastructure, improve quality of life for our residents, strengthen the regional economy, and lead to a more equitable and sustainable future.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

cc: J. Giulietti, Commissioner, CTDOT
P. Sucato, Director of Office of Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs, CTDOT
CRCOG Policy Board
CRCOG Transportation Committee
R. Aloise, Director of Planning
C. Radzins, Transportation Deputy