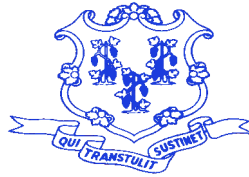


# The Connecticut General Assembly

## House Democrats



For IMMEDIATE Release  
Thursday, April 27, 2006

Contact: Garland D. Higgins  
(860) 240-8733

### FONTANA COMMENDS LANDMARK TRANSPORTATION BILL

State Representative Steve Fontana (D-North Haven) lauded a bipartisan House vote on April 26 in favor of comprehensive legislation that will invest billions over the next decade to overhaul Connecticut's aging transportation infrastructure.

"This bill is a long-overdue 'win-win' for the state and for North Haven," Rep. Fontana said. "It represents a sound investment in our economic competitiveness, and addresses a key concern of many state residents. It will promote economic growth, reduce traffic congestion, and control air pollution."

Called *The Roadmap For Connecticut's Economic Future*, the massive initiative includes a myriad of highway and mass transit projects along, and extending from, the Interstate 91, 95, 84, and 395 corridors. The bill has been identified as a top priority of both business and labor.

"The bill also contains a notable improvement for North Haven," Rep. Fontana added. "It provides for construction of a new North Haven train station, as part of New Haven-to-Springfield commuter rail service. As gasoline prices rise and our highways become clogged with cars, having a train station in town will offer residents a valuable mass-transit alternative."

A total of \$1 billion in special transportation bonds, and an additional \$1.3 billion in bonding to leverage federal matching dollars and take advantage of rising gross receipts tax proceeds on petroleum products, will fund this investment program. No new taxes will be necessary to fund the plan.

Finally, the bill requires that the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2007 that prioritizes all transit projects, recommends new ones, and identifies costs and timelines for each project. The bill anticipates that an additional \$2.3 billion will be allocated for these investments.

Among other specific projects, the bill would:

- Develop a new commuter rail station between New Haven and Milford
- Meet the capital costs of parking and rail station improvements of MetroNorth's New Haven Line
- Conduct environmental planning and assessment for the expansion of I-95 between Branford and the Rhode Island border
- Complete a rail link to the port of New Haven
- Develop a second rail passenger line between New Haven and Milford

The transportation bill (HB 5844) awaits action by the Senate.