

Nearly \$11 Million to Move New Britain/Hartford Busway Forward

June 8, 2007

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced that the state has been awarded \$10,909,856 in U.S. Department of Transportation grants for the New Britain/Hartford Busway Project. The funds will be used for Final Design and Right of Way acquisition. The Governor commended the Connecticut Congressional Delegation on its efforts to keep the Busway Project moving forward.

"This is good news for commuters who are fed up with frequent traffic delays on I-84," Governor Rell said. "When complete, the Busway will serve an estimated 15,000 daily customers and help achieve one of my top priorities - getting people out of their cars. Each bus's daily run will replace about 100 personal automobiles on I-84. The entire project will also come to symbolize our anti-sprawl efforts, because it will foster redevelopment of areas around the bus stations."

In March, Governor Rell announced \$15 million in state dollars for final design and property acquisition.

When complete, the Busway will be a Bus Rapid Transit facility along 9.4 miles of active and inactive rail corridors in New Britain, Newington, West Hartford and Hartford. The facility will provide an exclusive bus-only roadway with 11 Busway stations with amenities. The Busway, slated to begin revenue operations in 2012, will improve bus service in the region by increasing travel speeds and improving reliability of bus service without being delayed by congestion on local streets or I-84. The buses on the busway are expected to operate 18 hours a day, from 6 a.m. to midnight, with more frequent runs during peak commute hours. A fleet of new buses will use the latest clean air technologies. Total project costs are projected at \$458 million.

"From New Canaan to New Britain to New London, we need a 21st century transportation system to keep pace with our 21st century economy," Governor Rell said. "I want to see our transportation infrastructure shine and our congestion issues solved. I want to see new rail stations, more parking and new trains - and new and innovative approaches like the New Britain to Hartford Busway and the development of housing and businesses near train stations. We need to build the transportation system of our future, and we are making steady progress toward that goal. Our commuters and our businesses deserve nothing less."