

Transportation Committee Meeting
MIRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford
Monday January 9th, 2017
12 Noon

Name

Larry Baril
 Jonathan Thiesse
 Patrice Carson
 Andrea Drabicki
 Todd Penney
 Patrice Carson
 Len Norton
 Denise Horan
 Timothy Webb
 John Cabibbo
 Daniel Pennington
 Kirk Severance
 Jim Ford
 Sandy Fry
 Kevin Kelly
 John Carrington
 Rob Trottier
 Chris Greenlaw
 John Bossi
 Jim Sollmi
 Tom Roy
 Jeffrey Doolittle
 Rick Zulick
 Bill Hawkins
 David Smith
 Duane Martin
 Derrick Gregor
 Bob Jarvis

Organization

Avon
 Bloomfield
 Bolton
 Columbia
 Coventry
 Bolton
 East Windsor
 East Hartford
 Ellington
 Enfield
 Glastonbury
 Granby
 Hartford
 Hartford
 Hebron
 Mansfield
 New Britain
 Newington
 Plainville
 Rocky Hill
 Simsbury
 South Windsor
 Stafford
 Suffield
 Vernon
 West Hartford
 Wethersfield
 Windsor

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

Guests

Grayson Wright
 Jennifer Kritzier
 Philip Scarozzo
 Charlie Carson
 Mary Poesse
 Joe Balskus
 Member of the Public

CTDOT
 CTTransit
 CTTransit
 CTTransit
 GHTD
 CT Bike Ped Advisory Board
 Windsor

Staff

Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Jillian Massey	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Ryan Visci	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Ms. Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from December 5th, 2106** - A motion was made by Andrea Drabicki from the Town of Columbia, seconded by Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington to adopt the meeting minutes from the December 5th, 2016 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with one abstention made by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **Municipal input on CT Public Act No. 16-54-** Mr. Tim Malone reported that the representative from the Town of Columbia had requested input on municipal efforts to take advantage of Public Act No. 16-54. Mr. Malone explained that the law increased the maximum penalty for failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk, or failing to exercise due care in avoiding a collision with a pedestrian a cyclist, to \$500. Input was being sought on whether or not any of the towns had attempted to erect signs notifying drivers of the increased maximum penalties, or if towns had addressed the new law in any other way. One member of the committee asked why towns needed to notify drivers. Andrea Drabicki, the representative from Columbia, responded that it was not required, but that the town was attempting to calm traffic and thought it could be a good tool to do so.
 - **Complete Streets Consortium Series Technical Assistance Opportunity-** Mr. Tim Malone reported on the Complete Streets Consortium Series Technical Assistance Opportunity. This opportunity, from Smart Growth America, offers free technical assistance workshops to a consortium of three municipalities within the same state who are interested in implementing complete streets. The opportunity is competitive, with just one award being offered, but the application is fairly

simple. The due date is February 2. One question was asked, which is whether or not the three towns needed to be in the same region. Mr. Malone responded that the towns could be located anywhere in the state and do not even need to be contiguous. Mr. Malone reported that a notice had been sent to the committee previously and would be posted to the CRCOG website.

- **Northeast Corridor Future-Final EIS**-Ms. Cara Radzins provided an update on the NEC Future project. She noted that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Preferred Alternative was released in December 2016. Ms. Radzins noted that the Preferred Alternative includes changes from the draft alternatives, such as the inclusion of enhanced service between New Haven and Springfield and the identification of Hartford as a hub. Ms. Radzins explained that the Final EIS does not include a link from Hartford to Boston, which CRCOG has been encouraging throughout the NEC Future project. The Preferred Alternative also includes a bypass through Old Lyme, which has not been well received by neighboring regions. Ms. Radzins noted that the FRA is holding a waiting period through January 31, 2017. People are invited to submit feedback during this time, but unlike during a formal comment period, FRA will not be responding to individual comments. Following the waiting period, a Record of Decision will be made identifying a Selected Alternative. FRA will then develop a Service Development Plan for this alternative. Mr. Lyle Wray added that Massachusetts is in the process of developing a Statewide Rail Plan. CRCOG is working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to ensure that service from Springfield to Boston is included in this Plan. Mr. Wray reiterated the need to advocate for this important rail link, which will provide service for a large number of people for a relatively low cost compared to other improvement options.
- **FFY 2016 Federal Obligated or Grant Projects** - Mr. Jennifer Carrier shared the list of federal obligated or grant projects for FFY 2016 with the Committee. Ms. Carrier noted that CRCOG makes this list available each year.
- **Other** - Mr. Lyle Wray gave a brief update on Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform Federal Rulemaking. Mr. Wray indicated that this USDOT rule was enacted on December 15, 2016. CRCOG and many other entities vigorously opposed the initial draft of the rule for a number of reasons. Some of the opposed items were eliminated from the draft rule, however the final rule still contains broad implications for CRCOG. However, at this time CRCOG staff recommends taking a “wait and see” approach as the implementation timeline has been pushed back until after the next census in 2022 to the year 2024. Mr. Wray highlighted some of the rule requirements including the following:
 - Requires MPOs to encompass the entire Urbanized Area (UZA) as defined by census. If there are currently multiple MPO’s they are encouraged to combine or reorganize to encompass the entire urbanized area.
 - Regardless of whether the MPOs combine or not, the MPOs must jointly produce unified planning documents (Transportation Improvement Program

