

Transportation Committee Meeting
South Congregation Church – Stanley Room, 277 Main Street, Hartford
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
12 Noon

Name

Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Andrea Drabicki
Todd Penney
Len Norton
John Cabibbo
Russ Arnold
Gil Hayes
Daniel Pennington
Jim Ford
Sandy Fry
Jeff LaMalva
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Rob Trottier
Carl Gandza
Chris Greenlaw
John R. Bossi
Jim Sollmi
Jim Grappone
Bill Hawkins
David Smith
Greg Sommer
Derrick Gregor
Bob Jarvis

Organization

Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Columbia
Coventry
East Windsor
Enfield
Farmington
GHTD
Glastonbury
Hartford
Hartford
Manchester
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
New Britain
Newington
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Southington
Suffield
Vernon
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

Guests

Chip Beckett
David Kilbon
Anna Bongiorno
John Korte
Anthony Lorenzetti
Mary Poesse

Glastonbury
East Granby
CTDOT
CTDOT
UConn
GHTD

Staff

Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Jillian Massey	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Ryan Visci	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Mr. Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from January 9th, 2017** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Gil Hayes of GHTD to adopt the meeting minutes from the January 9th, 2017 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **Public Participation Plan, Update and Opportunity to Comment** – Ms. Cara Radzins gave a brief update on the updating of CRCOG’s Public Participation Plan. She noted that the document is now available for review and that CRCOG held two public meetings about the Plan in January. Ms. Radzins reminded the Committee that the March Transportation Committee meeting will include a presentation on the Public Participation Plan Update, and she encouraged Committee members to review the document so that they can ask questions and make comments following that presentation. Ms. Radzins noted that she was available to take comments from Committee members or members from the public, but no comments were made at the time.
 - **Vendor In Place Pavement Resurfacing** – Ms. Mary Ellen Kowalewski explained that just as in 2016, CRCOG has made available a list of proposed projects from CTDOT’s Vendor-in-Place (VIP) Paving Program for 2017. This list is intended to allow towns to identify opportunities for narrowing travel lanes and allowing for additional accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians. For towns with projects on this list, three steps to capitalize on this opportunity are to identify the Local Traffic Authority (LTA), determine whether the VIP project coincides with an identified bicycle corridor, and determine whether the CTDOT review supports narrower travel lanes within the VIP project area. Ms. Kowalewski noted that CTDOT contact information for this effort is included in the handout.

- **CTrides Quarterly Report** – Mr. Ryan Visci summarized the findings of the CT**rides** Quarterly Report for the fourth quarter of 2016 (October-December). Mr. Visci shared that in October, CT**rides** began their “Kick Off Your Commute” campaign, which included a raffle for tickets to a Jets, Giants, or Patriots football game for CT**rides** rewards program members. The “Reboot Your Commute” advertising campaign went live in November and featured new photos for outdoor, print, and digital ads. Mr. Visci shared that Goodwin College was recognized as a “partner of the month” for their efforts to promote CT**rides** and public transportation options to their students. Mr. Visci noted that through these programs, CT**rides** Ridematch and Reward Program added 1,297 new members across the state during this quarter. Mr. Visci also shared that the CT**rides** Transportation Showcase will be held on Thursday, February 23rd from noon to 4:00pm at the Sheraton in Rocky Hill and will feature a light lunch. A panel discussion featuring CTDOT Commissioner Jim Redeker and stakeholders from WNPR, Travelers, Mohegan Sun, and Yale University will be followed by interactive breakout sessions in the afternoon. More information can be found at www.CTrides.com, and today is the last day to register for the event.
- **ezIQC Roadway and Bridge Maintenance Contractors** – Mr. Rob Aloise explained that the ezIQC program, which CRCOG’s Municipal Services Department has historically used for site work projects, has been expanded to include road and bridge maintenance projects. Mr. Aloise noted that the RFP for this effort has closed and that the selected contractors have bid on a specifications catalog. Details of the contractors and their adjustment factors are included in the handout. Mr. Aloise explained that CRCOG municipalities fall within Regions 1, 2, or 4, and a map of the regions is included in the handout. Towns can submit a proposal through the ezIQC website. A Committee member asked if the full catalogs are available, and Mr. Aloise said that they are available on the ezIQC website. A Committee member asked if the NWH non-prevailing wage adjustment factor for Region 3 was a typo, as it is listed as being higher than the prevailing wage. Mr. Aloise indicated he believes that the adjustment factor should have been listed as 1.17 instead of 1.70 (which was verified post-meeting). A Committee member asked which towns are eligible to participate in this program, and Mr. Aloise explained that it is open to any towns that are members of the Purchasing Council.
- **Transportation Finance Panel Findings and Tolling** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier shared the recommendations of the Transportation Finance Panel, which was assembled by Governor Malloy to understand how to sustainably structure resources to advance the bold 30-year transportation vision of *Let’s Go CT!*. Ms. Carrier noted that policy recommendations include the creation of a Special Transportation Fund, support for innovations that allow for the streamlining of projects, and considering public private partnerships where possible. Ms. Carrier also noted that the funding recommendations include an increase in the gas tax, congestion mitigation electronic tolling, and consideration of alternative financing programs such as TIFIA (Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation

Act). Ms. Carrier explained that the memo also includes a list of related bills that are proposed for this session and that her update is intended as informational material for the Committee. The information will also be shared with CRCOG's Policy Board.

