

To: CRCOG Transportation Committee
CRCOG Policy Board

From: Robert Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning

CC: Cara Radzins, Principal Transit Planner

Date: April 12, 2019

Subject: Draft FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program

CRCOG's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the transportation planning work plan for the Region. It summarizes the numerous programs, projects, and products that CRCOG in coordination with other transportation agencies, including the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), Connecticut Transit (*CTtransit*), and the Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD), expect to conduct and accomplish over the next two years (FY2020 and FY2021). It also documents the Region's proposed expenditure of federal, state, and local transportation planning funds. The UPWP is required by the federal government under 23 CFR Part 450.308. Its intent is to ensure that the transportation planning program in the Capitol Region is a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) multimodal process.

The complete Draft UPWP document is available for review and download on the CRCOG website at <http://crcog.org/2016/05/unified-planning-work-program-upwp/>.

We are awaiting review comments from CTDOT and federal agencies, however, we would like to consider endorsement and adoption of the UPWP in May. Comments on the draft will be accepted up until the next Transportation Committee meeting, scheduled for May 20, 2019, and can be directed to Cara Radzins at cradzins@crcog.org.

A summary of the important activities contained in the UPWP is attached to this memorandum. In addition to these activities, CRCOG staff will be carrying out the following standard work tasks:

1. Management of the Planning Process
2. Data Inventory, GIS, and Forecasting
3. Planning and Policy Development
4. Technical Assistance and Project Development
5. Public Participation, Title VI, and Environmental Justice

IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

Provided below is a list of some of the major activities in which CRCOG will be involved in the next two years. Some of these are new, and some are a continuation of activities initiated in previous years. In addition to addressing the requirements of MAP-21 and FAST Act legislation, these activities are designed to address issues and deficiencies identified in CRCOG's current Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which was updated in FY2019. All activities are likely to require substantial effort on the part of CRCOG committee members and staff.

OPPORTUNITIES IN FY2020-FY2021

FAST Act and previous MAP-21 Transportation Legislation. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Act, are federal transportation bills that identify a number of policies and requirements of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). CRCOG has been and will continue working with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and other partners to implement components of the legislation (e.g. transportation performance metrics).

Models of Regional Planning. CRCOG will continue to work with CTDOT and its member municipalities to update regional plans to incorporate local priorities and needs. CRCOG will also continue to work to promote cooperation and coordination across MPO boundaries and across State boundaries where appropriate to ensure a regional approach to transportation planning.

Long Range Transportation Planning. CRCOG updated its Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in FY2019. CRCOG will work towards realizing the recommendations within that Plan by initiating studies and projects; coordinating with other agencies; and working towards the amelioration of the issues and deficiencies identified within the Plan. CRCOG will update this Plan as needed.

Livable Sustainable Communities. CRCOG acknowledges the importance of taking an integrated, regional approach to transportation, land use, economic development and the environment. Staff will continue to promote transportation planning and design that supports livable communities' goals. Funding through potential new programs will be monitored and pursued. CRCOG will also work in cooperation with CTDOT and other state and local agencies to improve transportation system resiliency in the face of climate change, sea level rise, and severe storm events, and support CTDOT's climate change and resiliency planning efforts.

HIGHWAY AND INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES

CRCOG will work with CTDOT, municipal officials, and other stakeholders to advance infrastructure projects and initiatives that address safety, mobility, and streamlining. Such efforts include the following:

Interstate 84 (I-84) Hartford Project. CTDOT is advancing environmental planning and engineering for the I-84 Hartford Project in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS is being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

and Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). This project also poses a major financial challenge with costs to lower the existing viaduct anticipated to be approximately \$4.3-\$5.3 billion. CRCOG will continue to work with CTDOT, the City of Hartford, and other stakeholders to understand how to finance this important transportation project.

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP). CRCOG will work to continue the success of this state-funded program, which provides funding for municipal projects of regional significance. Since LOTICIP's inception in FY2014, CRCOG has been charged with administering between \$12.6 million and \$20.7 million annually under this program. It is expected that CRCOG will administer approximately \$17 million annually in FY2020 and FY2021. Anticipated FY2020 and FY2021 tasks include refining program guidelines, advancing regionally significant projects, working with selected consultants for CRCOG On-Call Program Management and Design Review assistance, and program management. Work under this program will not be billed under the UPWP work tasks, rather directly charged to the LOTICIP program.

