

Transportation Committee
CRCOG, 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hartford, CT 06106
Monday, March 25th, 2019
12 Noon

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Larry Baril	Avon
Chris Edge	Berlin
Patrice Carson	Bolton
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Neil Pade	Canton
Todd Penney	Coventry
Doug Wilson	East Hartford
Timothy Webb	Ellington
Donald Nunes	Enfield
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Kirk Severance	Granby
Sandra Fry	Hartford
Jeff LaMalva	Manchester
John Carrington	Mansfield
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Gary Fuerstenberg	Newington
John Bossi	Plainville
Stephen Sopelak	Rocky Hill
Tom Roy	Simsbury
Bill Hawkins	Suffield
David Smith	Vernon
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Bob Jarvis	Windsor
Jennifer Rodriguez	Windsor Locks
Jennifer Cassidy	GHTD

Guests

Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Leo Fontaine	CTDOT
Erik Shortell	FHWA-CT
Kurt Salmoiraghi	FHWA-CT
Charles Harlow	Fuss & O'Neill
Kasia Purciello	Enfield
Amy Parmenter	AAA, Greater Hartford

Staff

Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG

DRAFT until

Endorsed

by the

Committee

Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Dr. Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Mr. Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
2. **Public Forum** – There was no public comment.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from February 25th, 2019** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to accept the February 25th, 2019 meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously with six (6) abstentions made by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington, Stephen Sopelak from the Town of Rocky Hill, Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington, Kirk Severance from the Town of Granby, Kevin Kelly from the Town of Hebron, and Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury.
4. **Staff Report**
 - **FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program** – Ms. Cara Radzins informed the Committee that CRCOG staff is in the process of drafting the FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which will be submitted to CTDOT at the end of the week. This document outlines CRCOG’s transportation activities and budget for the next two fiscal years. The draft will be shared with the Committee in April, and staff will be seeking action on it in May.
 - **Eversource Utility Relocation Charges Update** – Mr. Robert Aloise gave a brief update on the Eversource Utility Relocation Charges. Mr. Aloise mentioned to the Committee that John Elsesser (Coventry Town Manager) submitted a list of questions to Kevin Witkos (Eversource Community Relations Specialist) regarding Eversource’s Utility relocation charge policies and had received some responses. The Committee was asked if any of the municipalities had conflicts with Eversource in regards to utility relocation charges. Mr. Peter Hughes of Marlborough indicated he had been charged for a project and knew of other towns that experienced similar problems. Mr. Hughes suggested that filing a complaint with PURA was ultimately going to be required to reach a resolution on this issue and therefore should be done sooner than later. Additional discussion occurred regarding the eligibility for Eversource payments based on roadway, funding program, and project type. It was noted that it would be helpful to outline not only current activities but also previous ones in order to demonstrate what appears to be a change in Eversource policy regarding relocation charges to towns. Mr. Jon Colman noted that there is a standing recommendation from the Committee to Policy Board regarding filing a complaint with PURA. Ms. Colman indicated that he will urge the Policy Board to move forward with a complaint at the April 3rd meeting.
 - **Corridor Advisory Committee Meeting: April 4th, 2019** – Ms. Caitlin Palmer gave a brief update on the Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC). CRCOG will be

hosting the second CAC Meeting of 2019 on April 4th. The CAC was launched in 2013 to provide the chief elected officials and other interested parties of the cities and towns on the CT **rail** Hartford Line and the CT **fastrak** corridors with a forum to share information and tools. Now in its 6th year, the CAC has proven to be a valuable resource, and CRCOG has committed to holding a meeting each quarter as several pressing topics such as opportunity zones, engaging anchor institutions, the Springfield to Worcester rail link, and advanced scenario planning as it relates to transit-oriented development will warrant more regular discussion.