- **Other** – Mr. Lyle Wray shared that the majority of CTDOT's cuts identified in its 10% reduction memo from December 2016 were not accepted by the Governor in his budget. Mr. Wray noted, however, that the final budget for the Department will be determined by the legislature. As maintained in the current Governor's budget, CT **rail** Hartford Line improvements would remain on schedule and cuts to transit would be minimal. On the Federal level, Mr. Wray noted that the Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordination and Planning Area Reform Federal Rulemaking he discussed at the January Transportation Committee meeting is not widely supported and is unlikely to be passed. He also stated that there is a need to monitor potential cuts to Amtrak and transit. Mr. Wray said that looking ahead, public private partnerships will be a promising option for financing transportation projects. He also noted that the continued rise of electric and hybrid vehicles will diminish the amount of money collected through the gas tax, and as a result alternative forms of revenue, such as vehicle miles travelled (VMT) fees and congestion pricing, will need to be utilized. Mr. Wray also noted that while infrastructure is a prominent topic, to date no Federal legislation has been proposed. It will be important to monitor funding legislation to understand how projects will be selected.

5. **Potential LOTCIP Bridge Solicitation** – Mr. Jon Colman explained that a potential LOTCIP Bridge Solicitation was discussed at length during the Cost Review and Schedule Sub-Committee meeting. The Sub-Committee determined that it would make sense to have a solicitation for bridges, but questions remained regarding the details of such a solicitation, including its interaction with a standard LOTCIP Roadway, Pavement Rehab, Sidewalk, and Trail solicitation. CRCOG staff will prepare a schedule, selection criteria, and funding level/cap recommendations for review by the Transportation Committee. This information will be discussed and finalized at the March meeting. Mr. Colman noted that some primary concerns relating to this solicitation are ensuring that CRCOG utilizes its full LOTCIP funding allocation, developing flexible criteria to allow all communities to participate, understanding how to best prioritize road miles versus bridges, and developing a schedule that does not unfairly challenge towns with fewer resources. A member of the Committee asked if this would replace CTDOT's existing local bridge and road programs. Mr. Colman answered that the LOTCIP Bridge Solicitation would be supplemental to existing funding programs.

6. **TIP Amendments** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP amendments. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Ford from the City of Hartford to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Granby – Major Intersection Improvements at Rts 10 / 202 / 20 / 189
- Statewide – Preliminary Engineering: TA Set Aside Program
- Hartford – ATMS Communications Upgrades
- Hartford – Traffic Signal Upgrades at Various Locations
- Districts 1 and 2 – Replace Traffic Control Signals at 12 Locations
- District 1 – Replace Traffic Control Signals at 9 Locations
- District 4 – Replace Traffic Control Signals at 12 Locations

7. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Contingency Projects – Mr. Rob Aloise updated the Committee regarding the current status of TA Set-Aside contingency projects. Mr. Aloise noted that the Committee approved projects for Glastonbury and Southington at the last meeting and had tabled voting on the remaining two projects in East Hartford and Columbia until CRCOG received their applications. CRCOG has since received the East Hartford application, and CTDOT is currently working with Columbia to finalize that application. Mr. Aloise recommended that the Columbia project be considered by the Transportation Committee at a future date following receipt of their application. A Committee member asked for a status update on the primary TA Set-Aside projects, as there is concern that these projects will move so slowly that they get replaced by the contingency projects. Mr. Aloise responded that he has not gotten an update from CTDOT, will reach out for more information, and will report back to the Committee. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton to endorse the East Hartford project for submittal to CTDOT as a TA Set-Aside contingency project. The motion was seconded by Andrea Drabicki from the Town of Columbia and passed unanimously.

8. Presentation: CTDOT Computerized Traffic Signal System Retiming and Reevaluation (State Project No 171-421): John Korte, CTDOT – Mr. John Korte gave a brief presentation of the CTDOT Computerized Traffic Signal System Retiming and Reevaluation project. Mr. Korte explained that the focus of the project is to improve signal timing in order to improve traffic operations. Mr. Korte shared a list of signals within the CRCOG region that are a part of this effort and noted that some had not been evaluated since the 1990s. He shared the methodology for retiming the signals and noted that the most important aspects are those that include data collection and operations review in the field. Mr. Korte explained that a report will be prepared for each signal system. A Committee member asked if the project will assess capacity and turning movements, and Mr. Korte replied that the program will consider corridor volumes as part of the assessment. A committee member asked if the project includes the fixing of detector issues. Mr. Korte said that while the signal timing will be adjusted to compensate for detector issues, fixing detectors is not within the scope of this project. A Committee member asked if this project would include operational improvements such as preemption. Mr. Korte said that the signal adjustments will only be made to cycle splits and that preemption and pedestrian

priority treatments will not be included. Mr. Korte then gave a brief update on CTDOT's Roadway Weather Information System. He told the Committee that this project will be advertised next week. Notice to Proceed is anticipated for May 2017, with an 18-month project contract. It is expected that implementation of the seven westernmost sites will be completed in 2017. Mr. Korte explained that the sites will be implemented from west to east because that is the usual storm path seen in Connecticut and will therefore allow for earlier detection of weather-related issues.

- 9. Other Business** – Mr. Jon Colman brought the Committee's attention to the LOTCIP summary handout that was included in the meeting packet. He stated that the Committee should be proud of the work that is getting done through this program, and he encouraged Committee members to share the handout with their town officials. Mr. Colman also acknowledged David Kilbon, former Chair of CRCOG's Transportation Committee, and Chip Beckett, Chair of CRCOG's Policy Board, who were both in attendance.
- 10. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.