

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274

Policy Board Meeting
Former MIRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Wednesday, March 22, 2017
12:00 p.m.

Members and Alternates

Alex Beaudoin
Chair Chip Beckett
Jeff Bridges
Garry Brumback
Shari Cantor
Jon Colman
John Elsesser
Matthew Galligan
Jim Hayden
Scott Kaupin
Chris Kervick
Marcia Leclerc
Robert Lee
Melissa Mack
Christina Maihos
Dave Nagel
Don Naples
Brandon Robertson
Scott Shanley
Robert Skinner
Peter Souza
Ron Van Winkle
Mark Walter
John Ward
Steve Werbner

Town/Organization

Hartford
Glastonbury
Wethersfield
Southington
West Hartford
Bloomfield
Coventry
South Windsor
East Granby
Enfield
Windsor Locks
East Hartford
Plainville
Suffield
Willington
Newington
New Britain
Avon
Manchester
Canton
Windsor
West Hartford
Columbia
Vernon
Tolland

Staff

Cheryl Assis
Winsome Barnaby
Jennifer Carrier
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Cara Radzins
Brittany Stephenson
Lyle Wray

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Pauline Yoder

CRCOG

Guests

Alex Johnson
Cal Hauburger
Kathie Lutz
Grayson Wright

CWP
Plainville
RSL
CTDOT

Roll Call

1. Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chair Chip Beckett called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Adoption of Minutes from February 22, 2017 Policy Board Meeting

Chair Chip Beckett requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

Jon Colman made a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 22, 2017 Policy Board meeting. Marcia Leclerc seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Monthly Reports

a. Chair and Executive Director Report

Executive Director Lyle Wray provided this update to the Board. He highlighted agenda items including the legislative update and setting the date for the annual meeting and asked for questions on the CRCOG monthly report. There were none.

b. Capital Workforce Partners

Alex Johnson of Capital Workforce Partners provided an update to the Board. He distributed a handout which tracked the 2017 legislative priorities of his organization (<http://crocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/cwp20170322handout.pdf>). He provided a status based on the Governor's budget with positives included sustaining the Jobs First Employment program and the Second Chance program. Reductions and or otherwise affected programs include the Youth Employment program and the Jobs Funnel program. Capital Workforce Partners will also be issuing its delayed audit report at the end of the week to address several issues.

c. Opportunities and Resources

Lyle Wray provided this update to the Board. He encouraged members to attend the two scheduled events celebrating German-American Manufacturing and Business Partnerships in Connecticut the evening of March 28 and the morning of March 29. Registration is still open for those wishing to attend with Hedy Ayers at CRCOG as the contact. (<http://crcog.org/event/german-american-business-forum-industry-4-0-opportunities-and-challenges-in-ct/>)

d. Policy and Planning Department

Mary Ellen Kowalewski provided this update to the Board. The Regional Planning Commission committee has approved officers for the next two years. Karl Profe (Windsor) has been selected to serve as chairman. Jennifer Bartiss-Earley (Plainville) has been selected to serve as vice-chairman. The Central Connecticut Water Utility Company has issued its preliminary water study for comments. Responses are due in April. The Metro Hartford Brownsfield Committee will be meeting on March 30th. CRCOG has just been awarded a \$300,000 Natural Hazard Integration grant.

e. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council

Peter Souza provided this update to the Board. The GIS statewide flyover for imagery has been completed. This one time flyover is an 80% savings of more than \$6 million. Final quality control is currently being conducted on some parts of the data. For more information, contact Erik Snowden (CRCOG). Regarding the HR Portal, the website, www.nutmeghr.org, is now live and includes model documents, job descriptions, and more. There will also be training on the portal on April 7th in South Windsor.

