

Transportation

**Committee Meeting
MIRA, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Monday March 20th, 2017
12 Noon**

Name

Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Todd Penney
Timothy Webb
John Cabibbo
Russ Arnold
Gil Hayes
Jim Ford
Sandy Fry
Kevin Kelly
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Rob Trottier
Chris Greenlaw
John R. Bossi
Jim Sollmi
Tom Roy
Rick Zulick
Bill Hawkins
Heidi Samokar
David Smith
Duane Martin
Derrick Gregor
Bob Jarvis

Organization

Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Coventry
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
GHTD
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
Newington
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Stafford
Suffield
Tolland
Vernon
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Guests

Grayson Wright
Mary Poesse
Ted DeSantos
Charlie Carson
Joanne Frascella
Jonathan Thiesse
Member of the Public

CTDOT
GHTD
Fuss & O'Neill
CTtransit
Parsons Brinkerhoff
Bloomfield
Windsor

Staff

Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Emily Hultquist	CRCOG
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Jillian Massey	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Ryan Visci	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Mr. Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from February 21st, 2017** – A motion was made Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to adopt the meeting minutes from the February 21st, 2017 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **LOTICIP On-Call List RFQ Update** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari gave a brief update on the LOTICIP RFQ On-Call Lists. Ms. Montanari stated that CRCOG received 23 responses from consultant firms; 21 from On-Call List 1, municipal design phase assistance, 15 for On-Call List 2, construction phase assistance and 4 for On-Call List 3, program management and design review services. She mentioned that ratings are due on March 27, and interviews will be scheduled during the weeks of April 17 and 24. Ms. Montanari said that final selections will be completed in May.
 - **Safety Performance Measures** – Ms. Jillian Massey gave a brief update on Safety Performance Measures. Ms. Massey told the Committee that CRCOG attended a Safety Target Coordination and Training Workshop hosted by FHWA, in coordination with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and CTDOT on February 22, 2017. Ms. Massey said the purpose of the workshop was for participants to understand FHWA’s Safety Performance Management Measures and NHTSA’s Safety Performance Measure requirements. In addition, the workshop provided information on how to establish metrics within Connecticut through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and the Highway Safety Plan (HSP). Ms. Massey stated that potential metrics include Number of Fatalities, Rate of Fatalities, Number of Serious Injuries, Rate of Serious Injuries, and Number of Non-motorized Fatalities plus Serious Injuries. CRCOG will be

participating in a session with CTDOT and other MPOs in May to discuss data and metrics in order to establish the state performance standards and metrics. MPOs will then have the option of using the State standards or developing their own. Ms. Massey also told the Committee that the Northeast Transportation Safety Conference will be held on October 24-25, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel in Cromwell, CT. Information about registration is included in the meeting packet.

- **I-84 Hartford Update** – Ms. Jillian Massey gave a brief update on the I-84 Project. The project cost is estimated at \$4.5-\$5 billion, and CRCOG is working with CTDOT to identify financing options. CRCOG has been attending biweekly coordination meetings with CTDOT, the City of Hartford, and the consultant team. CRCOG is also serving on the Transit Technical Committee, which is focusing on the future transportation center and Union Station. Ms. Massey mentioned that the upcoming public meetings will be held on April 20th at the Hartford Public Library and on April 25th at the East Hartford Public Library.
- **On Road Bicycle Networks and Resurfacing Projects Workshop** – Ms. Emily Hultquist provided information on a workshop, entitled “Incorporating On-Road Bicycle Networks into Resurfacing Projects”, which will be held on April 4, 2017 from 8 am - 4:30 pm at Pioneer Valley Planning Commission in Springfield, MA. Ms. Hultquist mentioned that the course will cover the integration of bicycle facilities with routine resurfacing programs through the use of Road Diets and with repurposing of roadway space. The course will also address internal processes that are institutionalized into the decision-making process. Thirty-five of the 50 openings for this workshop have been filled, so interested individuals are encouraged to register soon.
- **Bradley International Airport Master Plan Update** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier mentioned to the Committee that the Connecticut Airport Authority is in the process of preparing a Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan Update for Bradley International Airport. Ms. Carrier said the first working paper for the Master Plan Update is available for review and comment at <http://www.bradley-planning.com/s/WorkingPaper1.pdf>. Ms. Carrier stated that comments may be directed to either herself at jcarrier@crcog.org or Molly Parsons with the CAA at mparsons@ctairports.org.
- **National Infrastructure** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier briefed the Committee on the Engineers Grade Country’s Infrastructure. Ms. Carrier mentioned that ASCE’s leadership urged federal lawmakers to approve a 25-cent increase in the federal fuel tax as a way to ensure the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund. This fund will assist transportation agencies around the country who rely on the fund to help pay for infrastructure projects. Congress has not increased the fuel tax since 1993. Ms. Carrier stated that the Rail garnered the top grade: which was a B and Transit received the lowest grade which was a D. Ms. Carrier also said this month, the Trump administration intends to present to Congress a fiscal 2018 budget request that would outline funding for transportation programs. Trump told Congress to pass a \$1 trillion infrastructure funding bill. Republicans in control of Congress

have yet to offer a timeline for when they would consider an infrastructure funding package.

- **Other** – Mr. Lyle Wray informed the group that recent federal rulemaking that would result in the need for major additional MPO consolidation had been repealed by the Senate and was expected to be repealed by the US House shortly.

