



October 26, 2017

815 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 236-3261

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
12000 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Charter Oak Bridge INTRA Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

AAA, dba in Connecticut as AAA Allied Group, is pleased to support the Connecticut Department of Transportation in its submittal of an INTRA grant application for the Charter Oak Bridge Project. The State of Connecticut and the City of Hartford have been working hard to help develop thriving communities by enhancing economic competitiveness, improving safety, coordinating policies, leveraging investments and valuing communities and neighborhoods. The construction of the Charter Oak Bridge approach project will be a major improvement to the movement of freight, the movement of commuters and the economic conditions of the Region.

The Charter Oak Bridge is one of the priority investment strategies outlined in *Let's GO CT!* As a result, over the next five years, a total of \$190 Million has been budgeted by the Department and the Governor's office for improvements. The *Let's GO CT!* Five Year Ramp Up Plan is the first step in a transformative strategy to enable CTDOT to provide the foundation for Connecticut's infrastructure and economic future. It is a multi-modal, multi-regional mix of projects the Department could implement to provide a transportation system that encourages modal connectivity, crosses all regions and provides a framework for the advancement of the future of Connecticut's infrastructure network.

With the City of Hartford being home to two of the Top 100 Truck Freight Bottlenecks in the Nation, it is imperative that Hartford, CRCOG and CTDOT move forward quickly to ease the congestion and support the economy of the immediate region and New England as a whole. These improvements will transform Connecticut's transportation system; dramatically reducing travel times, traffic incidents and injuries and provide a boost to the economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Amy Parmenter

AAA, Public and Government Affairs