

April 12, 2023

Ms. Maggie Kasperski  
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
555 12th Street NW, Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: Operations Excellence Award support for CTDOT's Charter Oak Bridge Project

Dear Ms. Kasperski,

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) enthusiastically supports the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) submittal of the Charter Oak Bridge Project for the America's Transportation Award in the Operations Excellence category. This \$245 million project was proposed to address significant regional safety and operations issues at I-91's interchange 29 in Hartford. Previously, the location had been recognized by the American Transportation Research Institute as a top 100 freight bottleneck nationwide. The operational issues, which choked traffic travelling along northbound I-91 for much of each day, not only impacted regional mobility with travel delays, but also resulted in numerous crashes within the mile and a half segment containing northbound queues. Prior to the project, this segment had experienced over 500 recorded crashes and 200 injuries over 3 years. Consequently, solving the operational and safety issues at the location had been a longstanding priority identified in CRCOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The project has received widespread support from CRCOG's member municipalities. The prior congestion and queuing issues have been eliminated, resulting in greatly enhanced safety, freight movement, and economic vitality for the City of Hartford and the entire region. Furthermore, an aggressive project construction schedule was maintained through the difficult COVID pandemic, with the project being delivered on time in November 2022. CRCOG is excited that CTDOT is being considered for recognition and highly recommends this project for receiving the America's Transportation Award in the Operations Excellence category.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart  
Executive Director

Cc: D. Ward, Transportation District Engineer, CTDOT  
M. Cherpak, Principal Engineer Local Roads Unit, CTDOT  
P. Sucato, Director of Policy & Intergovernmental Affairs, CTDOT  
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee  
R. Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning, CRCOG  
C. Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning, CRCOG