5. TIP Amendments –There were no TIP Amendments for action this month.

6. LOTCIP – West Hartford Trout Brook Phase 6 Multi-Use Trail Cost Increase -

Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the Cost Increase request for the Trout Brook Trail, Phase 6 Project in West Hartford that was approved by the Cost sub-committee. Ms. Montanari stated that this project has progressed through the preliminary and ninety (90%) design phases. Based on the most recent engineering estimate, the Town of West Hartford is requesting a LOTCIP funding increase of \$157,200 from \$355,200 to \$512,400 (44.3% increase). The cost increase is due to required retention walls and tree mitigation.

Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough made a motion, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill for approval of the funding increase from \$355,200 to \$512,400 for LOTCIP Project L-155-0001, Trout Brook Multi-Use Trail, Phase 6 in West Hartford. This motion was passed unanimously.

7. LOTCIP Solicitation Overview – Ms. Jennifer Carrier provided a summary of the LOTCIP Solicitation Overview memo and the related Subcommittee discussions and actions. Ms. Carrier indicated that there was general agreement regarding the majority of the staff prepared solicitation guidance, however it was felt that the \$6 million allowable municipal award for the combined solicitation (phases 1 and 2) was too high. Also, given the long design timeframe for bridge improvements, there was concern that some measures would be necessary to assure that municipalities advance these projects through the LOTCIP process in a timely manner. The subcommittee approved a motion for staff to produce a Draft of Final Policy for the solicitation in accordance with the provided overview memo, revised for a combined solicitation limit (phase 1 plus phase 2) per municipality of \$4.5 million, and making the Cost Review and Subcommittee the entity to hold municipalities accountable for any undue project inactivity. The subcommittee also approved a motion that bridge projects currently in other improvement funding programs would not be eligible for funding under this LOTCIP solicitation.

A motion was made by Patrice Carson, seconded by Chris Edge for the Transportation Committee to approve the same LOTCIP solicitation motions that were approved by the Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously.

8. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Update and Contingency Project – Mr. Rob Aloise reviewed the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Update and “Contingency Project” Approval Memo. Mr. Aloise provided an update on the four CRCOG “priority” projects that had been previously selected, approved, and submitted to CTDOT. CTDOT has informed CRCOG that they have formed an internal TA application review committee that is meeting regularly. CTDOT anticipates contacting regions and municipalities “by late March or thereafter” regarding project scoping and the project selections for a first wave of project initiations.

CTDOT has also asked the region to endorse the four “contingency projects” which 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 has approved and transmitted three of the four “contingency projects” to CTDOT. Staff has received a final signed application for the following remaining project and is requesting a motion for its approval:

- Hop River State Park Trail, Columbia (which also extends into Coventry).

A motion was made by Patrice Carson, seconded by Tim Webb to approve the final “contingency project”. This motion was passed unanimously.

9. Presentations:

- CRCOG Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis, Study Recommendations: Cara Radzins and Ryan Visci, CRCOG – Ms. Cara Radzins gave a presentation on the CRCOG Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis and the study recommendations. The Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis (CSA) began in 2014 and is nearing completion. Ms. Radzins stated that the aim of the study was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing CT **transit** Hartford Division and recommend service improvements. The core recommendations for this study are enhanced transit corridors, improved service to Bradley International Airport, a regional loop route, flexible service options, and consideration for TOD at Buckland Hills. Recommendations are presented in the Executive Summary and Final Report as short-, mid-, and long-term activities. CRCOG staff will be looking for endorsement of these study recommendations at the Transportation Committee meeting in April. Committee members asked questions regarding the expansion of CT **fastrak**, the possibility of adding additional parking at transit hubs for people travelling to Bradley, and bus shelters. Ms. Radzins noted that the CT **fastrak** Expansion Study was a separate effort conducted by CTDOT, but that CRCOG coordinated with that study team. Ms. Radzins also noted that parking capacity at park-and-ride lots and transit hubs is something that will need to be addressed in the future and that the regional bus shelter program is moving forward. Mr. Ryan Visci then gave a brief overview of the expanded scope of the CSA, which covers the New Britain/Bristol Division of CT **transit**. The study scope

was expanded when CRCOG gained its new towns of Berlin, Southington, New Britain, and Plainville. CRCOG and its consultant have met with town representatives to discuss the effort's Existing Conditions Report and a potential service improvement scenario. Following these meetings, a second scenario was developed. Mr. Visci stated that the two potential scenarios will be presented to the public on April 19th in Plainville and on April 20th in Southington. The study is anticipated for completion in Winter of 2017/2018.

- CRCOG Public Participation Plan Update: Cara Radzins, CRCOG and Joanne Frascella, Parsons Brinkerhoff – Ms. Cara Radzins and Ms. Joanne Frascella gave a presentation on the DRAFT CRCOG Public Participation Plan, including the methodology for updating the plan and the changes that have been made as part of this update. Ms. Cara Radzins stated that comments on the Plan must be submitted to her by April 10, 2017 for full consideration, but comments may be submitted as late as noon on April 26, 2017. It is anticipated that the Final Plan will be brought before this committee for endorsement on April 24, 2017. Following the endorsement, the Plan will be presented to the Policy Board for adoption on April 26, 2107. No comments were made by committee members or other meeting attendees.

10. Other Business – There was no other business discussed.

11. Adjourn-The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.