- **Active Transportation Subcommittee Update** – Mr. Tim Malone noted that the Committee had previously directed staff to formulate an Active Transportation Subcommittee comprised of a cross-section of member municipalities. The committee will be tasked with developing a Regional Complete Streets Policy that will ultimately be endorsed by the Transportation Committee and approved by the Policy Board. Mr. Malone indicated that a variety of towns have expressed interest in serving on this Subcommittee. The first meeting of the Subcommittee will be held on April 22nd, following the Transportation Committee meeting. Additional interested individuals are welcome to contact Tim at tmalone@crcog.org.
- **CRCOG's Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee Testimony** – Dr. Lyle Wray shared that CRCOG supplied written testimony to the Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee on March 15, 2019. The testimony emphasized that the proposed budget would omit \$250 million in bonds that were dedicated to transportation projects and leverage Federal dollars 4:1. Additionally, Dr. Wray mentioned that CRCOG supported the new car tax transfer to the Special Transportation Fund (STF) to keep it solvent. He mentioned that in order to issue bonds, a five year solvency of the Special Transportation Fund is necessary, so resolving these issues is critical. Dr. Wray indicated that it appears this concerns will be addressed, and the STF will remain solvent.
- **Regional Bikeshare RFP** – Ms. Caitlin Palmer gave a brief update on the Regional Bikeshare RFP. CRCOG held a first meeting with interested communities on March 20th about issuing an RFP for regional bikeshare. Twenty communities expressed interest, with 17 attending the meeting. The meeting included a presentation of general information about bikeshare and case studies. Communities were asked to think about what questions they have that they will need answered in order to decide whether or not they will join the CRCOG RFP as an official participating community. Questions are encouraged to be emailed to CRCOG in advance of the next meeting so staff can provide answers to the group. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25th. Contact Caitlin at cpalmer@crcog.org for more information or to find out if your town has a representative.
- **CTrail Hartford Line Stations** – Dr. Lyle Wray noted that there are six rail stations along the Hartford Line that are slated for development (Enfield, Newington, West Hartford) or improvement (Windsor, Windsor Locks, Berlin). A meeting of the chief elected officials of these towns, along with appropriate town staff, will be held at 10:30am on April 24th, directly before Policy Board. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss funding an possible legislation regarding the development of these stations. A call will be scheduled ahead of the meeting for an initial discussion.

- **Other** – Dr. Lyle Wray noted that there is still some uncertainty regarding the potential rescission of federal funds. There is also concern about the State passing on funding cuts to the MPOs. Staff will keep the Committee informed on these matters as more information becomes available.
- 5. TIP Amendments** – Mr. Robert Aloise reviewed the TIP amendments. Ms. Sandra Fry from the City of Hartford noted that eight of the listed intersections in Hartford were part of the recent Route 44 project, and as such the lights and signals are new. She suggested that CTDOT verify the need for replacement at those locations. Mr. Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin asked if there was an opportunity to made additional improvements to the listed signals, but Mr. Aloise confirmed that the amendment just covered lights. A motion was made by Patrice Carson form the Town of Bolton seconded by, Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin. This motion was passed unanimously.
- Windsor-CT 75-Rehab/Replace Culvert @ Holcomb Street
 - District 1-Replace LED Lamps @ Traffic Signals & Intersections
- 6. CONNECT2045-CRCOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan** – Mr. Tim Malone noted that the public comment period for CRCOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) closed on March 20th. Mr. Malone shared that the comment period had included public meetings in Manchester and Hartford. He handed out a draft list of comments and summarized that numerous comments had been received, including a request for a new bridge in Farmington, considerations for VMT and GHG reductions, and identification of projects for future consideration. A motion was made by Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor seconded by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington to accept the resolution adopting the 2019-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 7. Air Quality Conformity Analysis** – Mr. Tim Malone briefly reviewed CTDOT’s Air Quality Conformity Analysis, which was previously discussed at the February 25th Transportation Committee meeting and must be completed when an MTP is updated. A motion was made by Stephen Sopolak from the Town of Rocky Hill seconded by Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor to accept CTDOT’s Air Quality Conformity Analysis. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 8. Transit Asset Management (TAM) Performance Targets** – Ms. Cara Radzins noted that with the updated MTP CRCOG must also endorse updated Transit Asset Management (TAM) State of Good Repair Performance Targets. Ms. Radzins noted that CRCOG previously endorsed CTDOT’s performance targets as those for the Region in June 2017, and CRCOG staff was recommending that the same occur now. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield had some concerns about the target performance targets for some vehicles being lower than current performance, and he noted that it would seem that CTDOT would want to be more aggressive in their target setting. Ms. Sandra Fry from the City of Hartford mentioned that it was logical to have different targets for different asset types. Mr. Grayson Wright stated that he could look

