

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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## **CRCOG FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS MEETING**

CRCOG, 241 Main Street, Hartford (Conference call option provided)

Monday, June 25, 2018 at 9 a.m.

### **Attendees**

Stephen Cassano  
Dave Kilbon  
Chip Beckett  
Lyle Wray  
Marcia Leclerc (via phone)  
Lee Erdmann (via phone)  
Diane Smith (via phone)  
Brandon Robertson (via phone)  
Lori Spielman  
John Adams  
John Carson  
Douglas Fisher  
Paul Shapiro  
Brian Heavren  
Robert Lee

### **CRCOG Staff and Guests**

Hedy Ayers  
Kim Bona  
Jennifer Carrier  
Emily Hultquist  
Mary Ellen Kowalewski  
Tim Malone  
Kip Bergstrom

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

### **2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes (April 23, 2018)**

Chip Beckett made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 23, 2018 as presented. John Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

**3. Action Item: Election of Directors**

Hedy Ayers informed Board that Matt Hart will not be serving for another term as a Director. The following Directors have terms expiring in 2018 and are eligible to be re-elected for a two-year term, expiring in 2020:

Chip Beckett  
John Carson  
Stephen Cassano  
Mary Glassman

Dave Kilbon made a motion to re-elect the Directors as presented above, for a two-year term set to expire in 2020. John Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

**4. Action Item: Election of Officers**

John Carson made a motion to elect the following officers for a one-year term:

President - Stephen Cassano  
Vice President – David Kilbon  
Secretary – Lee Erdmann  
Treasure – Chip Beckett

John Adams seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.

**5. Board Membership Diversification Discussion**

Hedy Ayers reviewed a handout consisting of a list of individuals recommended by the CRCOG Foundation Board and CRCOG Staff, as well as recommendations from the Leadership Greater Hartford (LGH) to serve on the CRCOG Foundation Board. She explained that there is no maximum limit of members allowed to serve on the Foundation Board, but there is a minimum requirement of three (3) members. Dave Kilbon pointed out that the larger the Board, the larger the quorum requirement. He feels we need to be mindful of this.

Discussion ensued regarding possible prospects to serve on the CRCOG Foundation Board.

Dr. Lyle Wray suggested reaching out to Mohamed Alkadry, Department Head of the Department of Public Policy (DPP) at UCONN to see if he would be interested in serving on the Board. He also suggested reaching out to Patrick McMahon, President and CEO of Connecticut Main Street Center. President Cassano stated he met with UCONN leaders and they are willing to offer a full-time intern to work directly with CRCOG. John Carson recommended Jennifer Widness, President at Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC). Dr. Wray concurred. Chip Beckett feels it is important to reach out to someone in the hospital system. John Carson suggested

contacting John Rossi, Director of Hartford Healthcare Office of Project Management. Discussion followed.

Hedy Ayers and Dr. Wray will begin by reaching out to Katie Hunlock, Larry Milan, Christopher Duffy (LGH's suggestions) as well as Mohamed Alkadry, Patrick McMahon and John Rossi to inquire whether they have any interest in serving on the CRCOG Foundation Board.

## **6. Project Updates**

### **a. Rebooting New England (Kip Bergstrom)**

Dr. Lyle Wray welcomed and introduced Kip Bergstrom to the Board. Mr. Bergstrom briefed the Board members on the Rebooting New England project. He stated the high-speed service from Hartford to New York is an incredible economic development strategy for the region. He discussed the outcomes of four "Rebooting New England" Roundtables that took place between February 27<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Bergstrom stated there are approximately twenty leaders willing to serve on the "New England Powerhouse Partnership" to help drive the initiative going forward. Next steps include obtaining a rigorous business case analysis for the entire project, and developing an economic development strategy. Discussion followed.

### **b. UCONN Policy Institute**

Related updates will be provided at the next meeting.

### **c. Metro Hartford Future (CEDDS)**

Tim Malone provided an update on CEDDS. He explained that Hartford's population is trailing behind benchmark regions. He stated our goals include the following:

- Enhance Regional Collaboration to Promote and Grow the Region;
- Create the Workforce of Tomorrow; and
- Establish a Vibrant Quality of Place to Retain and Attract Talent.

