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Contact: Rebecca Kaplan
203-787-0646 x128 / 201-707-6633

CONNECTICUT FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ADVOCATES APPLAUD BOND COMMISSION APPROVAL OF MORE THAN \$204.3 MILLION FOR TRANSIT-ORIENTED PROJECTS

NEW HAVEN, CT — Connecticut Fund for the Environment, a nonprofit environmental legal and advocacy organization, along with transit and housing advocates, applauded Governor Dannel Malloy and the State Bond Commission after they approved more than \$204.3 million for transit-oriented development and other transportation projects at today's meeting.

"Transit-oriented development is more than just about transportation — it's about linking transportation with housing and employment to create an economic development vision for our towns and cities that helps to revitalize our neighborhoods and is good for the environment," said **Curt Johnson, senior attorney and program director for Connecticut Fund for the Environment**. "We thank Governor Malloy and the Bond Commission for approving TOD funds today — this is a step in the right way to lead us towards a more economically sound and sustainable future."

During its special meeting, the Bond Commission approved \$5 million for transit-oriented development projects in towns on the New Britain-Hartford Busway corridor; station area development in Windsor and Meriden on the New Haven-Springfield rail line; station area development on the New Haven rail line from West Haven to Stratford; and station area development in New London on the Shore Line East rail line.

"Funding of transit-oriented development affords us a real opportunity to think beyond 'cappuccino and parking' to provide greater leverage of regional rapid transit and intercity rail," said **Lyle Wray, executive director of the Capitol Regional Council of Governments**. "These funds will help to stimulate economic development along the New Britain-Hartford Busway, I-91 and I-95 corridors, better connecting our rail and bus stations with business opportunities, housing, educational institutions, and the arts."

"Transit projects create short-term construction jobs and transportation alternatives in our state; planning for economic development around these projects will translate into long-term economic

growth for Connecticut,” said **David Kooris, vice president of Regional Plan Association**. “Incentivizing local communities to plan development in conjunction with existing transit, the New Haven-Springfield rail line, and the New Britain-Hartford Busway will ensure that our transportation spending today will serve as investments in our future.”

The Commission also approved \$18.9 million for resurfacing and safety improvements on state highways; \$3.57 million for the Fix-it-First program to repair roads throughout the state; \$81.6 for the purchase of 38 new M-8 rail cars for use on the New Haven Line and its branch lines and Shoreline East; and \$95.2 for the construction of rail maintenance facilities, projects which directly support transit-oriented development.

“Governor Malloy’s support for smart transportation went from talk to action today,” said **Ryan Lynch, senior planner and Connecticut coordinator for the Tri-State Transportation Campaign**, a non-profit transportation policy watchdog. “Releasing long-delayed funding to support transit oriented development, funding to support ‘fix-it-first’ road and bridge projects and M-8 rail cars, will not only put Connecticut’s future on a more sustainable path but will also generate the needed jobs and economic development that are necessary for Connecticut to compete in the 21st century.”

Additionally, the Bond Commission approved \$10 million for the Housing Trust Fund to support financing to create housing for low and moderate income people statewide.

“Governor Malloy has made clear that he is a man of action, and understands how vital affordable housing creation is to our economy,” said **Howard G. Rifkin, interim executive director of The Partnership for Strong Communities**. “We need apartments, condos, townhouses and starter homes to keep and attract skilled labor, and building them provides a 10-to-1 return in economic activity, and thousands of jobs. Coordinating that with transit creation parlays the investment into a much greater return.”

It is estimated that the projects approved by the Bond Commission will create or retain at least 2,087 construction related jobs.

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