

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
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Policy Board Meeting
CRCOG Offices, 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor Board Room, Hartford, CT 06106
Wednesday, December 12, 2018
12:00 pm
DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Joe Higgins
Chris Edge
Jack Healy
Jon Colman
Sandra Pierog
Joyce Stille
Mark Walter
John Elsesser
Marcia Leclerc
Lori Spielman
Peter Falk
Vicki Shotland
Chip Beckett
Alex Beaudoin
Paul Shapiro
Scott Shanley
Robert Lee
Bill Hawkins
Steve Werbner
John Ward
Matt Hart
Peter Souza
Chris Kervick

Town/Organization

Andover
Berlin
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Bolton
Columbia
Coventry
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
GHTD
Glastonbury
Hartford
Mansfield
Manchester
Plainville
Suffield
Tolland
Vernon
West Hartford
Windsor
Windsor Locks

Staff

Rob Aloise
Cheryl Assis
Winsome Barnaby
Kimberly Bona
Hannah Casey
Maureen Goulet
Emily Hultquist
Tim Malone
Caitlin Palmer
Lyle Wray

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG Intern
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Pauline Yoder

CRCOG

Guests

Alex Johnson
Dennis Solensky
Grayson Wright
Stefanie Boles
Maura Cook

Capital Workforce Partners
CTDOT
CTDOT Dept. Coordinator
United Way COO
United Way Marketing Director

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Marcia Leclerc called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2018:

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Policy Board Meeting minutes from November 14, 2018. Joyce Stille seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence/Handouts:

- [Masslive article: State Senator Eric Lessner pledges to keep East-West rail top issue in wake of 2018 election](#)

Dr. Wray stated there is a lot of progress being made on the “East-West” rail and it is gaining a lot of support and attention.

Handout #1: [Connecticut Tolling Options Evaluation Study](#)

Handout #2: [Long Range Transportation Plan \(LRTP\) Survey](#)

Dr. Lyle Wray announced that Rob Aloise has accepted a promotion as CRCOG’s Director of Transportation and Planning. He congratulated Rob and thanked the interview panel for the time they volunteered during the process.

Rob Aloise expressed he is thankful for the opportunity to serve as the next Director of Transportation and Planning and is excited to take on the position.

Emily Hultquist introduced CRCOG’s new Principal Planner, Caitlin Palmer to the Board. Ms. Hultquist welcome Caitlin and stated CRCOG is excited to have her on board.

5. Monthly Reports:

a. Chair and Executive Director Report

Executive Director Dr. Lyle Wray provided this update to the Board. He asked if the Board had any questions regarding his monthly report. There were no questions.

b. Opportunities and Resources

Dr. Wray presented at UCONN's Collaborative Research Institute event last Friday on performance measurement. He stated that event received great reviews.

Dr. Wray attended the "Future of Well Being OECD World Forum on Statistics Knowledge and Policy" in Seoul Korea the week of November 26th at. The forum webpage is at: <https://www.oecd-6wf.go.kr/eng/main.do> Dr. Wray's presentation at the forum is on video at: <https://www.facebook.com/appliedsurveyresearch/videos/1995351873877054/> at minute 27:45. CRCOG funds were not used for this trip.

c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council

Peter Souza provided the following update to the Board:

The CRPC will open bids for Traffic Guidelines and Gasoline Thursday, December 13th, and we will ask for requirements for Grass Seed which will be due on January 9th.

Two resolutions are on today's meeting agenda for our ezIQC contracts for regional General Contractors and Road & Bridge Maintenance Contractors.

The Municipal Services Committee met on December 4th and received a presentation regarding the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Peter Souza thanked Tim Malone and Rob Aloise for the LRTP update.

Interviews with the finalists for the Cybersecurity RFP will be conducted on December 17th.

d. Policy and Planning

Emily Hultquist provided this update to the Board.

CRCOG's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted last week to DEMHS and is under review before going to EPA. Once reviewed by EPA, the plan will come back for adoption in each of the Capitol Region Municipalities.

CRCOG is still waiting to hear the result of the DECD Brownfields Grant application. DECD received a very large amount of applications and is still going through the review process.

On January 17th the first Quarterly Planner's Lunch and Learn series will take place at CRCOG. All municipal planners in CRCOG communities will be invited to attend. Mayor Leclerc stated that the topic of funding Enterprise Zones would be an area of interest for these discussions.

CRCOG is planning to work with CERC to hold a forum on Opportunity Zones in the early part of 2019.

Resolution on EPA Brownfields Grant:

CRCOG would like to apply for an EPA Brownfields grant of the maximum amount - \$300,000 to continue doing assessments through the MetroHartford Brownfields Program. An email will go out to all communities along the CTfastrak and CTrail Hartford Line within the CRCOG region with a link to our Brownfields Inventory mapping to understand any interest from those communities in assessing any of the sites highlighted by the inventory. The most recent previous EPA Brownfields grant application, although unsuccessful, had scored well in encouraging transit-oriented development, so staff are considering a transit-oriented approach for this round of applications.

e. Public Safety and Homeland Security

Joyce Stille stated that per the report last meeting, The Connecticut Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications had an informational meeting with interested Police Chiefs in our region last week in terms of municipalities joining the statewide radio system. Several towns have joined, and Coventry will be the first from our region. It is a Motorola system and they are just completing a P25 upgrade now. 98% coverage with 24/7 monitoring. It appears that some of our communities may likely utilize this option. John Elsesser described Coventry's experience and stated it has been approved by their Council.

