



One Tower Square  
Hartford, CT 06183

*Andy F. Bessette*  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Administrative Officer  
Phone: 860-277-6557  
Fax: 860-954-1161

December 19, 2016

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

RE: I-84 Hartford Project

Dear Commissioner Redeker:

Travelers respectfully requests that the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) conduct an expedited study of pursuing the I-84/I-91 proposal put forth by Congressman John B. Larson 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.

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. It is crucial that we as a state correct the design errors of the past and create a robust transportation system for the next century.

Travelers employs 7,000 Connecticut residents and the vast majority of these workers commute into the City of Hartford five days a week on all major highway systems. Accessibility to Hartford from the highways is critical to Travelers. Shutting down any of the major highway systems for any period of time would be extremely problematic for Travelers and its employees.

Travelers believes Congressman Larson's plan would solve several major infrastructure challenges. 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 our roads for local traffic.

We applaud the CTDOT for the hard work that it has taken in advancing 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 do it correctly. 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,



Andy F. Bessette

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  
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable John B. Larson  
U.S. House of Representative  
221 Main Street, 2nd Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106

Amy D. Jackson-Grove  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
628-2 Hebron Avenue, Suite 303  
Glastonbury, CT 06033