

****Special Transportation Committee****
CRCOG, 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hartford, CT 06106
Monday, June 17th, 2019
Acting on behalf of the Policy Board
12 Noon

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

Name

Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Neil Pade
Todd Penney
Tim Webb
Donald Nunes
Russ Arnold
Daniel Pennington
Kirk Severance
Sandra Fry
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Rob Trottier
John Bossi
Jim Sollmi
Keith Hayden
Jeffrey Doolittle
David Smith
Derrick Gregor
Duane Martin
Bob Jarvis
Jen Rodriguez
Rick Baldwin

Organization

Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Coventry
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Southington
South Windsor
Vernon
Wethersfield
West Hartford
Windsor
Windsor Locks
CCEJ

Guests

Grayson Wright
Gregory Palmer
Tracy Fogarty
James Kulpa
Kurt Salmoiraghi
Mary Deppe

CTDOT
CTDOT/Traffic Engineering
CTDOT/Traffic Engineering
VHB
FHWA
GHTD

Staff

Robert Aloise
Mike Cipriano
Emily Hultquist

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Andrew Schroder	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Dr. Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Mr. Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 11:07 am and noted that the Transportation Committee would be acting as the Policy Board.
2. **Public Forum** – There was no public comment.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from May 20th, 2019** – A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton to accept the May 20th, 2019 meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously with five (2) abstentions made by Keith Hayden from the Town of Southington and Todd Penney from the Town of Coventry.
4. **Staff Report**
 - **Atlas of Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations in the Capitol Region** – Mr. Pramod Pandey noted that staff recently updated the *Atlas of Title VI and EJ Populations in the Capitol Region*. Mr. Pandey mentioned that the Atlas is updated every 3-4 years using the most recent available data on race, limited English proficiency, income, and zero-car households. The Atlas is used as a guide for developing outreach strategies for corridor studies to ensure Title VI and EJ populations have access to CRCOG’s efforts. Mr. Pandey said a draft of the Atlas is available at <http://crcog.org/title-vi/title-vi-plans-and-reports> for review and if anyone has comments on the draft please send them to him by June 28, 2019.
 - **Construction Updates: I-91 at Charter Oak Bridge and Route 160** – Mr. Roger Krahn provided an update on two construction projects in the Region. The I-91 Charter Oak Bridge Project (63-703) includes the relocation of I-91 Northbound Exit 29. The improvement will provide a two-lane left side diverge that replaces the existing single right lane exit ramp. Construction has started and will extend over a three-year period, with completion scheduled for May 2022. You can receive weekly email updates by signing up on the website www.i-91charteroakbridge.com. The replacement of two bridges carrying Elm Street (Route 160) over I-91 Northbound and Southbound lanes in Rocky Hill is also under construction. Route 160 was scheduled to be closed for 56 days starting June 14, for demolition. However closure of Elm Street has been delayed due to the Traveler’s Golf Tournament. The construction process includes the use of Self Propelled Modular Transporters (SPMTs) to move bridge structures into place over the I-91 NB and SB lanes, during the hours of 1AM to 6AM, on Sunday July 14 and Sunday July 21.

- **Eversource Updates: 5-24-19 Guidelines for Reimbursement** – Mr. Roger Krahn provided an update on Eversource’s 5/24/19 revision to Guidelines for Cost Reimbursement for Utility Relocations. A line item was added for LOTCIP projects, stating their will be no charge to municipalities for utility relocations on LOTCIP funded projects. Also, it was noted that in the “All other Municipal Projects” category, Eversource will pay 100% of the cost of the 1st relocation, if the project is not 1) a Proprietary project, 2) Sewer or Pollution Abatement Project, or 3) Betterment project. This updated Eversource Guideline will be reviewed by CTDOT legal staff, since it will be have a wide distribution for many different types of projects. Mr. Rob Aloise added that CTDOT can imagine other utilities using these guidelines as a template, so it is important to ensure its accuracy. Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough noted that stormwater projects that do not include pavement improvements remain a challenge when dealing with Eversource.
- **LOTCIP Update: CRCOG-CTDOT Coordination** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari provided an update on a CTDOT-CRCOG coordination meeting, scheduled on May 28. CRCOG staff had met with CTDOT to discuss ways to improve the LOTCIP project advancement process. The major items discussed after introductions to the new CTDOT/LOTCIP staff were as follows:

 - a. *Commitment to Fund Letters* - Ms. Montanari explained that the issuance of Commitment to Fund (CTF) letters and the delay in receiving them was addressed with CTDOT. Because of the State budget concerns and its uncertainties in CTDOT funding, the letters were temporarily delayed. Since the meeting, the delays have been suspended and resolved as CRCOG has received two additional CTF letters last week (Glastonbury and Newington). Ms. Montanari indicated that CRCOG staff and CTDOT will meet again in September to discuss a timeline for future solicitations/funding.
 - b. *Environmental Review (ER) and Streamlining* – Ms. Montanari stated that a discussion regarding the significant delays in Environmental Reviews was brought up at the meeting. She mentioned that CTDOT was planning to meet with the Office of Environmental Planning (OEP) within the next two weeks to discuss a more streamlined review, especially for pavement rehabilitation projects. Ms. Montanari stated that as the committee recalled, one of the LOTCIP projects received an ER after the final design was submitted. This instance caused significant delays in the advancement process. Additionally, a suggestion was made to include coordination contact information on the CTF letters so the towns may begin the process before actually receiving the ER. Since the meeting, Ms. Montanari indicated that she noticed CTDOT is being more proactive in requesting the ER earlier in the process.
 - c. *Encroachment Permit Process* – Ms. Montanari mentioned that there were significant delays in the encroachment permit process coordination. She indicated that CTDOT thought the encroachment process should remain with the District offices because they handle the permitting process. Ms. Montanari

stated that regular follow up communications from CRCOG, Towns and Designer are essential in advancing the projects. Some reviews are also with the Newington office, so she mentioned we will need to be more diligent collectively to follow up. There was discussion regarding the process for plan submittal. Ms. Montanari noted that submissions should include a schedule and be set directly from Towns to the District. Towns were requested to copy Ms. Montanari on their transmittal letters so that she can follow up with the Districts as needed.

- d. *Application/Final Design/Bidding Reviews* – Ms. Montanari said CTDOT's goal to review projects is within a two-week timeframe. Unfortunately, they haven't adhered to this schedule because of new staff and a multitude of projects. Ms. Montanari also mentioned that CTDOT is utilizing internal resources such as the pavement management unit personnel and contracts unit, allowing the projects to undergo a more thorough review process and ultimately extend the time frame. A suggestion was made to identify comments in the reviews as being must-do or comments for consideration. Ms. Montanari mentioned that CTDOT has begun this process and it appears to be working well. Additionally, a suggestion was made by CTDOT to pre-screen the projects before submittal and for CRCOG to conduct a more intensified screening process to avoid unnecessary expense by the municipalities later in the process. Overall, Ms. Montanari mentioned that progress was being made and continuing communications with CTDOT are essential to the program.
- **Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside CRCOG Project Rankings** – Mr. Robert Aloise gave an update on the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program. Mr. Aloise mentioned that CRCOG received (8) candidate projects in response to a solicitation for FFY2021-2025 TA Set-Aside Program funding. Mr. Aloise stated that CRCOG staff selected a short-list of five (5) projects and these were presented to a Special Transportation Sub-Committee meeting that was held on June 3, 2019. Projects from New Britain, Mansfield, and Simsbury were ranked the highest and will be submitted to CTDOT. Mr. Aloise mentioned that over the coming weeks, the CRCOG Staff will coordinate with NVCOG and RiverCOG staff to review and prioritize their selected project against the prioritized CRCOG projects. An endorsement and approval of a Hartford TMA priority list will be sought from the Transportation Committee (acting as Policy Board) at the July 22nd meeting. There was discussion among Committee members that staff should put pressure on the other MPOs because CRCOG's efforts should not be held up by the other MPOs not honoring the agreed upon schedule. Mr. Aloise and Ms. Cara Radzins noted that staff has had numerous conversations with the MPOs and are doing as much as possible to get information from them on a selected project. Ms. Radzins noted that the CTDOT deadline for submission is not until September, which may account for the lack of urgency. However, she added that the deadline is very close to CRCOG's