Working groups are taking place tomorrow, June 26<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Tim stated that the intent is to have this wrapped up by December 2018.

Dr. Lyle Wray stated that a proposed memo to the Fiscal Stability Commission will be presented to the CRCOG Executive Committee at its August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Discussion followed.

John Carson asked if any thought has been given to making the public aware prior to the implementation phase. Tim Malone stated yes and explained that "MetroHartford Progress Points" will be released and viewed by the public. Dr. Lyle Wray stated a rollout strategy must be done.

Lori Spielman stated Hartford does not make any effort towards vocational schools. She expressed the importance of enticing those who want to learn a trade. Dr. Wray spoke about the German Dual Track Education Model, stating it is a vocational model and has been adopted in eleven states. He explained this model is not about money, it is about organization.

#### **d. Next Generation Economic Development**

##### **i. German Dual Track Educational Model**

A video on the German Dual Track Education Model was shown to the Board. Dr. Wray stated the Commissioner of Labor is interested in this model. There will be a meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the German Educational Model at CRCOG. He will update the Board on the outcome.

##### **ii. East Coast Industry Forum**

CRCOG is co-sponsoring the East Coast Industry Forum that will be held in Hartford on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Staff will work with the New York-based German American Chamber of Commerce and the MetroHartford Alliance to promote the event.

#### **e. Anchor Institutions**

- Mary Ellen Kowalewski provided an update on Anchor Institutions to the Board, stating this project is funded by a Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) Grant. The project focuses on the engagement of a wide array of stakeholders in discussions on rapid transit, rail and TOD in the **CTfastrak and CTrail Hartford Line Corridors**, and how it might benefit individuals, businesses and organizations, and neighborhoods. The project name has been simplified to “**MetroHartford TOD: Connecting People, Places & Jobs**” in order to have the project title be more understandable to the people we hope to engage.

She stated that in order to expand public engagement and excitement around TOD, we have expanded the traditional definition of anchor institutions. This acknowledges the importance of small business growth in building vitality in the corridors. Anchor institutions are those establishments that play a significant role in a community. Anchors can vary in size and type, from a large university campus to a beloved local small business.

For this TOD market analysis, CRCOG is reaching out to:

- Educational institutions
- Health care agencies
- Arts and culture organizations
- Major employers
- Anchor businesses, including unique mom-and-pop stores
- Civic organizations

- Recreational groups
- Business associations
- Community and neighborhood associations
- Municipal organizations

Key tasks include:

- **An assessment of the current environment and attitudes toward rapid transit and TOD among key stakeholders.** Our consultants and Emily Hultquist have conducted interviews with 15 different stakeholders to date, with more to come in July. Key takeaways from these conversations will be summarized and will be used to inform the development of communications messages, materials and strategies to engage more institutions in transit supportive growth, and more individuals in the use of our rapid transit systems.
- **Asset mapping** that shows the wealth of arts and entertainment venues, colleges and universities, medical facilities, major employers, government offices, and other attractions like breweries, that are accessible by rapid transit and rail. Research is completed—preparing interactive map for website.
- The team will work with area employers **to identify barriers to attracting and retaining talent, and what role TOD can play in developing a skilled and vibrant workforce.**
- The project will also assemble into one place links to the range of tools that have already been developed to support TOD, such as financing sources and development strategies.

The anticipated project completion is April 2019.

#### **f. Video Testimonial Project**

Hedy Ayers stated the “Shared Services” video is complete. The next video to be created will be on “Transportation”, and the third and final will be on “Public Safety”. She played the “Shared Services” video for the Board. Hedy will send the link to the Foundation Board members who called into the meeting.

#### **g. CRCOG Communications Plan**

Hedy Ayers stated that CRCOG has hired a consulting firm to explore ways of improving the agency’s internal and external communication. She explained that a draft report has been completed for review and the goal is to have a final report done by the end of this summer.

**7. Scheduling Upcoming Events**

Dr. Lyle Wray stated there is a lot going on right now at CRCOG relating to the CEDS, vocational training, the transition to the next State Administration, the Long Range Transportation Plan, Anchor Institutions and Brownfields.

**8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**9. Adjournment**

Chip Beckett made a motion to adjourn at 10:35 a.m. Lori Spielman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote.