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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: CTDOT INFRA Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The MetroHartford Alliance is the Region's economic development leader and the City's Chamber of Commerce, and our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, arts and higher education institutions, and municipalities. Our mission is to ensure that the Region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, play, work, start and grow a business, and raise a family. To help fulfill our mission, the Alliance has been a longstanding advocate for significantly increased and sustained investment in the State's transportation infrastructure and for the necessary increases in the amount and sources of funds needed for such investments.

In that spirit, we are pleased to communicate our enthusiastic support of the submittal to you by the Connecticut Department of Transportation ("CTDOT") of an INFRA application for the Charter Oak Bridge project (the "Project"). As noted in the application, the State and the City of Hartford have been working together to strengthen the City as the dynamic urban core of the Region by focusing on the City's economic competitiveness, its public safety, and the investments in its neighborhoods. A key element in that joint effort is the Project which, upon completion, will significantly improve the movement of freight into and through the Region and thereby enhance the economic attractiveness of the City and the Region.

The Project is one of the priority investment strategies set forth in Governor Dannel Malloy's Let's GO CT! plan, an initiative that focuses on a multi-modal, multi-regional approach to a best in class transportation system for Connecticut (the "Plan"). The Malloy administration has budgeted \$190 million over the next five fiscal years for the Project and the other components of the critical ramp up phase for the Plan's 30 year commitment to strengthening Connecticut's transportation infrastructure and its economic future.

We note in closing that the City is home to two of the country's worst truck freight bottlenecks making it imperative that the City, the Capital Region Council of Governments ("CRCOG"), and CTDOT move forward this year with the Project to ease traffic flow and reduce accidents and injuries and thereby support the Region's economy and that of all of New England. Your prompt approval of CTDOT's application is critical to that strategic action.

Please call me at 860-728-2277 with any questions or requests for additional information. We appreciate your consideration of the CTDOT application.

Sincerely,

cc: Commissioner Jim Redeker  
Chip Beckett – CRCOG  
Mayor Luke Bronin – City of Hartford  
Julio Concepcion – MetroHartford Alliance  
Mayor Marcia Leclerc – Town of East Hartford  
Lyle Wray – CRCOG

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