

Transportation Committee Meeting
MIRA, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Monday December 11th, 2017
12 Noon

Name

Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Todd Penney
Tim Webb
Donald Nunes
Russ Arnold
Kirk Severance
Jim Ford
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Rob Trottier
Jim Sollmi
Tom Roy
Jeffrey Doolittle
Rick Zulick
Heidi Samokar
David Smith
Greg Sommer
Derrick Gregor
Bob Jarvis

Guests

Mary Deppe
Jamis Kulpa
Grayson Wright
Kathryn Faraci
Jonathan Thiesse
Ted DeSantos
Josh Rickman
Charlie Carson
Joe Rimiller
Roy Seelye
Tess Schwartz
Member of the Public

Organization

Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Coventry
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Granby
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
South Windsor
Stafford
Tolland
Vernon
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor

GHTD
VHB
CTDOT
CT-DOT-Highway Safety
Bloomfield
Fuss & O'Neill
CTTransit
CTTransit
Beta Group
Beta Group
TESSERA
Windsor

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Staff

Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Michael Cipriano	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Jillian Massey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Erik Snowden	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	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 November 13th, 2107** – A motion was made by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington, seconded by Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor, to adopt the meeting minutes from the November 13th, 2017 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with one abstention made by Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **CTrides Quarterly Report** – Ms. Cara Radzins gave a brief summary of the CT**rides** quarterly report for July-September 2017. Ms. Radzins noted that a focus of this quarter was developing the event marketing plan for FY2018. September was also CT**rides**'s "College Month," which including numerous outreach events to encourage students, faculty, and staff to consider alternative commuting modes. Ms. Radzins mentioned that the CT**rides** Outreach Team held 194 Worksite meetings and 114 Commuter Events with worksite partners during Q3. The total number of employer participants, stakeholders, and community participants rose to 239. Ms. Radzins also shared that CT**rides** fielded approximately 5,300 inquiries, including more than 300 that were handled via live online chat or text message.
 - **Critical Urban and Rural Freight Network** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CTDOT recently developed a Draft Critical Urban and Rural Freight Network. The purpose of this network is to identify roads that support the National Highway Freight Network, and establishing the network allows identified roads to be eligible for future freight funding. Ms. Radzins noted that Connecticut was allocated 75 miles for urban roads and 150 miles for rural (non-urban roads). In addition to these roads, CTDOT has identified corridors that they would like to see in an unconstrained version of the network if mileage limits were to be eliminated. Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin asked if the mileage limits are based on the size of the state, and Ms. Radzins confirmed that this is true. Ms. Radzins stated that

CRCOG would like to give feedback to CTDOT by the end of the year, and if any of the towns would like to make comments they should contact her.

- **ADA for Paving Operations and T2 Center Training** – Mr. Rob Aloise briefed the committee on federal ADA requirements for projects that include various Paving Operations. Provided in committee materials was a technical brief on the subject prepared by UConn’s Technology Transfer (T2) Center. Also provided, was a draft T2 center training program schedule for calendar year 2018. Mr. Aloise indicated that the center was interested in feedback on the scheduled programs and/or suggestions for additional training sessions. Additional T2 center information is available here: <https://www.t2center.uconn.edu/>
 - **MPO Certification Review** (January 8th 2018) – Ms. Jennifer Carrier told the Committee that CRCOG’s Federal Certification Review will be held on Monday January 8th, 2018 at MIRA. Ms. Carrier mentioned that a session on CRCOG’s transportation planning process, with an opportunity for the public to comment on that process, will begin at 10:15 a.m. There will also be a session at 10:45 a.m. to discuss CRCOG’s outreach to the public and targeted communities (minorities, low income and persons who have difficulty speaking English). Additionally, there will be a few minutes for public comment at the end of each other agenda item. Ms. Carrier also noted that everyone is invited to submit comments or any thoughts you might have concerning how CRCOG has undertaken the transportation planning process. Written comments may be sent to either FHWA or FTA. If you submit comments, you should indicate the general nature of your involvement with CRCOG.
 - **Other** – Dr. Lyle Wray provided a brief update on the State Budget. He noted that per the Governor’s December 7th press release, the current budget implications will include many potential cuts to transportation funding, however details are still to come. He also shared that a federal infrastructure package is expected in January 2018.
5. **LOTCHIP Update and Solicitation** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier summarized the Current State of the Special Transportation Fund Report (STF) distributed at the meeting. She had previously attended a meeting with the CT Department of Transportation Commissioner and wanted to relay the information acquired to the group. Ms. Carrier explained that bonding for transportation projects is contingent on a robust operating balance in the STF. Currently, without new revenue streams, the STF balance is not sufficient to support the new transportation infrastructure projects planned in the state. She further explained that the reason for the strain on the STF budget was because of the reduction in the gas tax in 1997, resulting in a cumulative reduction in revenues estimated at \$4B. Additionally, the price of oil fell faster than anticipated, and the switch to more fuel-efficient cars and electric cars all contributed to the decrease in the fund. Additionally, \$37.5M was diverted from the fund.