into the matter with CTDOT. Ms. Cara Radzins mentioned that CRCOG is required to update its performance targets but that Staff could include letter to CTDOT indicating the Committee's concerns. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin authorizing a resolution for endorsement of the State of Good Repair Performance Targets set by the Connecticut Department of Transportation as the targets for the Region, with the caveat that CTDOT should be encouraged to be more aggressive with their target setting in the future. This motion was passed unanimously.

9. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Solicitation Guidance – Ms. Cara Radzins reviewed the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program Draft Solicitation Guidance. Ms. Radzins explained that staff was looking for Transportation Committee feedback so that the guidance could be finalized. She explained that the proposed approach for project selection would follow previous years, with CRCOG staff selecting a short list of projects to be presented for ranking at a special Transportation Committee meeting, proposed for June 3, 2019. Ms. Radzins reminded the Committee that this year's TA Set-Aside projects must be submitted by Transportation Management Area (TMA), and, as approved at the February meeting, one of the Hartford TMA projects would come from the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG). Ms. Radzins explained that the Subcommittee discussed two ways that the NVCOG project could be ranked against the CRCOG project: 1) the NVCOG project is assigned a predetermined ranking or 2) CRCOG staff reviews the project in comparison to the CRCOG projects and makes a recommendation on how it should be ranked. Ms. Radzins shared that the Subcommittee recommended that Transportation Committee endorse the approach that would allow CRCOG Staff to recommend where the NVCOG project should be placed within the Hartford TMA priority project list and that NVCOG staff should be consulted as needed. A motion was made by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury, seconded by Sandra Fry from the City of Hartford to finalize the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program Solicitation Guidance in accordance with the Subcommittee's recommendation. This motion was passed unanimously.

10. Presentations:

ADA Transition Plan Guidance, Leo Fontaine, CTDOT – Mr. Leo Fontaine from CTDOT gave a brief update on ADA Transition Plans. He noted that CTDOT is in the process of updating its Transition Plan and recently conducted a survey to understand what towns are doing related to ADA compliance and to improve communication on this subject. Mr. Fontaine noted that the T2 Center offers training on ADA Transition Plans. Mr. Rob Aloise requested a brief overview on what must be included in an ADA Transition Plan. Mr. Fontaine replied that it must identify the person responsible for ADA issues, a self-assessment, and a plan to remove the barriers identified in the assessment. Mr. Aloise asked about deadlines for such plans, and Mr. Fontaine noted that this legislation was passed in the early 1990s and that everyone was playing catch up. Additional discussion ensued regarding CTDOT's new paving program, which will begin next construction season and will include updating curb ramps at all state intersections when CTDOT is paving an intersection.

AAA Greater Hartford, Ms. Amy Parmenter – Ms. Amy Parmenter from AAA Greater Hartford gave a brief presentation on the “Technology Takes the Wheel” speaker series. As part of this series, a free event on self-driving cars will be held on April 23rd, 2019 at Rentschler Field from 9am-Noon. Ms. Parmenter also noted that AAA has launched a campaign to raise awareness around distracted driving. Committee members watched a “Done Drive Intexticated” public service announcement that will be playing during movie previews. Ms. Parmenter encouraged Towns to get involved with this campaign by posting the PSA on their website, considering policy changes related to distracted driving, and hosting an event. Interested communities can contact her at aparmenter@aaa-alliedgroup.com.

11. Other Business – There was no other business discussed

12. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM