

Transportation Committee

CRCOG, 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hartford, CT 06106

Monday, April 22nd, 2019

12 Noon

Name

Chris Edge
Jonathan Thiesse
Patrice Carson
Neil Pade
Todd Penney
Doug Wilson
Timothy Webb
Donald Nunes
Russ Arnold
Daniel Pennington
Kirk Severance
Sandra Fry
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Mark Moriarty
Jim Sollmi
Jeff Shea
Jeffrey Doolittle
Scott Lappen
Derrick Gregor
Duane Martin
Bob Jarvis
Jennifer Cassidy
Rick Baldwin

Organization

Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Coventry
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
South Windsor
Tolland
Wethersfield
West Hartford
Windsor
GHTD
CCEJ

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Guests

Grayson Wright
Mike Fisher
Charles Harlow
Joe Rimiller
Mary Deppe

CTDOT
BL Companies
Fuss & O'Neill
BETA
GHTD

Staff

Robert Aloise
Mike Cipriano
Devon Lechtenberg
Tim Malone
Sotoria Montanari
Pramod Pandey
Cara Radzins

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Karen Stewartson
Terri Thompson
Dr. Lyle Wray

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1. **Roll Call** – Ms. Patrice Carson called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.
2. **Public Forum** – There was no public comment.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 25th, 2019** – A motion was made by Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to accept the March 25th, 2019 meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously with one (1) abstention made by Scott Lappen from the Town of Tolland.
4. **Staff Report**
 - **LOTICIP Quarterly Review Report** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTICIP Quarterly Reporting Memo. The highlights were summarized as follows:
 - CRCOG expended **\$676,692** for Southington Jude Lane Intersection in Quarter 3, bringing total cumulative expenditures for FY19 to **\$3,637,362**
 - CRCOG received an Authorization to Advertise Letter for **two (2)** projects, totaling **\$2,413,050** (Ellington Middle Butcher Lane and Windsor Locks Route 75)
 - CRCOG’s projections for Quarter 4 of FY19 expenditures are approximately **\$12.6 million** from **nine (9)** projects
 - CRCOG received **ten (10)** of the **twelve (12)** expected Quarter 3 design submissions
 - CRCOG anticipates receipt of **eleven (11)** design submissions in Quarter 4 of FY19
 - **Twenty-four (24)** Projects have been awarded or completed construction since program inception
 - CTDOT issued **five (5)** Commitment to Fund Letters (Coventry Swamp Road, Hartford Boce Barlow/Main, Stafford Leonard Road Bridge, Vernon Dart Hill Bridge, Marlborough South Main Phase 2)
 - **Seven (7)** applications were submitted to CTDOT, and **ten (10)** are expected to be submitted next quarter

Ms. Montanari mentioned that two towns provided scheduling updates during the sub-committee meeting. Additionally, she indicated there was discussion regarding project advancement delays and CTDOT review delays encountered by towns. Mr. Rob Aloise added that the following issues were specifically raised at the sub-committee meeting: Application review comments appeared to be more extensive, pavement structure reviews were more in depth, towns should be notified of any policy changes, environmental reviews were delayed, and there were differences of opinion between District (s) and CTDOT’s Newington office. A quantitative comparison of information regarding application reviews currently and previously may be used as documentation. A meeting with CTDOT was suggested to discuss the various issues pertaining to project delays and advancement.

- **Draft Unified Planning Work Program FY2020-2021** – Mr. Robert Aloise noted that the Draft FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program is available for review and comment. Mr. Aloise explained that a summary was included in the mailing, and the entire document is available for download on the CRCOG website (<http://crcog.org/2016/05/unified-planning-work-program-upwp/>). This document serves as the staff work program for two years beginning on July 1, 2019. Mr. Aloise explained that the UPWP includes five standard work tasks as well as work on special studies. He shared that some efforts of note over the next two years will include scenario planning, transit efforts, and systematic studies related to safety. Ms. Cara Radzins expanded on the transit component of the UPWP, noting that key efforts will include the updating of CRCOG’s 2001 Regional Transit Strategy as well as work related to CT **fastrak** East, the Hartford Line, and transit-oriented development. Ms. Radzins also noted that CRCOG is awaiting review comments from CT DOT and federal agencies. Ms. Radzins told the Committee that any comments on the UPWP can be directed to her and that staff would be looking for endorsement of the UPWP by the Transportation Committee and adoption by the Policy Board in May.
- **Active Transportation Committee** – Mr. Tim Malone discussed the Active Transportation Policy Subcommittee, which is charged with developing a draft complete streets policy for the Region. The subcommittee is holding its first meeting after the Transportation Committee meeting and has representation from Vernon, Berlin, Windsor, New Britain, Canton, Hartford, Bolton, and Windsor Locks. While the subcommittee is fairly representative of the Region, Mr. Malone says he welcomes additional members.
- **CTrides Quarterly Report** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg gave a brief update on the CT **rides** Quarterly Report for October-December 2018. CT **rides** spent time in the 4th quarter preparing for the Spring semester Roads Scholar program in light of the program’s success in the fall semester. Marketing efforts were an important task as well. The Behavioral Economics project with BEworks concluded in the 4th Quarter, having accomplished important analyses. Mr. Lechtenberg then relayed the summary statistics that CT **rides** publishes in each report.
- **Eversource Relocation Charges Update** – Mr. Robert Aloise told the Committee that staff has discussed the possibility of filing a complaint with PURA with CRCOG counsel and was advised that substantiating such a complaint would be costly, lengthy, and confrontational. Counsel recommended that a letter to Eversource regarding the need for policy clarification and more timely responses to questions would be a more appropriate approach at this point. Mr. Aloise noted that a draft letter from the Counsel is expected this week and it may be useful to have the letter come from multiple COGs who are facing the same challenges. Ms. Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton asked whether individual towns could proceed as needed on individual issues, and Mr. Aloise confirmed this to be true. Mr. Mark Moriarty from the City of New Britain asked if these concerns related solely to State projects and whether there was anything that could be done legislatively to remedy the situation. Mr. Aloise noted that the policies relate to all projects and that the law seems to be clear enough that amended language likely wouldn’t fix the situation. Mr. Aloise said that he would update the Committee again in May.

