

To: Transportation Subcommittee
Transportation Committee

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

Date: May 12, 2017

Subject: Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program
CTDOT Reviews

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

The region recently solicited for, selected, and in December 2016 submitted four (4) projects shown in the table below to CTDOT to utilize FFY2016-2020 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside funding¹. In April the region received CTDOT's review comments and resulting programming selections. CTDOT has indicated that they received eight (8) TA Set-Aside applications for projects located within the Hartford Urbanized Area (four from CRCOG, three from RiverCOG, and one from Naugatuck Valley COG), but after performing their internal review of the projects and available funding, has selected only four of the eight for advancement. Three of the four projects that CTDOT identified for advancement were CRCOG's top three priority projects (Rocky Hill, Hartford, and New Britain). Ellington's project was not reviewed or identified for advancement by CTDOT, however they have indicated that it would be if any of the other CRCOG projects were to withdraw from the program.

CTDOT's reviews resulted in cost increases for each of the projects, however the increase was most significant for the Hartford project. This increase was primarily the result of CTDOT requiring the northern limit of the trail be extended to what they consider a logical terminus. CTDOT's re-scoping of the project resulted in approximately a doubling of both scope (7,000 lf to 13,700 lf) and cost.

Project Priority	Town	Project	Estimated Federal Share		% change	CTDOT Review Comments
			Municipal Application	CTDOT Review		
1	Rocky Hill	Silas Deane Streetscape - Phase III	\$ 2,102,016	\$ 2,305,728	+9%	Minor cost estimating adjustments
2	Hartford	Hartford - Windsor Riverwalk Extension	\$ 1,237,200	\$ 2,529,494	+104%	Project extension to logical termini needed
3	New Britain	New Britain's "Stanley Loop Trail" (Phase 2)	\$ 853,600	\$1,179,628 (\$ 1,437,248*)	+38% (+68%)	Cost estimating adjustments
4	Ellington	Route 83 Corridor Sidewalks	\$ 1,920,000	-	-	Not reviewed
CRCOG Estimated Target = \$6.1 million			\$ 6,112,816	\$ 6,014,850 (\$ 6,272,470*)	-2% (+3%)	

* If New Britain design costs are participating, initial City application did not include design cost participation

¹ Eligible TA Set-Aside project types include: on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, multi-use trail projects, and safe routes to school projects.

Andover / Avon / Berlin / Bloomfield / Bolton / Canton / Columbia / Coventry / East Granby / East Hartford / East Windsor / Ellington / Enfield / Farmington / Glastonbury / Granby / Hartford / Hebron / Manchester / Marlborough / Mansfield / New Britain / Newington / Plainville / Rocky Hill / Simsbury / Somers / South Windsor / Southington / Stafford / Suffield / Tolland / Vernon / West Hartford / Wethersfield / Willington / Windsor / Windsor Locks

A voluntary Council of Governments formed to initiate and implement regional programs of benefit to the towns and the region

In transmitting their reviews results, CTDOT has requested that CRCOG coordinate with each municipality to discuss and resolve scoping comments and their ability to secure any required additional municipal funding shares. It was also requested that CRCOG consider and possibly approve the resulting agreed upon scope/cost changes and associated program funding revisions. Rocky Hill and New Britain have indicated that they have no issues with either the review comments or in securing associated municipal shares. However, Hartford has indicated that due solely to potential issues with obtaining the necessary increased financial match, they would rather either advance the project as originally scoped (if allowed by CTDOT), or redefine the project scope to one amenable to both CTDOT and the City, but with a similar cost to the already approved. The Ellington project was not reviewed by CTDOT, however Ellington is very interested in advancing their project.

CRCOG is currently working with Hartford and CTDOT to try to identify a project scope and estimated cost amenable to both CTDOT and the City. At this time, CRCOG staff recommends the following potential options for committee consideration:

1. Advocate that CTDOT advance all four of the region's selections as originally scoped and submitted, with project funding capped at currently approved levels utilizing currently approved CRCOG LOTCIP cost containment policy (increases of 20% or more need Subcommittee approval)
2. Utilize LOTCIP funding for one of the four CRCOG selected projects, and advance the remaining three projects with TA Set-Aside funding, approved at new levels per CTDOT review comments. A switch to LOTCIP funding could be offered to all projects, but assigned to the highest priority project that wishes to utilize them. CRCOG would need to consider whether this LOTCIP assignment would count against municipal limits for the upcoming 2017 LOTCIP solicitation.
3. Advance the three top projects per CTDOT scoping comments with TA Set-Aside funding approval at new levels per CTDOT review comments, but reserve funding for Ellington as the region's top priority project under the next TA Set-Aside solicitation.

CRCOG staff will continue to work with the affected communities and CTDOT to identify additional solutions, and we plan to discuss any of these along with the above options at the upcoming Subcommittee meeting.