(TIP), Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- The rule allows for exceptions if all the MPOs and all the governors agree that it is too complex to combine or produce the planning documents and are granted permission by FHWA, FTA and US DOT.
- The rule delays implementation until after the next census and the next determination of the UZAs which is anticipated to be completed in 2022. The MPOs then have 2 years to implement the rule in their region.

Staff believes that there are many motivated parties outside of Connecticut, who will work to have this rule changed during the next administration, and therefore CRCOG will continue to monitor these events.

5. LOTCIP

- **Funding Increase Request, Day Hill Road, Windsor** - Ms. Jennifer Carrier reported that the Cost Sub-Committee approved a LOTCIP Funding Increase Request for the Windsor Day Hill Road Reconstruction Project. Ms. Carrier indicated that the Town of Windsor requested a LOTCIP funding increase of \$457,180 from \$1,239,600 to \$1,696,780 (37% increase). The Project was approved through the 2015 LOTCIP funding solicitation and is currently in the application phase.

Ms. Carrier reported that the new design will meet the CTDOT standards and provides a 20 year minimum service life. She added that the roadway accommodates heavy truck traffic use and 14,000 vehicles daily.

A motion was made by Rob Trottier, seconded by Jim Sollmi to approve the funding increase from \$1,239,600 to \$1,696,780 for LOTCIP Project application of Windsor Day Hill Road Reconstruction. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Quarterly Reporting update-FY2017 Q2** - Ms. Sotoria Montanari provided an overview of the LOTCIP FY17 Quarter 2. Ms. Montanari indicated that the information was extracted from two provided tables included in the Quarterly Status Report memo (Program Status Summary and Project Quarterly Status Report). Some of the main highlights were summarized as follows:
 - CRCOG expended **\$4,708,400** in FY16 and expects to expend **\$21,663,600** in FY17
 - CRCOG received **seven (7)** of the **eleven (11)** expected Quarter 2 design submissions
 - **Four (4)** of the design submissions were final, totaling almost \$7 million in projects.
 - **All** active project's final design submissions remained in their scheduled fiscal year
 - **One (1)** Project has slipped to being awarded in the next fiscal year

- CRCOG anticipates receipt of **eleven (11)** design submissions in Quarter 3 of FY2017
- **Two (2)** projects have anticipated design durations of more than **36** months
- **Five (5)** applications were transmitted to CTDOT, **four (4)** are expected next quarter

Additionally, Ms. Montanari indicated that there were milestone delays developed to track LOTCIP projects and several town representatives were asked to provide scheduling updates at the LOTCIP reporting meeting. Representatives from the Towns of Granby, South Windsor and Bloomfield provided project updates.

- **Extension of LOTCIP On-Call lists 1, 2, and 3** - Rob Aloise updated the committee regarding the need to review the on-call consultant lists 1, 2 and 3 previously selected to assist CRCOG and its municipalities with various LOTCIP tasks. Mr. Aloise reminded the group that a competitive Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process had taken place in 2014, resulting in choosing four (4) firms for On-Call List 1 (municipal design phase assistance), four (4) firms for On-Call List 2 (municipal construction phase assistance) and two firms for On-Call List 3 (CRCOG program management and design review assistance).

Mr. Aloise indicated a 36 month term for On-Call Listed firms will expire in May 2017 but there exists options for 2 year extensions for the On-Call List 3 firms. Prior to the Transportation Committee meeting, the Transportation Sub-Committee met, discussed, and made recommendations regarding any extensions or re-solicitations that should take place. The subcommittee passed actions to re-solicit for On-Call lists 1 and 2 for two-year terms, to extend On-Call List 3 contracts for 2 years, and to solicit for a third On-Call List 3 firm for a two-year period. Ms. Sandy Fry from the City of Hartford questioned why all three spots on List 3 would not be put to bid simultaneously instead of extending the two existing terms and only soliciting a third firm. Ms. Jennifer Carrier noted that CRCOG is happy with the work being done by the existing List 3 firms and would prefer not to disrupt on-going efforts by terminating their contracts. It was further explained that staff was comfortable with these recommendations, that volunteers were identified at the subcommittee meeting to help guide any re-solicitation efforts, and that CRCOG staff would structure the solicitation with provisions to extend any new lists/contracts beyond the two-year term.

