

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2017

The Honorable Secretary Elaine Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Charter Oak Bridge - FASTLANE Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to the US Department of Transportation (DOT) under the FASTLANE grant program. Funding from this program would support the Charter Oak Bridge project in Hartford, Connecticut, easing congestion in an area where two of the country's Top 100 Truck Freight Bottlenecks exist.

The State of Connecticut and the City of Hartford have been working collaboratively to develop thriving communities by enhancing economic competitiveness, improving safety, coordinating policies, leveraging investments and valuing neighborhoods. The construction of the Charter Oak Bridge project will be a major improvement to the movement of freight and other motor vehicles, thereby enhancing the economic viability of the region.

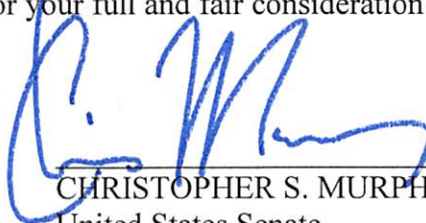
The Charter Oak Bridge is one of the priority investment strategies outlined in CTDOT's *Let's GO CT!* Plan. A total of \$190 Million over the next five years has been budgeted by CTDOT and the Governor's office for these improvements. The *Let's GO CT!* Plan is the first step in a transformative strategy to provide a solid foundation for Connecticut's infrastructure and economic future. The Plan consists of multi-modal, multi-regional projects providing a transportation system that encourages the advancement of Connecticut's infrastructure network.

We fully support the City of Hartford and CTDOT's plan to address traffic congestion and support the economies of both the immediate region and New England as a whole. The improvements outlined in CTDOT's proposal will transform Connecticut's transportation system, dramatically reducing travel times, improving traffic safety, and providing an economic boost to the economy. We, therefore, respectfully ask for your full and fair consideration of this proposal.

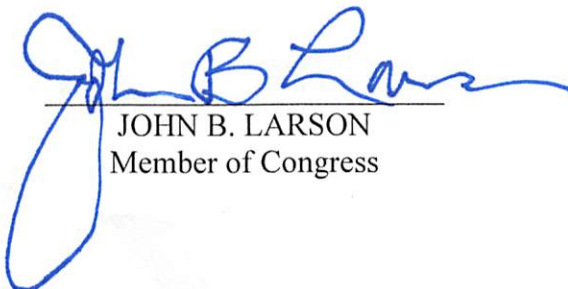
Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY
United States Senate



JOHN B. LARSON
Member of Congress