



Save the Sound[®]

Action for our region's environment.

Testimony in Support of a Transportation Transformation Resolution

Before the City Services and Environmental Planning Committee of the New Haven Board of Alders

Submitted by Alex Rodriguez, Environmental Justice Specialist

3/6/25

Save the Sound is a nonprofit organization representing over 4,400-member households and 19,000 activists statewide. Our mission is to protect and improve the region's air, land, and water. We use legal and scientific expertise and bring communities together to achieve results that benefit our environment for current and future generations.

Dear Chairwoman Festa, Vice Chairman Singh, and Distinguished Members of the City Services and Environmental Planning Committee,

On behalf of Save the Sound, I am writing to provide testimony in support of the proposed Transportation Transformation Resolution.

Transportation accounts for nearly 40 percent of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions, more than double the share of electricity generation, heating and cooling buildings, or any other sector. Reducing dependence on private cars and transitioning to cleaner vehicles are essential to meet the [state's climate targets and laws](#)—and to protect our health.

Increasing access to bus and train services, revitalizing our communities with transit-oriented development, ensuring urban streets include bike lanes and sidewalks, and moving from gas and diesel engines to electric and zero emission vehicles are *all* part of the solution.

In 2023, DataHaven released Community Wellbeing Index regional reports with data revealing 22% of Latinos and 21% of Black respondents not having access to reliable transportation, compared to 11% of white respondents. ¹Advancing this resolution would

¹ DataHaven, Fairfield County, Greater Hartford, Greater New Haven Wellbeing Indexes of 2023, [Reports | DataHaven](#)



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support underserved residents seeking reliable transit service and walkable, bikeable, routes to desired destinations.

The proposed resolution complements previous commitments by the New Haven Board of Alders to address climate change locally and at all levels. In 2019, the City advanced a Climate Emergency Resolution which established a Climate Emergency Mobilization Task Force and has appropriated available funds to projects that emphasize sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction. The city later passed a resolution in support of a proposed Transportation and Climate Initiative Program at the state level in 2021 to emphasize the city's need for good jobs, cleaner air, and green infrastructure.

Honorable committee members, please pass this Transportation Transformation Resolution and work with your colleagues to incorporate the requested \$5 million in the city's budget to accelerate implementation of the Safe Routes for All Plan, especially in the city's priority neighborhoods. Significant infrastructure changes will be critical to people shifting transportation modes.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Rodriguez, Environmental Justice Specialist, Save the Sound

Air & Transportation Subcommittee Chair, Connecticut Equity and Environmental

Justice Advisory Council

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