

To: Transportation Committee
From: Jennifer Carrier, Director of Transportation Planning
Rob Aloise, Principal Transportation Engineer
Date: November 3, 2017
c: Policy Board
Subject: Transportation Planning Study Application Selections

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is currently accepting applications from the regions for Transportation Planning Studies. In September, CRCOG announced a competitive solicitation for one (1) municipally initiated study and one (1) regional study aimed to address bigger picture system-wide improvements. Municipalities were informed that each study must have a minimum size of \$150,000, would utilize STP-Urban funding, and that municipalities would be required to provide a 20% non-federal match (CTDOT may split the match 10% state, 10% municipality for studies on state roadways).

By the October 26, 2017 deadline, CRCOG staff received application materials for one (1) municipally initiated study and prepared application materials for one (1) regional study, each which are summarized below.

1. Route 20 Corridor Study (\$210,000 - pending CTDOT review)

Windsor Locks submitted this transportation study application which focuses on the environs surrounding the divided-highway section of Route 20 located along the Windsor Locks/Windsor town line. The study involves assessing and addressing existing and potential future issues with traffic safety, traffic operations, and access to developable lands at Route 20 interchanges, including those with Old County Road, Route 75, and Hamilton Road. Additionally, the viability of providing a cross-town multi-use trail in or along-side the Route 20 right-of-way will be studied.

2. Regional Transit Strategy (\$300,000 - pending CTDOT review)

CRCOG's previous Regional Transit Strategy was developed in 2001, and since then numerous recommendations from that visionary document have been implemented. The proposed study will build upon the success of the first bus rapid transit system in Connecticut (CT**fastrak**), recent investments in the CT**rail** Hartford Line, and the rollout of transit-supportive technologies to develop a new Regional Transit Strategy for the Capitol Region. The project will start with an inventory and assessment of passenger amenities, including at a minimum park and ride lots, bus shelters, and rails stations. Opportunities for improving passenger access to information will also be assessed. The recommendations from the Passenger Amenity Study will then be incorporated into the Regional Transit Strategy. The Regional Transit Strategy will also build upon findings and recommendations from recent CRCOG initiatives, including the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and the Regional Complete Streets Plan as well as corridor studies such as the Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis.

Staff recommends that the committee act to approve both of these study applications for submission to CTDOT and use of STP-Urban funding. Following Transportation Committee and Policy Board action, the proposals will be forwarded to CTDOT for their review and approval. CTDOT anticipates reviewing corridor study ideas by February 1, 2018 and inviting towns/regions to clear up any questions in the spring of 2018. Selected corridor studies will be assigned to CTDOT staff during the summer of 2018. If selected, it is expected that the studies will be initiated during the fall of 2018 or thereafter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Rob Aloise (raloise@crcog.org) or myself (jcarrier@crcog.org).