System Investment and Performance. CRCOG will continue to put emphasis on safety programs as well as operations and maintenance initiatives. As it relates to safety, CRCOG will identify critical safety locations, consider the needs of older drivers and vulnerable users, and support the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. CRCOG will also assist CTDOT in the development of regional goals for the transportation system, and in the development of a set of performance measures by which the attainment of these goals may be tracked. CRCOG will work with CTDOT, FHWA, FTA and other stakeholders to continue to assess performance metrics and establish targets appropriate to the Region, in accordance with the regulations being promulgated by USDOT with regard to MAP-21 and FAST Act requirements.

TRANSIT INITIATIVES

CRCOG will support on-going special transit initiatives, including the following:

Regional Transit Strategy. CRCOG will update its Regional Transit Strategy (RTS), which was previously developed in 2001. The RTS will guide improvements to and expansion of the Region's transit services while leveraging the strength of CTfastrak, the CTrail Hartford Line, and innovations in technology. The effort will include an inventory and assessment of passenger amenities and will identify opportunities for improving passenger information. In addition to identifying ways to improve the Region's transit system, the RTS will take a deeper look at financial implications and trade-offs; focus on implementation strategies for transit priority corridors; and establish guiding principles for the Capitol Region's transit system.

CTfastrak Expansion. Based on previous studies and analyses, CRCOG will continue to work with CTDOT, CTtransit, local municipalities, and other stakeholders to support the advancement of this project in order to realize higher levels of bus service east of the Connecticut River.

The Hartford Line. CRCOG will continue to support state and municipal efforts to advance future rail and station needs north of Hartford. CRCOG will assist with technical infrastructure and station planning efforts and support for local efforts to promote transit oriented development near proposed stations. CRCOG will also work with other planning entities such as PVPC and CTDOT

to ensure that the interests of the CRCOG Region are reflected in other planning efforts for intercity or commuter rail planning efforts throughout New England.

Engaging Anchor Institutions and Neighborhoods in Transit Oriented Development.

Continue to work to engage anchor institutions, government, and community organizations in CT**fastrak**, CT**fastrak** Expansion, and CT**Trail**-Hartford Line Corridors in an effort to spur mutually beneficial relationships that generate TOD, economic growth, and tourism in the region.

STUDIES

CRCOG will work with CTDOT, municipal officials, and other stakeholders to advance a number of studies, which are discussed in detail in the following tasks:

- Transportation Safety and Improvement Study, Farmington and Hartford
- Route 5 Corridor Study, East Windsor
- Silver Lane (SR 502) Corridor Study, East Hartford
- Roundabout Safety and Feasibility Screening
- Regional Transit Strategy Update
- Transit Priority Corridor Implementation Strategy
- Routes 190 and 220 Corridor Study (Enfield)
- Farmington Area Connectivity Study

Additional study efforts that are smaller in scope as it relates to CRCOG’s involvement are discussed in Task 4: Technical Assistance and Project Development.

OTHER EMPHASIS AREAS

Freight. CRCOG will continue to work with statewide partners in developing and evaluating effective approaches to freight planning. CRCOG utilizes a freight planning strategy that includes a continuous planning approach to address freight transportation needs and enable the region to proactively consider freight transportation needs in the overall planning process. CRCOG will also continue to outreach to freight stakeholders and refine the regional freight transportation infrastructure inventory. CRCOG remains available to participate in FHWA’s freight advisory group and will continue to work with neighboring regions and states on freight issues that go beyond the boundaries of CRCOG.

Vulnerable Users Planning. CRCOG will continue to support a variety of activities intended to make the Region more bicycle and pedestrian friendly and to provide more opportunities for active transportation. CRCOG continues to work on a regional active transportation inventory, assessment, and action plan that will replace the existing CRCOG Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. CRCOG will also work with its member municipalities to formulate and adopt a regional active transportation policy. In conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, CRCOG will organize a series of training events centered on active transportation and complete streets as well as develop related implementation projects.