



December 6, 2016

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Wethersfield, CT 06109

James P. Redeker  
Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
2800 Berlin Turnpike  
Newington, CT 06111

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RE: I-84 Hartford Project

Dear Commissioner Redeker:

The Connecticut Construction Industries Association, Inc. (CCIA) enthusiastically and fully supports the I-84/I-91 proposal put forth by Congressman John B. Larson. Further, we request that the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) conduct an expedited study of this tunnel alternative either in conjunction with the ongoing I-84 Hartford Project to replace the Aetna Viaduct or as a part of the I-84/I-91 Interchange Study. Congressman Larson's plan would replace the viaduct with an underground bypass and interchange system, reclaim the Hartford and East Hartford Riverfronts, and create new levels on the land-side of the flood control system which would fortify the levees on the Hartford side of the river.

CCIA is an organization of trade associations that includes building contractors, heavy-civil contractors, material producers, suppliers, and equipment dealers. In our industry, as with most others, mobility for employees, and the efficient movement of materials and equipment are key to any successful operation. I personally managed a fleet of over 100 trucks moving construction materials and heavy-equipment in the greater Hartford area for 13 years. I know, first-hand the costs of the mounting congestion and traffic delays in the area. The right improvements in this corridor would not only benefit our businesses, it would greatly improve our ability to deliver transportation projects in the state.

Replacing the I-84 viaduct presents a rare and historic opportunity to address the long-term infrastructure needs of the capital city and transform the region for generations to come. If we plan and invest wisely, we have the potential to correct the monumental design errors of the past and create a robust transportation system for the next century. It is crucial that we fully consider the long-term viability of Hartford and the surrounding communities before choosing one alternative over another.

On October 11, 2016, Congressman Larson presented his 100-year plan to our organization. His plan would reroute I-84 underground from the area of Flatbush Avenue in West Hartford to the Charter Oak Bridge, extending underneath the Connecticut River to the vicinity of Roberts Street in East Hartford. It would also bury I-91 along the Connecticut River north of Riverside Park to the South Meadows, freeing up acres of land for development and recreation in Hartford and East Hartford, and repurpose sections of I-84 and I-91 into modern boulevards.

In addition to creating a vibrant, livable community, Congressman Larson's plan would also solve several major infrastructure challenges along this heavily travelled corridor. In particular, it



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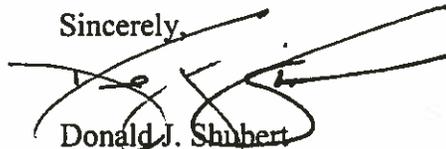
would: allow I-84 to stay open during the construction phase; strengthen the levee system—an urgent threat to public safety; and, create a much needed bypass system for the significant amount of vehicles that pass through Hartford, freeing up our roads for local traffic.

As a group of contractors and suppliers we are inclined to think long-term in our operations and investments. We are always looking to maximize the return on every dollar spent. It is simply good common sense. The Government should do the same.

We applaud ConnDOT for the hard work that has been put into developing the I-84 Hartford Project. Your department clearly understands the challenges associated with this project and the enormous opportunity that it presents to transform the region and move us in a positive direction. Because the decisions we make now in regards to infrastructure will determine the shape of our region for generations to come, it is crucial that we get this right and avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. The tunnel solution outlined by Congressman Larson to replace the viaduct warrants careful consideration and we urge you to expedite a study to fully evaluate this alternative.

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

Sincerely,



Donald J. Shubert  
President

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senator  
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The Honorable Chris Murphy  
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The Honorable John B. Larson  
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