

To: Transportation Subcommittee
 Transportation Committee

From: Robert Aloise, Principal Transportation Engineer
 Jennifer Carrier, Director of Transportation Planning

Date: June 19, 2017

Subject: Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program
 CTDOT Reviews

cc: Jim Sollmi, Rocky Hill; Sandy Fry, Hartford; Mark Moriarty, New Britain; Tim Webb, Ellington

In December 2016 the region submitted four (4) projects (see table) to CTDOT to utilize an estimated \$6.1 million of FFY2016-2020 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside funding. In April, after performing their internal review of the projects, available funding, and staff resources, CTDOT indicated they could only advance CRCOG’s three top priority projects (Rocky Hill, Hartford, and New Britain). CTDOT’s review of these three projects resulted in project scope revisions and higher estimated costs shown below.

Project Priority	Town	Project	CRCOG Approval (Federal Share)	CTDOT Estimate (Federal Share)
1	Rocky Hill	Silas Deane Streetscape – Phase III	\$ 2,102,016	\$ 2,305,728
2	Hartford	Windsor Riverwalk Extension	\$ 1,237,200	\$ 2,529,494
3	New Britain	Stanley Loop Trail (Phase 2)	\$ 853,600	\$1,437,248
4	Ellington	Route 83 Corridor Sidewalks	\$ 1,920,000	\$4.3 million (Informal review)

At its May meeting, CRCOG’s subcommittee discussed options for advancing all four projects with consensus on the following two alternatives for further consideration at the June meeting:

1. Advance both the New Britain and Hartford projects as scoped by CTDOT, however pursue reallocating the Rocky Hill project’s TA Set-Aside monies to the Ellington project, and allocating LOTCIP funding for the Rocky Hill project. CTDOT preliminarily indicated that if monies are “freed up” due to Rocky Hill moving out of the TA Set-Aside program, there would be no guarantee that those funds would be allocated to the Ellington project. CTDOT also indicated that the Ellington project would need to compete with the other non-selected projects within the Hartford Transportation Management Area (TMA) outside of our region.
2. If no commitment to funding the Ellington project can be obtained from CTDOT, advance the Rocky Hill project with TA Set-Aside funding and either allocate LOTCIP funding to the Ellington project, or reserve funding for Ellington as the region’s top priority project under the next TA Set-Aside solicitation.

Following the meeting CRCOG staff was tasked with the following; the results are shown in ***bold italics***:

- Obtain more formal municipal commitments to the increased municipal shares associated with the higher CTDOT cost estimates.

CRCOG has since obtained commitments from Rocky Hill, Hartford, and New Britain

- Determine if CTDOT will be advancing all projects in parallel, or if there will be delays based on assigned priority order.

CTDOT indicated that projects will be progressed in parallel. Furthermore, CTDOT performed a May 30th financial analysis of the TA Set-Aside program and indicated that \$2.8 million of CRCOG funding needs to be expended before October of 2019. Because the Rocky Hill project is already designed, CTDOT expressed support for expediting that projects' use of TA Set-Aside funding.

- Further advocate the reassignment of the Rocky Hill project's funding to the Ellington project.

A May 24th letter was sent to CTDOT from CRCOG's Executive Director requesting a formal commitment to advance the Ellington project using TA Set-Aside funding, with CRCOG willing to forfeit the Rocky Hill TA funds if given that commitment. In response, CTDOT performed a cursory review of the Ellington project proposal. They relayed concerns to CRCOG about the project's envisioned cost and schedule, and did not formally commit to (or rule out) its inclusion in the TA Set-Aside program. CTDOT's preliminary review resulted in a substantially higher estimated project cost (\$4.3 million), and an anticipated lengthy design schedule (due to federal compliance and design complexities associated with bridges crossing over two waterways).

- Check with Ellington regarding their official position regarding the receipt of LOTCIP funds

Ellington's Board approved a motion in June to seek to utilize LOTCIP funding for the project.

It was generally discussed that transitioning a TA Set-Aside project into LOTCIP should count against a town's funding limit however no formal action was taken. At our upcoming meeting we will look to take formal action, both on the town's funding limit and the number of proposals that can be submitted under the upcoming solicitation.

Given the May Subcommittee meeting discussion, the desire of Ellington to utilize LOTCIP funding, the need to expedite TA Set-Aside expenditures, and each municipality's commitment to the estimated municipal match, CRCOG staff recommends that the committee approve the Rocky Hill, Hartford, and New Britain projects for TA Set-Aside funding with the scope and funding levels identified under CTDOT's review.

CRCOG staff also recommends that the Ellington project be approved to enter the LOTCIP application process with an initial CRCOG approval of \$1,920,000, equaling their TA Set-Aside funding request. It is recommended that this LOTCIP award be contingent on the receipt of an application as part of the CRCOG's 2017 LOTCIP Phase 2 Solicitation, scheduled to be released upon approval of sufficient LOTCIP funding in the 2018-2019 State Budget.