The MOA's for 2018 homeland security funds were recently sent by DEMHS to each community and are due back to CRCOG on January 7th. Thus far, we have had a very good return rate. Please contact Cheryl Assis if you have any questions.

f. Transportation Committee

Jon Colman provided this update to the Board.

Federal FAST-ACT Rescission Mitigation – Mr. Jon Colman briefed the committee on the potential of an upcoming federal Transportation Funding rescission, including:

- A rescission of unobligated (carryover) FAST-Act federal funding at the end of FFY2019 (September 30, 2019) appears unavoidable.
- \$7.6 Billion nationwide of FHWA transportation funding is at risk
- \$165 Million is at risk in CT. CTDOT proposes mitigation strategies to reduce this to \$38 Million.
- The mitigation strategies include TIP actions relying heavily on moving projects into and out of the STP-Urban program (which is immune to the rescission).
- This rescission only applies to FFY2019.
- The Transportation Committee has approved the related TIP action requests which the Policy Board will be acting on today.
- The Federal Local Bridge Program (funding many Municipal Bridges) and the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (funding for trail projects) will remain most affected, however CTDOT has assured the Transportation Committee that no projects will be delayed and will use other funding sources (including state funding) to assure this.

Long Range Transportation Plan – Mr. Tim Malone briefed the committee on ongoing update if the CRCOG Transportation Plan, including:

- The plan outlines the region's priorities for spending federal transportation funds in the region and lays out a vision through 2045.
- The Plan is federally mandated and updated every three to four years.
- A first round of outreach has been underway, and a handout is provided containing information on how to access the plan's public survey and website.
- A Draft plan is anticipated to be available this February for a 30-day comment period, during which staff will present it at the Transportation Committee and Policy Board.

LOTICIP On-Call Lists RFQ – Mr. Jon Colman briefed the committee on plans to issue an RFQ for CRCOG, including:

- Terms for many On-Call List consultants are coming to an end on May 30th.
- CRCOG is initiating the process of identifying consultants to serve on its three LOTCIP On-Call lists for 36-month terms beginning June 1st.

g. Capital Workforce Partners

Alex Johnson provided an update on the Strategic Plan to the Board. He explained that the plan will be sent to CRCOG for review prior to going to the State for approval.

6. Presentation/Updates:

- **Metro Hartford Future (CEDS) Update, Tim Malone CEDS Project Manager**

Tim Malone provided an update to the Board on the Metro Hartford Future (CEDS). He stated that the opportunity is to build on existing momentum, develop a bold strategic plan for a more competitive region and to catalyze broad, cross-sector partnerships and investments.

He discussed the CEDS Logic Model, strategies and solutions.

Next steps include:

- Release draft for public review
- Create Implementation Committee
- Submit plan to EDA, OPM, and DECD
- Present to regional boards of directors (United Way, Alliance, HFPG, etc.)
- Working Groups
- Apply for Economic Development District status.

To view the presentation please click [here](#).

- **United Way: The Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE), Stefanie Boles, United Way Chief Operating Officer**

Stefanie Boles and Maura Cook presented a report overview to the Board on ALICE and explained that ALICE households have earnings above the Federal Poverty Level, but below a basic cost-of-living threshold. Household income in Connecticut between 2010-2016 show financial hardship increasing.

Stefanie Boles discussed ALICE in our region. The highest proportion of ALICE households are in Hartford, New Britain, Windham, East Hartford, Mansfield and Vernon. She stated that the United Way continues to focus of investing in programs, services and initiatives that have a direct impact on ALICE household budgets.

Stefanie Boles encouraged the Board to visit: www.MakingToughChoices.org
By visiting this website, individuals may experience some of the tough choices ALICE families are faced with daily and how United Way is doing all they can do to help along the way.

To view the presentation please click [here](#).

ACTION ITEMS:

7. Action: RESOLUTION Authorizing CRCOG to Submit the Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the Economic Development Administration and Release for Public Comment

Jon Colman made a motion to accept the RESOLUTION Authorizing CRCOG to Submit the Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the Economic Development Administration and Release for Public Comment as presented. Joyce Stille seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Action: RESOLUTION Authorizing Application to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Brownfield Assessment Grant

Jon Colman made a motion to accept the RESOLUTION Authorizing Application to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Brownfield Assessment Grant as presented. Dr. Chip Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Action: RESOLUTION Authorizing Four EZIQC Regional Contractor Awards – General Construction

Joyce Stille made a motion to accept the RESOLUTION Authorizing Four EZIQC Regional Contractor Awards – Road and Bridge and to accept the RESOLUTION Authorizing Four EZIQC Regional Contractor Awards – General Construction as presented. Jon Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

10. Action: RESOLUTION Authorizing Four EZIQC Regional Contractor Awards – Road and Bridge (approved as part of motion made for agenda item #9)

Metropolitan Planning Organization Items:

11. Action: TIP Amendments

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the TIP Amendments as presented. Joyce Stille seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Information/Opportunity/Resource Items

12. 2018 Legislative Update

Kathie Lutz explained the transition team is formed and things are moving along. There has been discussion of creating a COO position.

13. 2019 CRCOG Legislative Agenda

Dr. Wray stated the first legislative call was held last week. A draft agenda is being worked on and will be completed shortly and circulated for additional input.

14. CRCOG Recruitments

This was discussed earlier in the meeting. Two staff vacancies remain at CRCOG.

15. Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Adjournment

With no further discussion items, Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adjourn.

Jon Colman moved to adjourn the meeting. Joyce Stille seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.