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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 20, 2017

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

Subject: Charter Oak Bridge FY 2017 INFRA Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Town of East Hartford is pleased to support the Connecticut Department of Transportation in its submittal of an INFRA grant application for the Fiscal Year 2017 for the Charter Oak Bridge project. The State of Connecticut and the Town of East Hartford have been working hard to help develop a thriving community 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 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 Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Governor's office for these 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 and multi-regional mix of projects that the Department could implement to provide a transportation system that will encourage modal connectivity, cross all regions, and provide the framework for the advancement of the future of Connecticut's infrastructure network.

As a neighboring suburb to the City of Hartford, home to two of the Top 100 Truck Freight Bottlenecks in the Nation, it is imperative that 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 by dramatically reducing travel times, traffic incidents, and injuries, and providing an economic boost to the economy.

Sincerely,



Marcia A. Leclerc
Mayor
Town of East Hartford, Connecticut