



December 9, 2011

Jennifer M. Carrier, P.E.
Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Re: Support for South Main Street Enhancements

Dear Ms. Carrier,

The Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit transportation policy watchdog working for a more balanced, environmentally friendly and equitable transportation system in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, writes in support of the Town of Manchester's proposal for South Main Street to be considered for Surface Transportation Program-Enhancements funding.

Last year, Tri-State was able to participate in a walking tour of this project area with representatives from the Town of Manchester and the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The project clearly meets the guidelines of Transportation Enhancements, and upon completion, would create a traffic calmed boulevard that will foster a safer downtown environment for Manchester pedestrians, one of whom was killed by an automobile along the same road in 2008.

The proposal will not only calm traffic coming into downtown Manchester, it will also serve to enhance multi-modal connectivity to the Charter Oak Greenway as well as the numerous CT Transit stops along the corridor. Creating safer pedestrian environments around transit nodes is important because according to a 2010 Tri-State Transportation Campaign analysis, nearly two-thirds of pedestrian fatalities occurred within a quarter mile of a bus line and a half mile of a rail station.

Finally, a newly calmed South Main Street will support the Town of Manchester's smart growth vision. The success of this vision is directly tied to enhancing the walkability of downtown Manchester, fostering better cycling connections to the Charter Oak Greenway and creating an environment that is conducive to potentially expanding the Central Connecticut Bus Rapid Transit system into the Town of Manchester. Doing so will help the Town to achieve its smart growth vision and improve its economic competitiveness and quality of life in the 21st century.

We urge the Capitol Region Council of Governments to support the Town of Manchester's application for STP-Enhancement funding. Please feel free to contact me at rylynch@tstc.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lynch
Connecticut Coordinator