

Transportation Committee
MIRA, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Monday April 23rd, 2018
12 Noon

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Larry Baril	Avon
Chris Edge	Berlin
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Todd Penney	Coventry
Jeff LeBeau	East Hartford
John Cabibbo	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Dan Pennington	Glastonbury
Kirk Severance	Granby
Jim Ford	Hartford
Kevin Kelly	Hebron
Jeff LaMalva	Manchester
Derek Dilaj	Mansfield
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Rob Trottier	New Britain
John Bossi	Plainville
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Jeff Shea	Simsbury
Keith Hayden	Southington
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Rick Zulick	Stafford
Heidi Samokar	Tolland
David Smith	Vernon
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Bob Jarvis	Windsor
Jennifer Rodriguez	Windsor Locks
Jennifer Cassidy	GHTD
Rick Baldwin	CCEJ

<u>Guests</u>	
Mary Deppe	GHTD
Peter Falk	Enfield
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Kevin Burnham	CTDOT
Charlie Carson	CTTransit
Chuck Harlow	Fuss & O'Neill
Carl Gandza	New Britain
Chris Hansen	FHWA
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield

Roy Seelye
David Stahnke

Beta Group
TranSystems

Staff

Rob Aloise
Jennifer Carrier
Jillian Massey
Tim Malone
Sotoria Montanari
Cara Radzins
Karen Stewartson
Terri Thompson
Lyle Wray

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1. **Roll Call** – Chairman Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 19th, 2018** – A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by Jeffrey Doolittle from the Town of South Windsor to accept the meeting minutes, from the March 19th, 2018 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with three abstentions from Mr. Todd Penney from the Town of Coventry, Mr. David Smith from the Town of Vernon and Mr. Derek Dilaj from the Town of Mansfield.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **FFY2017 Federally Obligated Projects** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier updated the Committee on the FFY2017 Federally Obligated Project List. Ms. Carrier noted that this list is publically made available every year and that bike/ped projects are highlighted in yellow. More information can be found at <http://crcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/ffy17-Federally-Obligated-Projects.pdf>
 - **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Roles & Responsibilities** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier gave an update on the Statement of Cooperative MPO/State/Transit Operator’s Planning Roles and Responsibilities, which is included as an appendix to CRCOG’s UPWP. Ms. Carrier noted that this statement has been updated to reflect the most recent Federal regulations, including performance measures. Ms. Carrier stated that the updated statement must be endorsed by the MPOs by May 27, 2018. Because the Policy Board meeting is scheduled for May 30, 2018, however CRCOG will be seeking endorsement by the Executive Committee on May 16, 2018. Ms. Carrier mentioned that if any of the Transportation Members have comments on the draft statement please submit them to her by May 7th, 2018 via e-mail at jcarrier@crcog.org

- **Bradley Airport Master Plan Update** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier updated the Committee on the Bradley International Airport Master Plan Update. Ms. Carrier mentioned the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) is working toward completing the Bradley international Airport Master Plan update, which will provide guidance to address improvements of airport facilities and land development considerations over the next 20 years. CRCOG serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for this effort. CAA has completed Working Paper #4 highlighting development recommendations and environmental review components. CAA will be presenting on this document at the Policy Board Meeting on April 25. CRCOG has suggested to CAA that they consider ITS parking solutions, which was discussed at previous Transportation Committee meetings. More information can be found at <http://www.bradley-planning.com/project-documents>.
- **Performance Measures** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier and Mr. Rob Aloise gave an update on Transportation Performance Measures and Target Setting for Pavement and Bridge Conditions, reviewing the memo that had been prepared. As a reminder, CTDOT must set two-year and four-year targets by May 20, 2018 for twelve (12) FHWA performance measures, six of which relate to pavement and bridge conditions. After CTDOT establishes targets, CRCOG has 180 days (until November 11, 2018) to either adopt/support each CTDOT target, or set our own. Mr. Aloise said CRCOG will continue to work with CTDOT as they develop performance targets for pavement conditions and bridges, keeping the Committee updated. Chairman Jon Colman asked if the targets include timelines and whether there is a link to funding for meeting the targets. He stated a concern that without a link to funding all of the work related to performance measures could be an exercise in futility that requires unnecessary time and money. Mr. Aloise noted that there are two-year and four-year goals associated with the targets and a funding scenario will need to be assumed in setting targets, but that there is not a link to receiving more funding based on what targets are set/met. Mr. Aloise added that a lack of funding could actually result in targets not being achieved and that the setting of the targets is a Federal requirement.
- **The Hartford Line** – Ms. Cara Radzins briefed the Committee on the upcoming opening of the CT*rail* Hartford Line and shared a press release from Gov. Malloy celebrating the opening of the Meriden Station on April 19th. Ms. Radzins stated that service will begin on June 16th, with rides the first weekend being free. Parking in the surface lots in Meriden, Wallingford, and Berlin will also be free through September 3rd. Ms. Radzins noted that a commemorative inaugural event will be held in Hartford on June 15th and that more details about that event will be forthcoming. Ms. Radzins explained that tickets will be cross-honored on CT*rail* and Amtrak trains (with the exception of the Amtrak Vermonter). Passengers boarding along the Hartford Line will also be able to buy through tickets to stations on Metro-North. They will need to transfer trains in New Haven, but they will not need new tickets. Ms. Radzins added that UPass will be accepted for rides on the Hartford Line. Ms. Radzins shared that CTDOT is working on an extensive

marketing and social media campaign to publicize the service, with advertisements to begin running regularly in May. Ms. Radzins added that CTDOT is also doing safety outreach sessions to inform schools and other institutions along the right of way about the need to be aware of increased train traffic. Mr. Peter Falk from the Town of Enfield asked about station funding and about who was attending the schools for the safety sessions. Ms. Radzins responded that the safety sessions were being conducted by CTDOT staff. Ms. Radzins also explained that only the stations already under construction had dedicated funding, which does not include Enfield, West Hartford, or Windsor Locks. Ms. Jennifer Carrier added that there are ongoing discussions about identifying potential funding opportunities for future station construction. Mr. Jim Ford from the City of Hartford noted that the City had been visited by CTDOT regarding pavement markings around railroad crossings and that Hartford would be supplementing these efforts with additional signage to increase safety and awareness.

- **Regional Complete Streets Plan Update** – Mr. Tim Malone shared that an Open Planning Studio (OPS) for CRCOG’s Complete Streets Plan Update will be held at reSET in Hartford on May 16th and 17th. The OPS will include focus groups, workshops, open houses, and public meetings. Additional information will be available on the CRCOG website (www.crcog.org/csplan) as sessions are scheduled. Mr. Malone also shared that he and Ms. Emily Hultquist will be presenting at the New England Bike/Walk Summit in Boston on April 27th.
- **Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons Re-approval** – Mr. Rob Aloise mentioned to the Committee that the Federal Highway Administration has returned Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) to the approved product list following settlement of an associated legal action involving patent protection. Mr. Aloise indicated that studies have shown that RRFBs have proven effective in warning motorists of pedestrians crossing at crosswalks. Mr. Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill noted that he had seen these beacons in action in Florida and that they seemed dangerous on roads that are wider than two lanes and that towns should be careful how the beacons are applied because they have yellow flashing lights instead of red. Mr. Jim Ford from the City of Hartford noted that they have installed a few of these signs and have seen a high degree of compliance thus far.
- **LOTICIP Quarterly (Q3) Review Report** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTICIP Quarterly Reporting Memo from the sub-committee meeting and summarized the highlights of Quarter 3 as follows:
 - CRCOG expended \$1,777,515 in Quarter 3 FY18 (Glastonbury Hebron Avenue Project and Granby Route 10/202), with cumulative totals of \$6,948,957.
 - CRCOG’s projections for remaining FY18 expenditures are approximately \$11.7M
 - CRCOG received four (4) of the ten (10) expected Quarter 3 design submissions