- **CTDOT MS4 Permit Public Meeting Agenda** – Mr. Rob Aloise mentioned to the Committee that there will be a public meeting on CTDOT’s MS4 permit and Storm Water Management Plan on Tuesday April 23rd at 7pm in CROCG’s 3rd Floor Board Room. A Committee members asked whether this meeting is part of CTDOT’s efforts associated requirements detailed in the permit, and Mr. Aloise confirmed that this was the case.
- **Other** – Dr. Lyle Wray informed the Committee that the Special Transportation Fund (STF) has not been made solvent yet. He mentioned that in order to issue bonds for transportation projects, a five year solvency of the STF is necessary, so resolving this issue is critical. Dr. Wray discussed that the transfer of the car sales tax to the STF was necessary to maintain the solvency of the fund. He explained that while this issue was rectified last year, the car sales tax transfer and the general obligation bonds for transportation projects were cut from the new governor’s budget. Additionally, Dr. Wray noted that CTDOT has proposed to cut the MPOs’ PL funding levels and that a meeting was upcoming between CTDOT, OPM, and the MPOs to discuss this matter. Dr. Wray also mentioned that the issue on tolls has become very political but that if the state wishes to continue supporting the \$2 billion “Let’s Go CT” initiative, tolls are the only way to increase transportation revenue, especially in light of the Governor’s proposed “debt diet” and declining gas tax. Dr. Lyle Wray further noted that reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Bill is being monitored and will be discussed at the annual meeting in June. Mr. Rob Aloise noted that the uncertainty related to the STF is the reason that there is not an impending LOTCIP solicitation. When there were previous concerns about the solvency of the STF, potential cuts included funding for LOTCIP, transit, and capital improvements. A Committee member asked if CROCG could supply a memo that town could use to discuss the issue with legislators. Dr. Wray noted that CROCG has submitted a letter to the governor and staff would forward that letter to Committee members. Mr. Jeffrey Doolittle from the Town of South Windsor asked if any LOTCIP projects that were discussed earlier would be affected if the STF is not made solvent. Ms. Sotoria Montanari noted that projects without a Commitment to Fund letter would likely be placed on hold. Mr. Aloise added that in such a scenario there could be a shift to federal funds, which could necessitate additional project requirements and/or reviews.

5. TIP Amendments – Mr. Robert Aloise reviewed the TIP amendments. A motion was made by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill seconded by Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor to accept TIP Amendments 1 through 2c. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Statewide Transportation Demand Management
- Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations: Change in Scope/Description

6. Eastern Gateways Study: Endorsement of Strategy and implementation Plan – Ms. Cara Radzins noted that CROCG recently completed the Eastern Gateways Study, which identified traffic, transit, and bike/ped improvements on Route 195 and 44 in Bolton, Coventry, Tolland, and Mansfield. Ms. Radzins noted that all of the

involved Towns had endorsed the study's recommendations and that she was now looking for endorsement from the Transportation Committee and Policy Board so that the recommendations from the study could be incorporated into future CRCOG planning documents. Ms. Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton noted that this effort had been on-going for several years and was very thorough. A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor to endorse the Eastern Gateways Study Strategy and Implementation Plan. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 7. LOTCIP On-Call Lists and Resolution** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTCIP On-Call Lists 1,2, and 3. Ms. Montanari thanked the members of the Committee who had served on the selection committees for these lists. Ms. Montanari stated she was seeking authorization from the Transportation Committee and Policy Board to proceed with awarding contracts to the selected firms for a 36-month term beginning on June 1, 2019, and extension of one existing contract for a 24-month term. A motion was made by Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill, to authorize the execution of agreements for administration of LOTCIP. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 8. LOTCIP Scope Change Request: West Hartford-Rte. 44 at Mountain Road** – It was noted that this item was tabled at Subcommittee until next month. A motion was made by Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington, seconded by Jim Sollmi to table this item for discussion until the May 20th Transportation Committee Meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 9. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.
- 10. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 pm.