

Dear Neighbors,

First and foremost, happy new year to you and your families. May you have a blessed and enjoyable 2016.

For my column this month, I wanted to take an opportunity to discuss the future of our State's transportation infrastructure. This seems timely to write about since many of us have hit the roads to visit friends and family this holiday season.

During the 2015 legislative session and again in a Special Session held on December 8, the General Assembly and Governor agreed to make historic investments in our transportation system to repair our aging roads and bridges and improve public transit. I am glad we have invested these additional resources into highway redesign, fast and reliable train service, and more bus routes. This investment is especially critical to Hartford, as it will cost billions of dollars just to replace the I-84 Aetna viaduct in the next decade. However, the proposed improvements and changes to the viaduct will hopefully have a very positive impact on our City by reuniting neighborhoods and streets cut off from each other by the current design of the highway.

In addition, the legislature also passed a law which will protect transportation funds from being used for any other purpose. We have begun the process of establishing a 'lockbox' for this transportation fund and I hope there is a question on the ballot in November 2016 to create such a fund. I strongly support this proposal because improving our transportation system is critically important to our economic future and well being as a state. Businesses will not set up shop in Connecticut if employees cannot get to and from work in a safe and timely manner. Families also should have options, such as fast and reliable train or bus service, for getting to and from work that does not include sitting in hours of traffic per week.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions about this or any issue.
Capitol Phone: 860-240-8500, Home Phone: 860-519-5685, Email:
matthew.ritter@cga.ct.gov.

Happy New Year!

Matt Ritter