

9. THE COMMISSION ENDORSES THE EFFORTS OF THE CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO MAKE A LONG-TERM EVALUATION OF GREATER HARTFORD'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND POTENTIAL TRANSIT SOLUTIONS WITH ITS "REGIONAL TRANSIT STRATEGY" STUDY. THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY IS TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR HOW AN INTEGRATED, REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM WOULD LOOK SO THAT FUTURE PLANNING NEED NOT TAKE PLACE ON THE BASIS OF INDIVIDUAL SYSTEM COMPONENTS. CONNDOT'S FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY IS APPRECIATIVELY ACKNOWLEDGED.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is undertaking the Regional Transit Strategy study to look at potential transit-based solutions to the Hartford area's transportation needs in the design year of 2025, as well as to provide the transportation services needed to support economic growth in a way that maintains the area's livability and the vitality of its communities. The study will assess four components of a regional transit strategy, namely,

- a downtown circulator
- rapid transit or fixed guideway corridors
- enhancements to the existing transit system, and
- transit centers or stations.

Results of this study, which are due in draft form in spring of 2000, will provide insights into designing solutions to the region's 21st century transportation needs which are not based solely on highway expansion.

The Commission eagerly awaits the release of this study and the opportunity to review its findings. We are confident that the findings of the Regional Transit Strategy study will receive thoughtful consideration from legislative and ConnDOT quarters. Similar planning initiatives may merit consideration for other Connecticut metropolitan regions.