

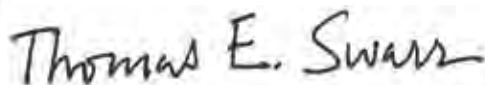
# GETTING WHERE YOU WANT TO GO

## Connecting and Preserving Our Communities With Better Transportation

If there is one thing that is clear to us as a state-wide environmental organization, it's that people in Connecticut care deeply about their communities and the state in which they live. People care about living in a compact state with access to the rich diversity and vibrancy of city life, the historic, charming New England small towns, the sandy beaches and rocky coastline, the cool beauty of the mountains, the blue and healthy lakes and rivers, and the rolling farmland and open meadows. In order to preserve these qualities that provide us with that unique sense of place, we need to be mindful of how we use our land, protect our natural resources, capitalize on our infrastructure and respect our historic and cultural treasures.

The question is how do we do that and still manage to get to where we want to go in a timely, convenient and safe way with an old highway system that is in disrepair and overcrowded, with limited public transit options and with many streets unsafe for walking or bike riding? How do we do that without just building more roads to fill with more cars? How do we do that with enormous budget needs to repair our aging roads and bridges with dwindling funding sources? How do we do that while revitalizing our cities and maintaining the open space of our natural areas?

The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Education Fund is working to promote an improved transportation system, a system that moves people safely and efficiently while considering the long term impact on our environment. We believe there is a way to effectively balance the needs of growing our economy without jeopardizing our quality of life, to bring Connecticut's transportation system in to the 21st Century while preserving the communities that have developed during the last four centuries. With that in mind, we have developed this transportation guide, written in an easy to read format that we hope will serve as a useful tool for citizens and policy makers. The following pages will attempt to provide the reader with a lay of the land, identify the problems and propose some actions that may help us achieve the goal of an improved transportation system for Connecticut.



Thomas E. Swarr, *Chair*  
CTLCV Education Fund



### WITH THANKS TO OUR COLLEAGUES FOR THEIR INPUT TO THIS GUIDE:

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- Transit for Connecticut
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign