

****Special Transportation Committee****
CRCOG, 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hartford, CT 06106
Monday, July 22nd, 2019
Acting on behalf of the Policy Board
12 Noon

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

Name

Chris Edge
Jonathan Thiesse
Patrice Carson
Neil Pade
Todd Penney
Doug Wilson
Tim Webb
Donald Nunes
Russ Arnold
Jennifer Cassidy
Sandra Fry
Fatih Ucar
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
Derek Dilaj
Rob Trottier
Gary Fuerstenberg
Stephen Sopelak
Tom Roy
Jeffrey Doolittle
Bill Hawkins
Derrick Gregor
Duane Martin
Adam Kessler
Chris Kervick

Organization

Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Coventry
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
GHTD
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Mansfield
New Britain
Newington
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
South Windsor
Suffield
Wethersfield
West Hartford
Windsor
Windsor Locks

Guests

Grayson Wright
Mark Moriarty
Nelson Teseso
Mary Deppe

CTDOT
New Britain
Enfield
GHTD

Staff

Robert Aloise
Mike Cipriano
Emily Hultquist
Tim Malone
Roger Krahn

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Harry Zehner	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Dr. Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Ms. Patrice Carson called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm 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 June 17th, 2019** – A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Derrick Gregor to accept the meeting minutes from June 17th, 2019. This motion was passed unanimously with (4) abstentions made by Doug Wilson from the Town of East Hartford, Stephen Sopelak from the Town of Rocky Hill, Kevin Kelly from the Town of Hebron and Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury.

4. Staff Report

- LOTCIP Quarterly Review Report (Quarter 4) LOTCIP Quarterly Review Report (Quarter 4) – Ms. Sotoria Montanari updated the committee on the LOTCIP program progress for Quarter 4 of FY19. Ms. Montanari highlighted the main points:

She stated that CRCOG expended \$1,838,407 for Ellington Middle Butcher Road Pavement/Sidewalk Project and Windsor Locks Route 75 Sidewalk Installation Project in Quarter 4, bringing total cumulative expenditures for FY19 to \$5,475,769. Since June 30 three additional projects received Authorization to Advertise Letters, totaling \$2.6 M (Rocky Hill Dividend Road, Farmington Brickyard Road and Hebron Church Street Sidewalks), which have since been expended.

Ms. Montanari explained that projections for Quarter 1 FY20 expenditures will be approximately \$12.6 million from nine (9) projects and all final designs have been submitted for the projects. Twenty-six (26) Projects have been awarded or completed construction since program inception and since June 30 three (3) additional projects were awarded, making the total twenty-nine (29).

CTDOT issued two (2) Commitment to Fund Letters (Newington Maple/Robbins and Glastonbury Boulevard), four (4) applications were submitted to CTDOT and six (6) are expected to be submitted next quarter. Ms. Montanari indicated that the goal is to complete the 2018 solicitation application submittal.

Two municipalities were asked to provide scheduling updates at the meeting, one representative was not present.

- **LOTICIP On-Call 1 and 2 Fee Schedules**

Mr. Roger Krahn gave a brief update on CRCOG's review and approval of fee schedules for LOTICIP On-Call Consultants for Lists 1 & 2. The fee schedules for List 1 Design Phase are approved and available to towns upon request, for the following three firms:

- BL Companies
- Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
- Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc

The fee schedules for List 2 Construction Phase are approved and available to towns upon request, for the following three firms:

- BL Companies
- Milone & MacBroom, Inc.
- Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates

Approval of both design phase and construction phase fee schedules for Weston & Sampson, is pending receipt of additional information.

- **DRAFT 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)**-Mr. Roger Krahn gave a brief update on the 2021-2024 TIP. Mr. Krahn stated that the TIP is prepared at least every four years but subsequently amended frequently. He also mentioned the anticipated schedule for the FFY2021-2024 Tip/STIP process includes CTDOT completing a air conformity determination (Winter 2020) followed by a public review and comment period (Spring 2020), before issuing final 2021-2024 TIP/STIP documents for FHWA approval by September 2020. CRCOG's approval of project funding and their inclusion on the TIP is required before any federal funds can be expended on any transportation project in the Capitol Region. Mr. Krahn mentioned that CRCOG is requesting any initial comments from Towns by July 24th, 2019. The list of the projects, and project descriptions, as received from CTDOT, can be found at:

<http://crcog.org/2019/07/stipfy20212024ctdotprojects/>

- **CRCOG Title VI Program Review and Updated Documents**- Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CRCOG recently underwent a review of its Title VI program by CTDOT and FHWA. Ms. Radzins explained that as a recipient of federal funds, CRCOG needs to ensure that its transportation program is equally accessible to all individuals regardless of race, color, or national origin. Following the on-site review, CRCOG staff updated some of its documents, including the Language Assistance Plan, Title VI Complaint Process, and Title VI Complaint Form. These updated documents are currently under review by CTDOT and will be posted on the CRCOG website once approved. Ms. Radzins also noted that these documents will be translated into Spanish and Polish, as outlined in the FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program.

- **Active Transportation Project Solicitation** –Mr. Tim Malone gave a brief update on the Active Transportation Project Solicitation. Mr. Malone stated that CRCOG is soliciting for Active Transportation Implementation projects with the following qualities:
 - a) Small-scale
 - b) Quick turnaround
 - c) Help advance active transportation
 - d) Supported by the municipality

Mr. Malone also mentioned projects are due by August 5th, with an extension by September 2020. Ms. Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton asked how many projects would be funded. Mr. Malone responded that at least one project per region will be selected but that the final number will depend on project size and available resources. Ms. Sandy Fry from the City of Hartford asked for clarification that this could mean only one project would be selected from the CRCOG region. Mr. Malone responded that this is the case but that staff is hopeful for an extension of the grant and additional funding for more projects in the future.

- **Other** –Dr. Lyle Wray shared that CRCOG is working with the other regions to encourage CTDOT to implemented a more modern reporting system. He added that the State of Florida implemented a SharePoint system that could serve as a good model. Dr. Wray also noted that he will be attending the Major Metros Fly-In in Washington, DC where topics will include rescission, reauthorization, and grants for regions. Dr. Wray also shared that the status of tolls remains uncertain. He reminded the Committee that there will be state bonding implications linked to the decision whether or not to implement tolls. Finally, Dr. Wray shared that CRCOG staff will be having a discussion with an economist about performing an economic impact analysis of rail service between Boston, Springfield, Hartford, and New Haven. Dr. Wray noted that the current East-West Passenger Rail Study being conducted in Massachusetts does not include consideration of ridership to/from Connecticut, and the results of CRCOG’s economic impact analysis could encourage Massachusetts to incorporate Connecticut into the study.
- **Pavement Performance Survey** - Mr. Roger Krahn explained that a request to complete a survey questionnaire regarding asphalt pavement performance was received from Kevin Mahoney, Western Connecticut Council of Governments. The following 3 questions were asked at the meeting and resulted the accompanying responses.

Q1. In your municipality, do you select contractors from the State’s Vendor-in-Place (VIP) list for most of your asphalt paving?

Responses:

Yes: 20

No: 3

Q2. Is your municipality routinely observing sooner than expected damage to newly constructed asphalt pavements (e.g. loss of texture, stripping, cracking)?

Responses:

Six Towns responded "Yes" (Manchester, Mansfield, West Hartford, Ellington, South Windsor, and Hebron). These Towns noted that the type of damage included cracking, oxidation, and unraveling

Q3. Has your municipality conducted an evaluation of the probable or potential causes for the premature damage?

Responses:

All Towns attending the meeting responded "No"

5. TIP Amendments –Mr. Robert Aloise reviewed the TIP amendments. There was a question as to whether or not this project was related to renumbering exits. Mr. Aloise responded that while this was not explicitly stated, a relationship was likely. A motion was made by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain, seconded by Sandra Fry from the City of Hartford to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

6. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program – Mr. Rob Aloise shared that CRCOG staff had coordinated with staff from NVCOG and RiverCOG to come to a consensus on prioritizing TA Set-Aside projects for the Hartford TMA. He explained that the resulting ranking prioritized projects from New Britain, Mansfield, Thomaston, and Simsbury. Mr. Aloise noted that the projects combined for \$6.22 million in federal funding, which is in line with the anticipated funding amount of \$6.36 million. Mr. Aloise noted that with Committee and Policy Board approval, staff will proceed with obtaining signatures from the other MPOs and submitting the project applications to CTDOT. There was discussion regarding how contingency projects would be prioritized. Ms. Cara Radzins from CRCOG noted that in the event that the actual available federal funding does not match the anticipated level, then there is potential for a re-discussion with the other MPOs about which projects to put forth. There was further discussion about how potential additional federal dollars would be allocated, and Mr. Aloise responded that since the funding scenario remains uncertain then there may be a need to revisit the project list in the future. A motion was made by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to approve the four recommended projects and their rankings as well as the recommended contingency projects for submission to CTDOT.

7. Farmington: LOTCIP Project Funding Transfer Request- Ms. Sotoria Montanari presented a Farmington Funding Transfer Request in the amount of \$955,200 for a proposed Roundabout Project at the intersection of Colt Hwy, South Road and 2 Mile Road. Ms. Montanari stated that the Colt Highway (Rte. 6) at Reservoir Road application was originally approved under CRCOG's 2015 LOTCIP solicitation as a safety improvement project that included a new signal light and dedicated left turn lanes. OSTA subsequently denied the addition of the signal and in June 2019, CTDOT suggested that the Town consider withdrawing the Colt Highway (Rte. 6) application (L051-0003) because CTDOT was planning to overlay this area within the next 8 to 10 years.

Ms. Montanari explained that the Town of Farmington is proposing to utilize the previously approved LOTCIP funding for a proposed Roundabout, which is a suggested outcome of the Farmington/Hartford Transportation Safety and Improvement Study. Ms. Montanari mentioned that CTDOT supports a project which will mitigate the congestion exacerbated by the recent site improvements at the UConn Health Center. The Town previously completed improvements to South Road in 2018 (L051-00010), funded by a LOTCIP grant, ending at the subject intersection, therefore the roundabout would be an extension of the completed South Road Project. A cost estimate for the roundabout project is comparable to the Colt Highway (Rte. 6) at Reservoir Road Project.

Ms. Montanari stated a draft policy will be presented for discussion at the next Transportation Committee Meeting which establishes guidelines for transferring LOTCIP funds.

A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Stephen Sopelak from the Town of Rocky Hill to approve the LOTCIP funding transfer of \$955,200 from Colt Highway (Rte.6) at Reservoir Road intersection project to a new project to construct a Roundabout at the intersection at Colt Highway, South Road & 2 mile Road Project. This motion was passed unanimously with one (1) abstention made by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington.

8. Enfield: Franklin/Enfield Streets (Routes 5 & 514) Bike Improvements
LOTICIP Project Cost increase Request- Ms. Sotoria Montanari mentioned the Town of Enfield is requesting a LOTICIP funding increase of \$227,600 from \$697,200 to \$924,800 (32.6% increase). The increase is to address feedback from a CTDOT application review and scoping changes.

Ms. Montanari stated that CTDOT requested the town review impacts to the Franklin Street (Rte. 514), such as the proposed lane narrowing, on-street parking, and the location of the bicycle lanes, and snow shelf. The proposed revisions necessitated changing to the roadway crown, amounting to an increase of approximately \$44,000 for milling and overlaying. Also, per CTDOT comments, the town added \$50,000 for utility relocations. Ms. Montanari said additional cost increases were the result of the

Town adding \$15,000 in street trees and updating the estimate to 2019 (from 2015) unit prices, adding approximately \$40,000, plus added incidentals and contingencies amounting to a total of \$227,600 increase in cost. A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington, to approve an additional \$227, 600 of LOTCIP funding for the Enfield (L048-0002) project increasing the funding approval from \$697,200 to \$924,800. This motion was passed unanimously.

9. Other Business- Mr. Rob Aloise noted that CRCOG staff is hoping to get some clarification on the funding status of the LOTCIP program over the next two months.

10. Adjourn-The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.