Although positive steps have been taken, such as the one-half percent of the state sales tax being directed to the STF, the shortage necessitates significant reductions.

Ms. Carrier outlined some of the at-risk programs:

- Close rest areas
- Implement a 15% bus fare increase (FY19)
- Transit District subsidy cut (15%) FY2019
- Implement a 10% rail fare increase
- LOTCIP 100% funded in FY2018; revised to STP-Urban program in 2019-22 at 80/20

Because of the uncertainty of the budget, Ms. Carrier suggested deferring the LOTCIP solicitation until more information is provided to CRCOG. Ms. Carrier informed the group that of the following Subcommittee recommendations from the meeting immediately prior:

- Update policy board and elicit feedback at the 12/13 meeting.
- Draft a letter to CTDOT regarding the municipality concerns and copy OPM
- Create a two-page fact sheet on the regional benefits of the LOTCIP program
- Reassess upcoming solicitation: need and required submission material
- Schedule a special meeting to review strategies

The Transportation Committee was in agreement with the Subcommittee's recommendations.

- 6. Safety Performance Measures** – Ms. Jillian Massey gave a brief overview of the Target Setting for Safety Performance Measures. Ms. Massey mentioned that as communicated in the past, CRCOG will need to set targets for five (5) safety performance measures which include: # of fatalities; rate of fatalities (per 100 million Vehicle miles traveled-VMT); # of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries and # of non-motorized fatalities plus serious injuries. The specific safety performance measures are applicable to all public roads regardless of ownership or functional classification. Ms. Massey added that targets need to be established annually for both CRCOG and the State. CTDOT submitted the state targets in the summer of 2017 for calendar year 2018. CRCOG can either support these state targets or can set its own targets, however, the targets have to be completed by February 27th, 2018.

Ms. Massey also mentioned that each year FHWA will determine whether CTDOT has met or made significant progress toward meeting its targets. If the state does not achieve or make significant progress on 4 out of 5 targets it must obligate Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds to safety projects, develop an implementation plan, and describe how the Highway Safety Plan (HSP) will be adjusted to better meet performance targets. CRCOG will be held accountable for safety progress through the federal certification review process. During the review FHWA will evaluate how CRCOG is addressing and achieving targets (or assisting

the state in achieving targets). Staff's recommendation for this initial year of target setting is to support the targets established by CTDOT.

A motion was made by Mark Moriarty from the City of New Britain, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to use the targets established by CTDOT. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 7. Transportation Committee Meeting Schedule for 2018** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the 2018 meeting schedule, noting that the upcoming January meeting will be held at 10 a.m. due to it coinciding with CRCOG's Federal Certification Review. Ms. Carrier also indicated that the non-typical scheduled dates for couple other of the monthly meetings were the result of schedule modifications to eliminate conflicts with holidays. A motion was made by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill, seconded by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury to accept the 2018 meeting schedule. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 8. TIP amendments** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP amendments. Mr. Tom Roy had concerns about the funding of the four electric buses, as all of the vehicles would be going to Bridgeport. Ms. Jennifer Carrier stated that the funding was through a grant and that the original application included twelve buses, six of which would have come to Hartford. When the grant award was smaller than requested, CTDOT decided to send all four of the buses that could be funded to Bridgeport. Ms. Carrier noted that this change is likely procedural in nature, and the item may be removed from the TIP in the future. A motion was made by Mark Moriarty from the City of New Britain, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill, to accept the TIP amendments as presented. This motion was passed unanimously with one abstention made by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury.
 - GBTA/CTTRANSIT – LoNo Discretionary Program: 4Electric Buses & Equipment – Hartford/Bridgeport
 - Pedestrian/Bike Trail Extension, from the Boathouse to Weston Street-Hartford
 - Construction of a Pedestrian/Bike Trail Loop in Stanley Quarter Park-New Britain
- 9. Presentation:** Highway Safety Office Initiatives, Kathryn Faraci, Transportation Supervisor, CTDOT – Ms. Kathryn Faraci gave a brief update on Highway Safety Office initiatives and performance objectives, including a focus on impaired and distracted driving. Mr. Jim Ford of the City of Hartford asked about initiatives related to pedestrian safety, and Ms. Faraci noted that such initiatives are being developed.
- 10. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.
- 11. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.