



**Ned Lamont**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 1, 2019

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

Subject: State of Connecticut INFRA Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write to express my strong support for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application submitted by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to support the state's ongoing work replacing the Charter Oak Bridge in Hartford, CT. CTDOT is requesting \$75 million in INFRA funding for the widening and reconfiguration of mainline sections and ramps from Interstate 91 to the Charter Oak Bridge on CT Route 15.

In my inaugural address this past January, I committed my Administration to rehabilitating and building new infrastructure necessary for Connecticut communities to thrive. The Charter Oak Bridge project is a key element of this plan. According to the American Transportation Research Institute, Hartford is home to two of the top 100 truck freight bottlenecks in the entire United States. This bottleneck acts as a major drag on the regional economy. The Charter Oak Bridge replacement project will greatly enhance the freight movement and economic vitality not just for the city of Hartford, but for the entire region. Mitigating this congestion will help transform Connecticut's transportation system by reducing travel times, traffic incidents and injuries, and providing a vital boost to the regional economy. It is a critical component of Connecticut's Strategic Transportation plan that reverses decades of underinvestment in the state's transportation infrastructure and does so in partnership with local communities.

I share your commitment to rebuilding our aged transportation system and look forward to working in partnership with you and your Department over the next four years. This project is absolutely vital to Connecticut and so I thank you for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Lamont".

Ned Lamont  
Governor