

August 11, 2016

Mr. Thomas Harley
CTDOT Chief Engineer
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
PO Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Dear Mr. Harley,

We appreciate the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) coordination of the draft 5-year Capital Plan (2017-2021) for CRCOG's preliminary review. We are pleased to see the *Let's Go CT!* Ramp-Up projects within the plan as well as an overview of LOTCIP projects by region. We will share these staff-level comments with our committees and look forward to meeting with CTDOT staff in September to further discuss the below comments.

We would be interested in bringing your attention to a comment we have seen minimal action on over the last two years. We have made multiple requests to have the following reconstruction projects prioritized by CTDOT's Project Development Unit for progression into the design phases and would be interested in your assistance in moving these projects into both the TIP and the Capital Plan prior to the final issuance of the Capital Plan in November / December of this year.

- Granby: Route 10 / 20 / 189 Intersection
- Hartford: North Main Street / Albany Avenue Intersection

The following projects should be added to or edited in the Capital Plan:

- 142-149 Operational Improvements on Route 195 / Route 74 at Tolland Green, Tolland - The construction entry is included in FFY 2017 but we question if it should be in FFY2018 given the regional summary schedule.
- We understand the Capitol Plan is more focused on construction projects but question if State Project #171-421 Evaluate & Retime Computerized Traffic Signal Systems (FD) - \$2,800,000 for FFY 2017 should be included.
- 42-318 Brewer Street, East Hartford - The construction entry is included in FFY2017 but we question if it should be in FFY2018 given the regional summary schedule.

A few items we would like clarity on:

- There are placeholders in FFY 2017, 2018 and 2019 under the Highway and Bridge lists coded as 'MP Placeholder' with 100% federal monies. Are these entries for statewide Metropolitan planning and if so should a state match be shown?
- The region's major investment needs are outlined in our Long Range Transportation Plan and for the most part reflected in the Capital Plan using 'Ramp Up' funding. CRCOG would specifically be interested in understanding what the following financials include in addition to project schedules.
 - The Hartford Line -\$265m (2017), \$65m (2018), \$95m (2019), and \$30m (2020)

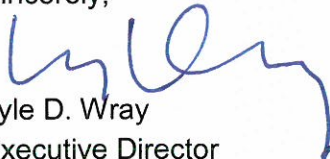
- o I-84 Viaduct Placeholder - \$20m (2017), \$25m (2018), \$25m (2019), \$30m (2020), and \$25m (2021)

CRCOG would also be interested in working with CTDOT to add additional projects to the Capital Plan, and continue discussions with DOT as it relates to projects outlined in our Long Range Transportation Plan.

- As commented on over the last two years, improved coordination and transparency with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) as it relates to transit projects is needed. CRCOG continues to be interested in strategizing with CTDOT Transit professionals on a regular basis to understand transit needs and priorities within the Capital Plan. We also continue to be interested in coordinating with CTDOT as it relates to having State transit represented on our MPO.
- CRCOG would be interested in establishing a transit enhancement set aside each year to support regional bus shelters and wayfinding. Currently some of this money is contained in another larger program line item however we would be interested in understanding how to break this out specifically and ensure it remains a stable, continuous source of funds.
- CRCOG would be interested in understanding more as it relates to State Project 170-PTxx Public Trans Annual Program funded under the CMAQ program in FFY 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. What capital projects does this entail?
- New Britain's Main Street Overpass Project (0426-XXXX, administered by the Greater Hartford Transit District and partially funded through a FTA grant) was included in the 2012-2015 STIP and was programmed for FFY 2014. This project has not yet gone to construction and our understanding is that the City is working with CTDOT to secure additional funding for the project. We would be interested in working with CTDOT to establish a schedule for moving this project into the Capital Plan.
- CRCOG understands there are approximately 35 bridges statewide that are being re-inspected as a result of possible errors in the initial inspection reports. We would be interested in understanding the condition of re-inspected bridges in the Capitol Region and verifying that they do not currently fall on the 'over programmed' list if there is a pressing need.

Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns. We look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,



Lyle D. Wray
Executive Director

cc: Thomas Maziarz, CTDOT
Richard Andreski, CTDOT
Chip Beckett, CRCOG Policy Board Chair
Jonathan Colman, CRCOG Transportation Committee Chair
Jennifer Carrier, CRCOG Transportation Director