f. Public Safety and Homeland Security

Cheryl Assis provided this update to the Board. CRCOG sponsored an Ebola exercise for ESF-8 Health and Medical Services yesterday. This was held at the South Windsor Emergency Operations Center and in the field with the objectives of testing ESF 8 capability and response during an infectious disease outbreak. Local health departments and hospitals participated. Matt Galligan thanked CRCOG for sponsoring the exercise and stated that he was very impressed with the level of cooperation amongst the towns and the exercise scenario. He noted that the Department of Public Health needs to share their plans in regard to infectious disease with the municipalities. This will come out in the After Action Review which will be shared with Board members. CRCOG will sponsor a Functional Needs Seminar on May 23rd at Goodwin College. This will be directed at town officials and emergency management directors to ensure that people with functional needs are part of the planning process and that their emergency related needs are incorporated into emergency operations plans.

g. Transportation Committee

Jennifer Carrier and Jon Colman provided this update to the Board. The US Senate has acted to repeal a federal rule requiring MPO consolidation. The Transportation Committee is moving along with its LOTCIP solicitation for bridges program. The committee would like to simplify applications for bridges only. Applications are due in June. Follow up on general LOTCIP projects will take place in July. The LOTCIP funding has yet to be affected. The first phase of the Bradley Master Plan has been released by airport authority. CRCOG sits on the technical committee.

Regarding the Comprehensive Transit Summary, the Transportation Committee will look for the Policy Board's endorsement of findings and recommendations next month.

5. Presentation on the Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis

Cara Radzins provided this presentation to the Board. She discussed the purpose of the study, approach, key findings, and elevated recommendations. The PowerPoint can be accessed at <http://crocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CSA-TC-Presentation.pdf>. This study is one of three which should all assist in transit efforts. Effective (transit) competition is important to the region and advocacy will be needed once endorsed.

6. Action: Planning for CRCOG Annual Meeting June 2017

Lyle Wray presented this item to the Board. The Executive Committee directed staff to secure the annual luncheon location at the Yard Goats stadium. Particular dates are available in June and a vote to select one is necessary.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve June 8th for the annual meeting. Matt Galligan seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

7. 2017 Legislative Update

Kathie Lutz updated the Board on this item. There are currently not many changes at the legislator. Committees are wrapping up and monies committees do not end until April. Subcommittees are still meeting to make their recommendations. Lyle Wray referenced the state and local budget talking points including in the agenda packet (<http://crocog.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/State-and-Local-Talking-0322.pdf>). The idea is to have these points in hand starting in early May when there will be a sharper focus on balancing the budget which has a deficit of approximately \$1.7 billion. Timing is key for presenting these items. There was an extensive discussion concerning the K-12 teacher benefits and pensions. The Board voted to direct Lyle Wray to draft up a letter requesting more time to finalize budgets outside of chartered specified timelines.

Steve Werbner moved to direct Lyle Wray to draft a budget timelines extension letter. John Elsesser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

8. NADO Alert: Proposed Elimination of Community and Economic Development Programs

Lyle Wray presented this item to the Board. He mentioned that grant request to US EDA has progressed from the Philadelphia office to Washington DC for a decision. CRCOG is making progress and updates will be shared once available. The hope is that a grant might be awarded before the program could be eliminated.

9. First/Last Mile: Ensuring Transit Opportunities are Shared by All

Lyle Wray presented this item to the Board. The iForums 2017 will host this event on Friday, March 31st. More information can be accessed at <http://t.congressweb.com/w/?CBFJBOYNTX>.

10. Comprehensive Transit Route Analysis for Metro Hartford

Jennifer Carrier presented this item to the Board. More information can be accessed at <http://crcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/CSA-Executive-Summary-with-Memo-for-PB.pdf>.

11. Other Business

CRCOG will continue to wait for legislative updates as they are made known from Kathie Lutz and Peter Smith of Rome Smith Lutz.

12. Adjournment

With no further discussion items, Chair Chip Beckett requested a motion to adjourn.

Jon Colman moved to adjourn meeting. Garry Brumback seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.