



WINDHAM REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Chaplin Columbia Coventry Hampton Lebanon Mansfield Scotland Willington Windham

Mr. Bruce Alexander
Chairman
Transportation Strategy Board
450 Capitol Ave
Hartford CT 06106

Dear Mr. Alexander,

The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) is writing in response to your letter of September 7, 2010, requesting input on the 2007 Transportation Strategy.

WINCOG recommends the following two projects be given serious consideration in the Strategy:

1. **Route 32 Corridor Study.** It has become quite evident that the Route 32 transportation link from Willington to Norwich has become a major transportation route in Eastern Connecticut. Increased traffic, business and residents points to a real need to determine the actual impact this corridor has on Eastern CT. We would jointly undertake the study with the Southeast COG.
2. **New England Central Rail Project:** A recent US DOT TIGER II application called "Connection", a joint application submitted by the Town of Mansfield and NECR, was intended to upgrade the freight and passenger lines from New London into Massachusetts. The NECR begins at the Port of New London and runs northward 55 miles through Connecticut, then over 55 miles through MA before continuing on through NH and VT to Canada. This route is emerging as a vital corridor that provides service to rail freight customers both on the NECR and on connecting shortline and regional railroads.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark N. Paquette
Executive Director, WINCOG

CC: James Butler, SCCOG