

# Connecticut Road Builders Association, Inc.

A Division of  
Connecticut Construction  
Industries Association, Inc.

ESTABLISHED IN 1933



May 30, 2017

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

RE: I-84 Hartford Project

Dear Commissioner Redeker:

The Connecticut Road Builders Association, Inc. (CRBA) respectfully submits this letter in support of the I-84/I-91 tunnel proposal put forth by Congressman John B. Larson. Further, CRBA requests that the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) conduct an expedited study of this tunnel proposal 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.

CRBA members have been building transportation projects in Connecticut since before the organization's formation in 1933. Our interest in transportation infrastructure is two-fold. First, in our industry, as with most others, mobility for employees, and the efficient movement of goods and services are key to any successful operation. The right improvements in this corridor would not only benefit our businesses, it would greatly improve our ability to deliver materials to transportation projects in the state. Second, the right transportation investments in the region would lead to a generation of well-paying construction jobs, not only in the field, but in the many producer plants, equipment dealers, and supporting vendor facilities across the state. These investments would also generate thousands of ensuing jobs in other sectors of the economy that will arise from the infrastructure improvements.

Congressman Larson's plan would solve several major infrastructure challenges along this heavily travelled corridor. In particular, it 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 roads for local traffic.

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,



David Chapman  
President

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
U.S. Senator  
90 State House Square 10th Floor  
Hartford, CT, 06103

The Honorable Chris Murphy  
U.S. Senator  
Colt Gateway  
120 Huyshope Avenue  
Suite 401  
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The Honorable John B. Larson  
U.S. House of Representative  
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