September Transportation Committee date and would not allow adequate time to secure the necessary signatures. Further discussion was held about the potential of taking an action and submitting a list without the other MPOs or ranking their project as fourth if they are unable to supply sufficient information ahead of the July meeting. Mr. Aloise and Ms. Radzins stated that staff will prepare a Plan B for proceeding at the July meeting if needed.

- **Transportation Funding Legislative Update** – Dr. Lyle Wray noted that there may be a Special Legislative Session to address the issues of tolls and bonding. Dr. Wray added that there is still a need to make the Special Transportation Fund (STF) solvent, and he will keep the Committee updated. A Committee member asked when this issue would become critical. Dr. Wray responded that bonds have been issued for the coming months but new ones would be potentially held up. Mr. Jon Colman added that it appears this construction season is safe but that anything beyond that is still up in the air.
- **Other** – Mr. Jon Colman thanked the Committee members for adjusting their schedules to attend today's earlier meeting. Mr. Colman explained that the meeting time had needed to be adjusted to allow CRCOG staff and some Town representatives to attend a meeting with the Governor regarding rail station investments along the Hartford Line.

5. **TIP Amendments** – Mr. Robert Aloise reviewed the TIP amendment. There was a discussion regarding the magnitude of the cost increase. Mr. Grayson Wright from CTDOT explained that additional analysis was required to satisfy new FHWA requirements, and this resulted in significant cost increases for these projects. A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough seconded by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Load Ratings for Bridges on National Highway Safety Roads-Statewide
- Load Ratings for Bridges on Non-National Highway Safety Roads Statewide

6. **Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Enter into Agreement for Enfield Study** – Mr. Tim Malone explained that CRCOG was going to begin work on a study of Routes 190 and 220 in Enfield, with a focus on the Enfield Square Mall area. Mr. Malone noted that this study would be funded with a federal earmark and action was needed to allow CRCOG to begin the study. There was a discussion about the possibility of using the earmark for a rail station and whether or not previous CRCOG studies had already addressed this area. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to accept the resolution authorizing execution of Agreement with the CTDOT for the Enfield Routes 190 & 220 Corridor Study. This motion was passed unanimously.

7. **Resolution Authorizing Additional Funding for Travel Demand Modeling and Data Management Assistance Extra Work Tasks** – Mr. Rob Aloise explained that CRCOG has begun work on scenario planning using Urban Footprint software. The

Lincoln Institute will be holding a scenario planning conference in Hartford in November, so there is a need to get work done quickly. This resolution would allow for the use of regional planning funds for consultant assistance, as the use of federal funds would take too long to administer. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington made a motion to accept the resolution. This motion was passed unanimously. A second motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton seconded by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain to pass a revised resolution so that the sixth paragraph reads: "NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CRCOG Transportation Committee, acting as Policy Board, authorizes the use of up to an additional \$50,000 of the agency's *Regional Services Grant, if available, or* Regional Fund for Cambridge Systematics, Inc. for Travel Demand Modeling and Data Management Assistance extra work tasks associated with Scenario Planning." This motion was passed unanimously.

8. **Presentation: Traffic Signals - Leading Pedestrian Indicator** – Mr. Greg Palmer and Tracy Fogarty from CTDOT Traffic Engineering gave a presentation on Leading Pedestrian Indicators, explaining the existing approach to signals, a new approach allowing concurrent pedestrian phasing, and the status of implementation. Committee members asked questions regarding implementation at exclusive phase intersections instead of just side street green intersections, safety concerns, how this effort related to existing TIP projects related to signal improvements, and the need for coordination between CTDOT, Towns, and developers. A copy of the presentation is available at <http://crocog.org/event/transportation-committee-meeting-23/>
9. **Other Business**-There was no other business
10. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm.