

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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CRCOG FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
CRCOG, 241 Main Street, Hartford (Conference call option provided)
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Attendees

Stephen Cassano
Dave Kilbon
Chip Beckett
Lyle Wray
Mary Glassman
Douglas Fisher (via phone)
Lee Erdman (via phone)
Robert Lee
John Carson
Paul Shapiro
Dwayne Jackson
John Adams
Richard Porth
Mohamad Alkadry
Chris Duffy

CRCOG Staff

Emily Hultquist
Tim Malone

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by President Steve Cassano. He welcomed the Board and thanked those who called in. Steve Cassano recognized the three new board members in attendance and asked everyone to introduce themselves as well.

2. Action Item: Approval of Minutes (October 10, 2018 Meeting)

Dave Kilbon made a motion to approve the Minutes of "October 10, 2018 as presented. Chip Becket seconded the motion and it carried unanimously by voice vote. John Adams abstained.

3. Introduction and welcome of new board members

Addressed in item 1.

4. Work in Progress

Dr. Lyle Wray gave an overview of the status of the Metro Hartford Future project and went through the next steps, which include forming an submitting the document to EDA, forming an advisory committee, and developing a more detailed work plan for the various initiatives, including: talent development, transportation, and branding/marketing. Steve Cassano noted that the Northeast Corridor Future project is looking for an alternative route since the first, coastal, route was objected to. He asked if we should focus on this effort, which would include a route to Boston. He noted that there are too many pieces and suggested having a summit in the Fall to get all the players together. Dr. Wray noted it would need to be more than just CTDOT and offered to develop an outline for the next meeting.

Dr. Wray also discussed a memo on the development of a comprehensive talent system. He noted that half of graduating high school students do not get a degree within six years. Mohamad Alkadry asked how many try but do not finish. Tim Malone responded that he did not have the exact figure, but that it was a significant portion.

Steve Cassano noted that many organizations are trying to do the job of training workers, but that they are just not getting the job done. Mary Glassman noted that a regional approach is needed. Some schools are doing really well and others are struggling. It wouldn't make sense to try to replicate successful approaches in every district in the state. Richard Porth agreed that a regional approach was preferable.

Steve Cassano mentioned that school construction grants could be tied to vocational education requirements.

Mohamad Alkadry noted that the state is already paying for people who don't make minimum wage (through social services). There is an economic argument to be made for investing up front.

Chip Beckett noted that there isn't a sense of what the needs are economy wide. More information needs to be available to kids in high school.

Robert Lee asked how much would be a reallocation of existing resources versus finding new money. Mary Glassman suggested that much of it would be new money.

Dave Kilbon noted that we have been articulate about the problem, but that the solutions are still diffuse and unclear. It was agreed that the conversation needs to start soon and it should be done on a regional level. Dr. Wray said that staff would come back with a one-pager outlining options for both talent and transportation.

Dr. Wray discussed Transit-Oriented Development efforts. He noted that the state is approaching it one town at a time, not on a regional level. Emily Hultquist gave an overview of a new TOD Collaborative the region is working to form. She also noted that the agency has new tools to help visualize different development patterns.

At 11:19 Senator Cassano had to leave to attend another meeting. Vice Chairman Dave Kilbon took his place.

John Carson noted that there is probably only a small group of people in the state who are talking about these issues. He asked how we get the word out and amplify the conversation.

Dr. Wray offered to come back with a one-pager on the rail situation, workforce development, and TOD.

5. Future Work Menu

Governor's Budget and ACIR redesign

Dr. Wray noted that the proposed budget cuts regional planning funding in half. He also noted that there are efforts to ramp up the ACIR to become a better forum for regional ideas.

Advanced Scenario Planning

Dr. Wray noted that CRCOG recently acquired a license for Urban Footprint, a scenario planning service. It will help the region visualize changes to land-use patterns and how those changes impact things like traffic and water usage. He suggested that a demonstration may be a future agenda item.

GIS System

Dr. Wray explained that CRCOG was in the process of developing a new Geographic Information System. The new system will be much more flexible than the current one.

Regional and Metropolitan Policy Center

Dr. Wray noted that the state does not currently have a non-partisan policy center. The thought would be to create one, possibly in conjunction with UConn.

Metropolitan Regional Survey

Dr. Wray noted that many regions conduct surveys of the population. The idea would be to ask 30 to 40 questions about people's priorities and what sorts of development they want to see. Dave Kilbon noted that this idea feeds back into what was said earlier, about broadening the audience for the conversation.

Mohamad Alkadry noted that sampling for the survey could be done by town in an attempt to get town level results, even if the final response rates don't work out.

6. Action item: Approval of invitation of additional individuals to join the Board

Tim Malone explained that staff had identified a list of potential additional members of the board. Adding some of these members would help increase diversity.

Rick Porth moved to approve inviting additional members to join the board. Seconded by Chip Beckett.

Unanimously approved.

7. Other Business

Dwayne Jackson asked if there will be a predefined timeline for completing the future work menu items, or if it was for the committee to define.

Dr. Wray answered that ultimately that would be up to the committee.

8. Adjournment

Chip Beckett moved to adjourn. Seconded by Robert Lee.

Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

DRAFT