- CRCOG anticipates receipt of nine (9) design submissions in Quarter 4 of FY2018
- Towns of East Hartford and Windsor Locks and City of New Britain provided updated schedules during the sub-committee meeting
- **Safety Planning Update** – Ms. Jillian Massey gave an update on Safety Planning. Ms. Massey noted that CRCOG serves on the committee for the Connecticut Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). As part of the SHSP effort, CTDOT has developed topical reports related to driver behavior, roadway safety and proven safety countermeasures. Copies of these reports were included in the meeting packet, and more information can be found on the T2 Center’s website at: <https://www.t2center.uconn.edu/shsp.php>
- **Special Transportation Fund (STF) Update** – Dr. Lyle Wray shared that there may be a push to have the House vote on advancing the transfer of new car sales taxes from the general fund to the STF. This move would solve the STF issues for five years. Dr. Wray encouraged Committee members to call their legislators to highlight the specific projects and programs (such as LOTCIP) that passing this bill would keep intact. Dr. Wray also shared that neither of the budget measures currently being considered are good for the STF, as the Democratic budget does not add funding and the Republican budget includes a bonding cap. Dr. Wray added that the conversation about tolls and an increased gas tax is muddying the water and should be handled separately as a longer-term solution once the immediate needs of the STF are met. Dr. Wray reiterated that failure to make the STF whole would result in transit cuts, transit fare increases, project cancellations, construction freezes, and personnel deficits at CTDOT, all of which would have cumulative negative effects. Chairman Jon Colman noted that the conversations related to the STF are not scare tactics and that potential negative outcomes are very much a reality. Chairman Colman added that it appears that animosity between the Legislature and CTDOT seems to be playing a role in some of the rhetoric that is being used. A Committee member asked what the new car sales tax, currently in the General Funds, was meant to be used for and whether there was a bill number associated with the upcoming vote. Dr. Wray responded that the new car sales tax represents approximately \$60 million, which is a relatively small portion of the General Fund that could be absorbed fairly easily. He added that there is not currently a bill number but that he would share that information when it become available. Furthering the case for ensuring funding for transit in Connecticut, Dr. Wray shared that CT **fastrak** was recently highlighted in the Wall Street Journal as a good example of transit. Dr. Wray lauded CT **fastrak** as a successful model for bus rapid transit.
- **Eastern Gateways Study** – Ms. Cara Radzins told the Committee that three public meetings that will be held for the Eastern Gateways Study. The first public meeting will be held on April 26, 2018 in Mansfield, with meetings the following week in Coventry and Tolland. The purpose of these meetings is gather input on the study’s

final recommendations. Ms. Radzins reminded the Committee that the Eastern Gateways Study is looking at the Route 44 and Route 195 corridors in Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, and Tolland. Ms. Radzins said that the study's Final Report is expected within the next few months and that the findings will be shared with the Committee for review and endorsement. More information on the study can be found at www.cteasterngateways.com

- **Autonomous Vehicle Testing Pilot Program** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier mentioned to the Committee the launching of Connecticut's Fully Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Testing Pilot Program. Ms. Carrier said if any municipalities are interested they can submit an application. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, but OPM encourages towns to share their intent to apply as soon as possible. Ms. Carrier noted that testing areas will be limited and controlled, and that AV testing can not occur on limited access highways. Ms. Carrier noted that in the past the idea of testing AVs on CT *fastrak*'s guideway has been mentioned as a possibility. Additional information and applications can be found on the OPM website at <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=2990&q=6012014>
- **CRCOG Video Testimonial Project** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier shared that CRCOG is in the process of developing video testimonials, including one on transportation. Ms. Carrier said that as part of this effort four professionals, including Chairman Jon Colman, were interviewed about CRCOG's efforts. As part of this effort, photos are needed. As long as no meeting attendees objected, Mr. Pramod Pandey would take photos during this meeting. No one objected.

