



Christopher M. Dadlez, FACHE  
President and Chief Executive Officer

December 22, 2016

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

RE: I-84 Hartford Project

Dear Commissioner Redeker:

Trinity Health-New England is pleased to take this opportunity to offer our position on the replacement of the I-84 viaduct.

By way of background, Trinity Health-New England ("TH-NE") is a regional health ministry which includes both Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Inc. and Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, Inc., in Hartford, Saint Mary's Hospital, Inc., in Waterbury, Johnson Memorial Hospital, Inc., in Stafford Springs and The Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Massachusetts. In addition, our ministry includes physician practices, a behavioral health hospital in Massachusetts, home health and various post-acute care services. We are more than 13,000 health care providers committed to providing compassionate care and improving the health of our community. We are also part of Trinity Health, a nationwide ministry with more than 90 hospitals, making us one of the largest health care ministries in the United States.

We applaud you and your colleagues for your leadership on this critical initiative, your engagement of the public and your numerous presentations have allowed employers and residents to offer suggestions and express concerns. While we are most appreciative of your efforts, we want to request that you conduct an expedited study of the proposal recently developed by Congressman John Larson.

On November 3, 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 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.

Replacing the I-84 viaduct presents a rare and historic opportunity to address the long-term infrastructure needs of the capital city and to transform the region for generations to come.

We applaud CTDOT 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 regard to infrastructure will determine the shape of our region for generations to come, it is critical that we get this right. 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,



Christopher M. Dadlez, FACHE  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Trinity Health-New England

cc: The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
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The Honorable John B. Larson  
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