

State of Connecticut General Assembly



October 5, 2023

Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131

RE: State DOT Project 0155-0176

Dear Commissioner Eucalitto,

We are thrilled to learn that DOT has begun its intersection improvement project at Albany Ave/Rt.44 and North Main St, known as Bishop's Corner.

Bishop's Corner is a vital business center in our community that provides residents with access to local businesses, restaurants, and town services such as one of the town's senior centers and libraries. Bishop's Corner is also home to a large population of senior residents due to the numerous assisted living facilities and senior housing developments in the area.

This project is a welcome step in ensuring that this heavily trafficked intersection effectively evolves to address the needs of our residents located in the vicinity. Therefore, we are writing this letter today to request that the DOT continues to move forward with the project's purpose and that the intersection improves for **all users**.

As the project's public comment period has concluded, it has also come to our attention that constituents and a local bicycling group have provided alternative suggestions to the project team for the intersection's design, and we would like to ensure that their suggestions are strongly taken into consideration.

We applaud the project team's initiative to meet with our constituents and hope that the team maintains open communication with the community and remains receptive to our constituents' suggestions until the final approval of the project design.

While it is understandable that a project's scope can limit the work that may be conducted, we strongly request that the DOT and the project team continue to explore alternatives to come up with the appropriate design to fully implement effective safety measures for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists at this intersection.

We thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sen. Derek Slap.

Sen. Derek Slap
5th Senate District

Handwritten signature of Rep. Jillian Gilchrest.

Rep. Jillian Gilchrest
18th House District

Handwritten signature of Rep. Tammy Exum.

Rep. Tammy Exum
19th House District

CC: Joseph D. Arsenault, P.E., – Project Manager



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546

October 25, 2023

The Honorable Derek Slap
Senator
Fifth District

The Honorable Jillian Gilchrest
State Representative
Eighteenth House District

The Honorable Tammy Exum
State Representative
Nineteenth House District
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Dear Senator and Representatives:

Subject: State Project No. 0155-0176
Intersection Improvements at Bishops Corner, Routes 44 & 218, and
North Main Street
Town of West Hartford

Thank you for your letter, dated October 5, 2023, regarding State Project No. 0155-0176 which includes improvements at the Bishops Corner intersection in West Hartford.

The Department of Transportation (Department) is currently investigating design alternatives to determine the feasibility of incorporating bicycle accommodations into the project. The project location includes several challenging constraints including minimal public right-of-way, high vehicular traffic volumes, numerous abutting commercial properties, underground utilities, etc. The Department is committed to providing a transportation facility that appropriately balances the needs of all travel modes at this location, given the site constraints. The Department plans on continuing to engage with Town officials and local stakeholders as project alternatives are explored.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Michael N. Calabrese, Division Chief of Highway Design, at (860) 594-2075 or via email at Michael.Calabrese@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Garrett Eucalitto".

Garrett T. Eucalitto
Commissioner