5. **STP-Urban/Block Grant Program** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier summarized discussions that took place at the Subcommittee meeting held just prior to Transportation Committee, which resulted in a recommendation that CRCOG hold on acting on a CTDOT request for approval to program approximately \$6 million of FFY2018 STP-Urban funding for two existing projects.

At the subcommittee, Ms. Carrier indicated that CRCOG staff had recently received a request from CTDOT to consider approving approximately \$6 Million of FFY2018 STP-Urban funding for two existing projects. CRCOG had also learned of \$8 million in carryforward from prior years (which included the slipping of a large project's FFY2018 construction phase to into future years). Ms. Carrier indicated that, in a meeting with CTDOT, CRCOG proposed other strategies for expending STP-Urban funding including the potential transition of a few select LOTCIP funded projects into the STP-Urban program. Ms. Carrier indicated that CTDOT was not receptive to this, due in part to previous DOT directives relating to no new project initiation and limited CTDOT staff resources.

CRCOG relayed that CTDOT also indicated that the requested \$6 million of STP-Urban expenditures this FFY would solve financial expenditure guidance from FHWA associated with federal funding, which would be difficult to solve in another manner. CTDOT indicated that if the funds are not expended they would most likely

carryover. Ms. Carrier indicated that it was relayed to CTDOT the Committee would discuss the item in May, hoping to have a solution to the STF shortfall. Ms. Carrier indicated that the one positive from the meeting was that CTDOT indicated that if LOTCIP is discontinued, much of the current STP-Urban programming for future years would need to find other funding sources so that there would be room for LOTCIP projects to transition.

Ms. Carrier relayed that CTDOT has been strategizing regarding possible policies associated LOTCIP discontinuation, including a plan for LOTCIP projects transitioning to STP-Urban funding that would involve 100% municipally funded Design phases, and 100% federal and state funded Construction phases – similar to LOTCIP. CTDOT also shared that they have drafted a general policy and have forwarded it to FHWA for potential feedback. CTDOT anticipates being ready to share the results of this with the COGs within a month or so. Ms. Carrier indicated that CRCOG has reminded CTDOT of its desire to be included in the process of drafting policy, and has offered to take a substantial role in performing (or assisting with) the administration of the STP-Urban program, similar to its current role in the LOTCIP process. Ms. Carrier indicated that per Subcommittee direction CRCOG would be reaching out to FHWA directly regarding the possibility of CRCOG either partially or fully administering the STP-Urban program.

6. TIP Amendments – Ms. Jennifer Carrier shared the revised the TIP Amendments. A motion was made by Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor, seconded by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Replace Traffic Control Signals in District 1
- Replacement of Highway Illumination Systems at Various Locations
- I-691 CCTV Installation
- FY18: Statewide Transportation Demand Management

7. Long Range Transportation Plan Authorizing Resolution – Mr. Rob Aloise briefed the Committee that the staff will be seeking the Policy Board’s approval of a resolution enabling CRCOG to contract with a consultant to assist in the preparation of the region’s Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP must be updated every four years and this update must address performance measures as well as MPO consolidation. The deadline for completion of the Plan is May 2019. A motion was made by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill, seconded by Jim Ford from the City of Hartford. This motion passed unanimously.

8. Presentation: Interstate 84 Hartford Viaduct Project update – Mr. Kevin Burnham of CTDOT gave an update on Interstate 84 Viaduct Project, including alternatives, the screening process, potential CT *fastrak* alignments, and next steps.

9. Other Business – Ms. Jennifer Cassidy from GHTD asked if there was any updated information on the potential transit fare increases. Ms. Jennifer Carrier noted that CRCOG has submitted comments about the potential fare increases and service decreased. Ms. Cara Radzins added that CTDOT remains hopeful that the STF will be made whole and that the fare increases and service reductions will not be required. With the legislative sessions closing on May 9th it is anticipated that more information will be available at next month's meeting.

10. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.