A motion was made by Tim Webb, from the Town of Ellington for CRCOG staff to undertake a new competitive QBS processes to re-identify On-Call List 1 and 2 consultant firms for a minimum two years, to extend the two On-Call List 3 consultants contracts for 2 years, and to undertake a new competitive QBS processes to identify and contract with a third On-Call List 3 consulting firms for a minimum of two years. The motion was seconded by Russ Arnold, from the Town of Farmington with two abstentions made by Jim Sollmi, from the Town of Rocky

Hill, and Andrea Drabicki from the Town of Columbia. This motion was passed unanimously.

6. Public Participation Plan – Approval to Release Draft for Public Comment – Ms. Cara Radzins informed the Committee that CRCOG and its consultant team have completed a draft of a new Public Participation Plan. The existing Plan is from 2007 and needed to be updated to include current requirements and best practices. Ms. Radzins stated that changes to a Public Participation Plan require a 45-day public comment period, and CRCOG’s proposed schedule for this period can be found in the memo. The document will be available on CRCOG’s website, and hardcopies will be available at the Hartford public Library (downtown) and the New Britain Public Library. Comments on the DRAFT plan will be accepted at public meetings; at CRCOG Transportation and Policy Board meetings; and by mail, e-mail, phone or fax. At the March Transportation Committee meeting, CRCOG’s consultant will give a brief presentation on the Plan, and CRCOG will be looking for Transportation Committee endorsement in April. A motion was made by Andrea Drabicki from the Town of Columbia, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to approve the release of the DRAFT Plan to the public and begin the public comment period. This motion was passed unanimously.

7. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Contingency Projects - Rob Aloise updated the committee regarding the current TA Set-Aside solicitation. Following the December 7, 2016 endorsement from CRCOG’s Policy Board, the following applications for the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside program funding were transmitted to the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT):

1. Rocky Hill, Silas Deane Highway Streetscape Improvements-Phase III
(Previously Submitted to CTDOT as part of CRCOG’s 2012 TE solicitation)
2. Hartford, Hartford–Windsor Riverwalk Extension
3. New Britain, New Britain’s “Stanley Loop Trail”
4. Ellington, Route 83 Corridor Sidewalks

These projects represent the region’s “priority” projects for FFY2016-2020 TA Set-Aside funding. Their cumulative federal shares are estimated at \$6.1 million which is consistent with CRCOG’s estimate of available funding within our region.

As part of the solicitation, CTDOT also asked regions to endorse four additional contingency projects under the TA Set-Aside Program.

- Glastonbury, Trail Connection to Putnam Bridge
- Southington, Farmington Canal Heritage Trail
- Columbia, Hop River State Park Trail

- East Hartford, Hockanum River Park Trail - Phase

These contingency projects are CTDOT identified projects currently programmed with other funding sources. CRCOG's approval of these projects will allow CRCOG and CTDOT the flexibility to utilize TA Set-Aside funding for these projects if the need arises in the coming years. These contingency projects will only utilize TA funding in the event delivery issues associated with the region's priority projects create a possible funding lapse.

To date, CRCOG received two completed applications for the Glastonbury and Southington projects. The Columbia and East Hartford projects will be considered by the Transportation Committee in February upon receiving complete applications.

A motion was made by Mr. Peter Hughes to endorse the Glastonbury and Southington projects at TA Set-Aside contingency projects to be submitted to CTDOT for use of TA Set-Aside funding only the event delivery issues associated with the region's priority projects create a possible funding lapse. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jim Sollmi and passed unanimously.

8. **TIP amendments-** Ms. Jennifer Carrier revised the TIP amendments. Mr. Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill made a motion, seconded by Len Norton, from the Town of East Windsor to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Rehab Bridge 00454 over CT River, AMTRAK & CT 159-Windsor Locks

9. **Presentation:** CTDOT Transit New Fare Technology System: Philip Scarrozzo, CTDOT and Jennifer Kritzler, CT *transit*- Ms. Jennifer Kritzler and Mr. Scarrozzo gave a brief presentation on the CTDOT New Fare Technology System (NFTS). The NFTS is an \$18.6 million procurement program designed to replace obsolescent GFI fare boxes on existing HNS buses, provide registering fare boxes to non-HNS operators, support proof-of payment (POP) on CT *fastrak*, implement account-based smart cards using "Fare Capping" as a replacement for all existing multi-ride tickets and passes, implement mobile ticketing using smart phones as a proxy for the smart card to access a customer's account and accommodate fare integration with CTferries and CTrail (future use). This new device will be installed in key, high-volume locations in Hartford, New Haven, and Stamford.

10. Other Business- There was no other business discussed

11. Adjourn- The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.