



Connecticut State Senator

28<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

# Tony Hwang

Bethel • Easton • Fairfield • Newtown



Chief Deputy Republican Leader



## Transportation: Connecting Communities Safely

*By State Senator Tony Hwang, Ranking Member of the Transportation Committee*

As your State Senator and the Ranking Member of the Transportation Committee in the Connecticut General Assembly, I am dedicated to ensuring Connecticut's transportation system is safe, reliable, and meets the needs of our communities. My work focuses on enhancing safety, modernizing infrastructure, and securing sustainable funding—issues that affect your daily lives as constituents. Below, I outline my efforts and policy positions on transportation in 2025, organized by key legislative initiatives and projects.

### Raised Bill No. 7057: Reducing Noise Pollution

Living near highways shouldn't mean enduring constant noise. That's why I've championed Raised Bill No. 7057, which requires the Department of Transportation to develop a funding schedule for noise barrier construction for Type II projects by October 2025. These barriers will follow a priority list, with progress updates posted online for transparency. This initiative reflects my commitment to improving quality of life for residents near busy roadways, ensuring our infrastructure serves people, not just vehicles.

### Raised Bill No. 7060: Highway Worker Safety & Distracted Driving

Safety is non-negotiable. Through Raised Bill No. 7060, I've pushed for measures to protect both highway workers and drivers. This bill honors heroes like Andrew DiDomenico and State Trooper First Class Aaron M. Pelletier with memorial highway and bridge designations in Meriden and Southington. It also establishes a mandatory highway work zone and roadside safety awareness program starting October 2025 for new drivers and violators, emphasizing safe driving and work zone risks. Tougher penalties—up to \$20,000 fines for endangering workers' lives—underscore my resolve to safeguard those maintaining our roads. Additionally, it mandates six-inch-wide edge lines on limited-access highways and classifies distracted driving on highways as reckless, with fines up to \$625, enhancing visibility and accountability.

### Raised Bill No. 7159: Yellow Envelopes for Inclusive Emergency Response

I am excited to support HB 7159, a bill that introduces yellow envelopes to enhance communication and accommodation between first responders and individuals with cognitive impairments or physical disabilities. This initiative equips first responders with clear guidance to handle sensitive interactions effectively. By providing envelopes to hold critical documents and tailored information, paired with awareness materials and mandatory training, we ensure our emergency personnel are better prepared to serve all residents with dignity and understanding. This bill, alongside the existing blue envelope program, strengthens community trust and safety, making Connecticut a more inclusive state for everyone.

### Raised Bill No. 1375: Highway, Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety

I strongly endorse SB 1375, a comprehensive road safety bill that takes bold steps to protect Connecticut's drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. By banning open alcoholic beverage containers in vehicles, increasing penalties for unsafe driving, and strengthening enforcement measures, this legislation aligns our state with federal standards and addresses critical safety gaps. These changes will help reduce impaired driving, save lives, and restore millions in federal funding lost due to prior noncompliance. With provisions like mandatory helmets, Complete Streets projects, and reflective highway paint, SB 1375 fosters safer roads and promotes a culture of responsibility, ensuring Connecticut remains a secure place for all to travel.

### Raised Bill No. 1447 (OPPOSED): Funding and the Mileage Tax Threat

Sustainable funding is critical, but it must be fair. Raised Bill No. 1447 proposes new revenue for the Special Transportation Fund via a 9.35% sales tax on peer-to-peer car sharing and a 28-cent retail delivery fee starting in 2025—modern solutions that avoid traditional tax hikes. However, this bill also paves the way for a potential mileage-based tax in the near future, which I fiercely oppose. With our already high gas tax, a per-mile tax would crush affordability, making it harder for working families and small businesses to survive in Connecticut. Alongside my fellow Republicans, I'm fighting to defeat this burdensome idea before it takes hold, protecting your wallets and our state's economic vitality.

### Dutch Point Viaduct Project: Modernizing Infrastructure

Beyond direct legislation, I'm proud to support transformative projects like the Dutch Point Viaduct rehabilitation on I-91 in Hartford. This effort, spanning the area between the Connecticut Convention Center and the Colt Armory, reduces commuter delays, enhances safety, and promotes sustainability while creating good construction jobs. I commend DOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto and DRS Commissioner Mark Boughton for their leadership in making this project a reality. It's a clear win for families and businesses, showcasing how strategic investments strengthen our economy and improve daily life across Connecticut.

As your advocate on the Transportation Committee, I'm committed to building a transportation system that connects us safely and efficiently—without sacrificing affordability. Together, we'll keep Connecticut moving forward.