

# Area legislators still trying to thwart busway plan

By **KAITLYN NAPLES**  
STAFF WRITER

Two state legislators, who aren't alone in the opposition, have not given up on trying to stop the development of the New Britain to Hartford.

State Representative Whit Betts (R-Bristol, Plymouth, Cheshire, Wolcott, Prospect) and state Senator Joseph Markley (R-Southington, Waterbury) are proposing a bill to the transportation commission to use state funds, which are planned to go to the busway, to be transferred to accounts to repair roads and bridges in the state.

Betts referred to a report that was conducted by the Transportation for

America advocacy group, which showed that "more than 9 percent of bridges in the state were in disrepair."

The Transportation for America website allows viewers to type in a zip code or area, and it shows, within 10 miles, bridges that are either in "good condition" or "structurally deficient." In Bristol, only two bridges showed up on the map as being structurally deficient, however it is not known how often this site is updated.

The two legislators plan to bring the bill to the transportation committee and ask for a public hearing to be held on the possibility of transferring the funds for bridge and road repair.

Governor Dannel

Malloy announced the approval of the \$275 million Full Funding Grant Agreement to the Connecticut Department of Transportation towards the end of last year, for the nine-mile busway project that is expected to break ground this spring. The New Starts funds will cover 80 percent of the \$567 million cost for the project, leaving 20 percent, or \$292 million for the state to fund.

The New Starts money is supposed to be used towards this project, however Betts said he and Markley want the state to reconsider using the excess state funds and put that money towards making bridges and roads in the state safer.

"These roads and bridges need to have work done; it's a public safety issue," Betts said.

He said he and Markley have citizens come up to them regularly to ask how the busway can be stopped.

"The ridership just isn't there and the price is outrageous," he said, adding that the financial future for the busway "just doesn't make any sense." In addition to the poor infrastructures in the state, Betts said it's not the right time for the state to be spending this money, especially in the current economic state it is in.

"Hurricane Irene exposed many of the underlying transportation problems in Bristol, Plymouth

and across Connecticut," Betts said in the release. "It doesn't make sense to spend such an exorbitant amount of taxpayer money on a project that will benefit so few when there are such glaring problems that affect so many."

On the Connecticut Busway website, 11 projects are listed with six of them already awarded contracts. So far, all of those projects have gone to Connecticut companies with the exception of one going to a Massachusetts company.

"The way this busway was marketed was that it was going to put Connecticut people to work and bring all these jobs," Betts said, adding that he

thought the goal was to have Connecticut jobs. "These jobs could be going to the repair of bridges and roads."

Betts said that he and Markley will keep the public informed on the happenings on the state level, when and if public hearings will be scheduled and the progress of this legislation.

"This is just a huge waste of taxpayer money; we need to be smarter and make better decisions," he said.

For more information on the busway, visit [www.ctrapidtransit.com](http://www.ctrapidtransit.com), and to find out more on Betts and Markley's campaign, visit [www.blockthebus.com](http://www.blockthebus.com).

## Bristol students receive many awards at annual art competition

The 23rd annual Connecticut Regional Scholastic Art Awards is the largest juried student art exhibition in the state is now on display through Feb. 3 at the University of Hartford. Several Bristol students are up for awards to be handed out on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Bristol Public Schools students earned 23 awards.

### Bristol Eastern High School

Kristine Monaco,

Christa White, Ceramics and Glass, 2 Gold Key

Deborah Thaler, Francesca Souza, Ceramics and Glass, 2, Gold Key

Deborah Thaler, Francesca Souza, Ceramics and Glass, 2, Honorable Mention

Deborah Thaler, Roberto Pedraza, Ceramics and Glass, 2, Honorable Mention

Sharon Williams, Michael Garcia, Drawing, 2, Honorable Mention

### Chippens Hill

### Middle School

Peter Kosciukiewicz, Julie Ciralli, Drawing, 1, Gold Key

Peter Kosciukiewicz, Angela Daley, Drawing, 1, Honorable Mention

Peter Kosciukiewicz, Kelsea Paradis, Painting, 1, Gold Key

Honorata Szymczyk, Jacob Krecigłowa, Ceramic and Glass, 1, Honorable Mention

Honorata Szymczyk, Georgia Ogonowski, Printmaking, 1, Honorable Mention

Brian Troccoli, Edgar Ortiz-Hernandez, Drawing, 1, Honorable Mention

Brian Troccoli, Allison Jones, Painting, 1, Silver Key

### Memorial Boulevard Middle School

Joseph Johnson, Jessica Capezzone, Printmaking, 1, Gold Key

Joseph Johnson, Nicole Wolf, Printmaking, 1, Gold Key

Joseph Johnson, Justin Carrier, Printmaking, 1, Silver Key

Joseph Johnson, Kevin Thai, Printmaking, 1, Honorable Mention

Mary Kilduff, Molly Watstein, Painting, 1, Gold Key

Mary Kilduff, Taya Watson, Painting, 1, Silver Key

Mary Kilduff, Mone't Naha, Painting, 1, Honorable Mention

Mary Kilduff, Colin Savino, Painting, 1, Honorable Mention

### Northeast Middle

### School

Sarah May, Muhammad Ridhwan Abdulsalam, Printmaking, 1, Honorable Mention

Sarah May, Courtney Anderson, Printmaking, 1, Honorable Mention

Sarah May, Connor Maguire, Printmaking, 1, Honorable Mention

The exhibit is in the the Silpe Gallery, at Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford.

## Fire report

The Bristol Fire Department reported the following incidents:

**Jan. 13**

244 Stevens St., false alarm or false call, other

489 Wolcott St., smoke or odor removal

58 Vincent Rd., carbon monoxide incident

80 Maple Ave., power line down

5 Barnes St., cooking fire, confined to container

Emmett Street and Railroad, power line down

55 Vance Dr., lock in

106 Barlow St., hazardous condition, other

480 Wolcott St., alarm system sounded due to malfunction

function

**Jan. 14**

138 Federal St., CO detector activation due to malfunction

**Jan. 15**

100 Vance Dr., good intent call, other

Matthews Street and Terryville Avenue, power line down

Grace Avenue and Brook Street, vehicle accident, general cleanup

67 Sherman St., accident, potential accident, other

**Jan. 16**

50 Royal Dr., fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined

409 Barlow St., fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined

1230 Stafford Ave., smoke scare, odor of smoke

125 Collins Rd., hazmat release investigation with no hazmat

Shaws Drive and Oakland Street, vehicle accident, general cleanup

2 Divinity St., alarm system activation, no fire unintentional

1001 Stafford Ave., alarm system activation, no fire unintentional

150 Mark St., water

evacuation

121 King St., vehicle accident, general cleanup

**Jan. 17**

East Road and Willis Street, lock out

47 Everett St., lock out

321 Stonecrest Dr., alarm system activation, no fire unintentional

747 Pine St., lock out

24 James St., hazmat release investigation with no hazmat

19 Edgewood St., good intent call, other

**Jan. 18**

110 High St., detector activation, no fire unintentional

tional

441 Clark Ave., carbon monoxide incident

Shrub Road and Burlington Avenue, no incident found on arrival at dispatch

**Jan. 19**

334 West St., lock out

North Main Street and North Street, combustible/flammable gas/ liquid condition, other

100 Stafford Ave., smoke detector activation,

no fire

780 James P. Casey Rd., chemical spill or leak

Brook Street and Farmington Avenue, no incident found on arrival at dispatch address

130 George St., smoke detector activation, no fire

**Jan. 20**

31 George St., power line down

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