



TESTIMONY OF THE
CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
TO THE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
March 5, 2008

CCM supports **H.B 5734, “An Act Concerning New and Expanded Bus Transportation Services Throughout Connecticut.”**

This bill would establish a “Buses for 21st Century Mobility” program to be administered by the Department of Transportation.

The program would require an additional \$7 million in operating funds and \$15 million in capital funds in FY09 to increase bus service across the state. These funds would be divided on a percentage basis among Connecticut's eight counties and distributed to transportation and community service providers. This method of distribution assures that all areas of the State receive funding and all types of services are covered.

Based on the 2007 Urbitran Study, comments received at the five Transit for Connecticut listening sessions held across the state, and input received at the ConnDOT Bus Service Initiative Planning Meetings, residents across the state expressed the need for more bus service in Connecticut. They need increased frequency and hours of service, expanded weekend service, improved shuttle connections, and expanded demand response services.

Increasing bus service will help unclog state highways and local roads there by reducing the emission of harmful pollutants into the air. Furthermore bus service can be an important link between other modes of transportation, creating a stronger economy, providing employees with greater access to jobs and providing employers with a larger labor pool. Investment in bus service is less expensive than many of the other transportation investments that are being made.

Creating a program, “Buses for 21st Century Mobility,” specifically designed to improve bus transit in Connecticut is an important, vital step and should be among the priorities as the state builds a world-class transportation system.

CCM urges the committee to *favorably report H.B. 5734.*

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