

**Cost Review Sub-Committee Meeting  
MIRA, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT 06106  
Monday June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**DRAFT until  
Endorsed by  
the  
Committee**

**Name**

Larry Baril  
Chris Edge  
Jon Colman  
Joyce Stille  
Jeff LeBeau  
Lori Spielman  
Peter Falk  
Russ Arnold  
Kirk Severance  
Sandy Fry  
Kevin Kelly  
Jeff LaMalva  
Derek Dilaj  
Rob Trottier  
Gary Fuerstenberg  
Jim Sollmi  
Jeff Doolittle  
Scott Lappen  
Duane Martin  
Derrick Gregor  
Bob Jarvis  
Jennifer Rodriguez

**Organization**

Avon  
Berlin  
Bloomfield  
Bolton  
East Hartford  
Ellington  
Enfield  
Farmington  
Granby  
Hartford  
Hebron  
Manchester  
Mansfield  
New Britain  
Newington  
Rocky Hill  
South Windsor  
Tolland  
West Hartford  
Wethersfield  
Windsor  
Windsor Locks

**Guests**

No guests were in attendance

**Staff**

Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

- 1. Roll Call** – Mr. Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 11:00 am
- 2. Public Forum**- No one chose to speak.
- 3. Adoption of April 23, 2018 Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** - A motion was made by Peter Falk from the Town of Enfield, seconded by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington, with one abstention made by Scott Lappen from the Town of Tolland, to accept

the meeting minutes from the April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.

#### 4. LOTCIP Update

- **Guidance from CTDOT** – Ms. Carrier summarized a June 6<sup>th</sup> e-mail from Hugh Hayward of CTDOT regarding the status of LOTCIP program post 2018/2019 State budget. As a reminder, since Special Transportation Fund solvency issues arose last Fall, the LOTCIP program has been in jeopardy of discontinuation. Ms. Carrier summarized the e-mail’s content, including:
  - That recent Legislative session provided sufficient funds to support the continued solvency of the STF and the continuation of the LOTCIP into the foreseeable future.
  - The previously approved budget contains \$62 million in SFY 18 for LOTCIP and the most recently approved Public Act 18-178 includes \$64 million in SFY 19 for LOTCIP.
  - The Department’s Local Roads section will resume normal business operations in administering the LOTCIP.
  - The Department has indicated that there are outstanding resource issues and vacant positions that they are working to address. In the interim, the Local Roads section is prioritizing LOTCIP project work by (1) moving final design packages to actual construction, (2), resolving outstanding comments and issuing Commitment to Fund letters on proposals that were temporarily suspended as a result of the January 18, 2018 email, and (3) reviewing new LOTCIP project proposals.
  - CTDOT will no longer be requesting and receiving an up-front LOTCIP funding each fiscal year. OPM, who ultimately decides what is included on an State Bond Commission (SBC) agenda, questioned the unexpended balances and subsequently instructed the Department to request funding in increments as needed. Therefore, recent and future SBC requests will be based on design completion schedules, so that funding requests that go before the SBC are based on upcoming anticipated payments and not Commitment to Fund Letters.

Ms. Carrier highlighted CRCOG concerns regarding CTDOT’s stated resource issues and vacant positions. Ms. Carrier indicated that the total value of CTDOT approved “Commitment to Fund” letters within the region totaled \$6.4 million in FY2017 and \$11.6 million in FY2018. However, for CRCOG’s LOTCIP funding and expenditures to be comparable to the Surface Transportation Program, approvals in the \$18 to \$20 million per year range are necessary. The committee was informed that a letter had been sent from CRCOG’s Executive Director to CTDOT’s Chief Engineer highlighting CRCOG’s concerns, including CRCOG’s 30, 60, and 90 day needs for additional LOTCIP Commitment to Fund Letters. The letter also requested additional CTDOT staff or consultant resources be employed towards meeting these needs. Transportation committee may want to continue holding-off approving STP-Urban TIP amendments/actions until the issues highlighted in the letter are addressed to CRCOG’s satisfaction.

- **Fast-tracking LOTCIP projects-** Ms. Jennifer Carrier stated that the recent STF issues will negatively impact the ramping-up of LOTCIP program expenditures. To address this issue, Ms. Carrier outlined a plan that would fast-track projects with the goal of inducing additional FY2019 expenditures. The subcommittee agreed that the region should seek out towns willing to commit to fast-tracking their current LOTCIP proposals from the 2018 solicitation. Eligible projects would be selected based on ability to deliver, completely bypassing the rating based selection process. The subcommittee decided that identifying up

to \$5 million of projects would be appropriate and that this amount of LOTCIP funding would be in addition to the \$25.5 million that would be awarded to the remaining 2018 solicitation projects on a competitive basis. Ms. Carrier indicated that there will be considerations to include LOTCIP approved projects from other past solicitations. Within this framework, CRCOG staff would be given the leeway to determine the appropriate rules for this fast-tracking effort and would issue a letter inviting towns to apply. Also, a possible future second tier solicitation could include other project types. A motion was made by Peter Falk from the Town of Enfield to authorize staff to initiate the fast-tracking effort as discussed. The motion was seconded by Joyce Stille from the Town of Bolton and passed unanimously.

- 5. FHWA Performance Measures and Target Setting- Bridge Conditions-** Mr. Rob Aloise reviewed the Bridge Conditions memo including CTDOT's Bridge Performance Measure Targets with the Committee. Mr. Aloise indicated that the targets are based on CTDOT's projections using their dTIMS Bridge Management System assuming continuation of 2017 expenditure levels. Mr. Aloise stated that currently, 15.0% of NHS Bridges statewide (by deck area) are categorized in Poor condition, with a similar percentage (15.7%) of NHS Bridges within CRCOG experiencing Poor conditions. A federal penalty is assessed if the percent of poor condition NHS deck area exceeds 10% for 3 consecutive years. Reaching CTDOT's 2-year and 4-year targets of 7.9% and 5.7% respectively, would result in an improvement of NHS bridge conditions statewide and would avoid associated penalties. Mr. Aloise restated staff recommendation as presented in the memo, including that the Sub-Committee support the Statewide 2-year and 4-year targets, including measures to monitor conditions and help achieve these targets. A motion was made by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill, seconded by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington to support the CTDOT Targets for NHS Bridge Conditions. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 6. Time Permitting: FHWA Performance Measures and Target Setting- Pavement Conditions-** Due to time constraints this item was not discussed. A motion was made by Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to postpone this agenda item (FHWA Performance Measures and Target Setting - Pavement Conditions) until the July meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 7. Other Business**
  - The next Cost Review Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 at 11:00 am
- 8. Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am