

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5501 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

AN ACT EXPANDING PERMISSIBLE USES FOR TOWN AID ROAD GRANT

Title: FUNDS.

Vote Date: 3/13/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/11/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development

REASONS FOR BILL:

To increase how Town Aid Road funds can be used communities, allowing them to use said funds to maintain and purchase new equipment that is used in maintaining local infrastructure.

This allows municipalities more options on how to use road funds such as purchasing/maintaining snowplows, mowers, street sweepers, and other equipment that helps the town maintain roads.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Town of Rocky Hill, Mayor, Allan Smith, Deputy Mayor, Miriam Lifshitz-Theroux, Town Councilor, Minority Leader, Francis Whelan, Town Councilor, Zachary van Luling, Town Councilor, Melissa Kaplan, Town Councilor, Mukesh Desai, Town Councilor, John Emmanuel, Town Councilor David Sevigny, Town Councilor, Pankaj Prakash, Supports HB 5501, as it increases what Town Aid Road funds can be used for, as well as arguing that HB 5501 supports the creation of resilience based infrastructure. They also argue that it matches how infrastructure is managed in municipalities by treating resiliency as ordinary road stewardship, recognizing equipment is capacity, and acknowledging how roads and public transportation services function as one operating environment for residents. They

feel that not only will HB 5501 aid Rocky Hill, but municipalities throughout Connecticut while keeping accountability intact, but expanding flexibility.

Western Connecticut Council of Governments, Executive Director, Francis R.

Pickering, supports HB 5501 as it enables Town Aid Road funds to be used for various types of equipment, which leads to more efficient maintenance, supports preventive maintenance, and reduces long term costs and overall recognizes the realities of how roads are maintained and allows for better use of transportation funding.

Coventry Town Council, Chairwoman, Lisa Thomas supports HB 5501 as they argue that Town Aid Road funds already add significant benefits, and that expanding the use of Town Aid Road funds will allow for better equipment and the replacement of old equipment leading to more preventative maintenance and the ability for DPW staff to do their work more efficiently.

Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, Associate Director, Randy Collins, supports HB 5501 as they argue it provides a needed update in where Town Aid Road funds can be allocated giving local governments, who know their roads and communities best, a greater ability to serve their communities. Arguing Connecticut towns face ongoing infrastructure challenges, under current law Town Aid Road funds often are unusable to aid with these situations, but by passing HB 5501 municipalities will be able to invest in a larger range of transportation improvements without needing to divert funds.

Connecticut Council of Small Towns, Executive Director, Betsy Gara, supports HB 5501 due to the significant challenges maintaining road safety needing expensive equipment, which can be made more manageable with the Town Aid Road funds made accessible via HB 5501, while also ensuring towns have mechanisms for purchasing equipment that will provide greater road safety.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Cynthia Steckler opposes because of the democrat supermajority.

Reported by: Giovanni DeSantis

Date: 3/11/26