

Transportation Committee Meeting
(Acting on behalf of the Policy Board)
MIRA, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Monday July 24, 2017
12 Noon

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Larry Baril	Avon
Chris Edge	Berlin
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Patrice Carson	Bolton
Todd Penney	Coventry
Tim Bockus	East Hartford
Len Norton	East Windsor
Timothy Webb	Ellington
John Cabibbo	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Kirk Severance	Granby
Jim Ford	Hartford
Sandy Fry	Hartford
Kevin Kelly	Hebron
Jeff LaMalva	Manchester
John Carrington	Mansfield
Carl Ganza	New Britain
Stephen Sopolak	Rocky Hill
Tom Roy	Simsbury
Keith Hayden	Southington
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Rick Zulick	Stafford
Gerry Turbet	Suffield
David Smith	Vernon
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Jennifer Rodriguez	Windsor Locks

<u>Guests</u>	
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
DJ Gonzalez	GHTD
Mike Ciriello	Enfield
Alex Beaudoin	Hartford

<u>Staff</u>	
Rob Aloise	CRCOG

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Emily Hultquist	CRCOG
Maryellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Ms. Patrice Carson called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM.
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2017** – A motion was made by Tim Webb of the Town of Ellington, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to adopt the meeting minutes from the June 26, 2017 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with one abstention by Len Norton of East Windsor.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - Ms. Jennifer Carrier welcomed Ms. Vicki Shotland of the Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD) to the Policy Board. Ms. Carrier noted that Ms. Shotland will serve as one of the transit representatives on the Policy Board in its capacity as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
 - 2017 Northeast Transportation Safety Conference – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reported that the “Road Safety Matters” conference is scheduled on October 24 and 25 in Cromwell. Registration and general information was provided in the packet. Ms. Carrier indicated that the conference will address a wide range of transportation safety issues.
 - Connecticut Strategic Highway Safety Plan – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reported that the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has completed the Connecticut Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) for 2017-2021. The overall goal of the SHSP is to reduce highway fatalities and injuries by fifteen percent (15%) by the year 2021, and safety funding will be allocated in accordance with the recommendations found within the Plan. The full document is available at <http://www.ct.gov/dot/lib/dot/documents/dsafety/shsp.pdf>.
 - Revisions to Capitol Region Council of Governments Rules of Procedure and Bylaws – Ms. Jennifer Carrier informed the Committee that CRCOG endorsed two public transportation representatives, one from the Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD) and one from CTDOT, to the MPO. CRCOG’s Policy Board acts as the MPO when endorsing transportation related matters. These additions required amendments to CRCOG’s bylaws to clarify voting rights. Ms. Carrier indicated that a draft of the bylaws with suggested edits can be found on CRCOG’s website at <http://crcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Bylaws-track-changes-2017-07->

[24.pdf](#). These suggested edits will be shared with the Executive Committee in August and the Policy Board in September.

- LOTCIP Update (Projects and Funding) – Ms. Sotoria Montanari provided an overview of the LOTCIP FY17 Quarter 4. Ms. Montanari indicated that the information was extracted from two provided tables included in the Quarterly Status Report memo (Program Status Summary and Project Quarterly Status Report). Some of the main highlights were summarized as follows:
 - CRCOG expended **\$6,397,734** in FY17, compared to **\$4,708,400** in FY16
 - CRCOG’s projections for FY18 expenditures are **\$28,018,800**
 - CRCOG received **six (6)** of the **nine (9)** expected Quarter 4 design submissions
 - FY2017 carryforward increased by **\$9,061,400** million (8 projects) from FY2017 to FY2018, due to the timing of the final design submissions of 5 projects totaling **\$5,707,400** and 3 projects totaling **\$3,354,000** currently in the bidding process.
 - CRCOG anticipates receipt of **seven (7)** design submissions in Quarter 1 of FY2018
 - **Four (4)** projects being designed have anticipated design durations of more than **36** months
 - **Five (5)** projects entered construction, **four (4)** are expected next quarter
 - **Nine (9)** LOTCIP applications are pending CTDOT approval

Representatives for the following projects were asked to provide schedule updates:

Project	Town	Milestone
<i>Route 10/202 Sidewalks</i>	<i>Granby</i>	<i>Final design date slipped from FY17 to FY18</i>
<i>Granby Street Pavement Rehabilitation</i>	<i>Bloomfield</i>	<i>Final design date slipped from FY17 to FY18</i>
<i>Hebron Avenue</i>	<i>Glastonbury</i>	<i>Final design date slipped from FY17 to FY18</i>
<i>Trout Brook Trail</i>	<i>West Hartford</i>	<i>Final design date slipped from FY17 to FY18</i>
<i>North Main Street Reconstruction Tolland Turnpike</i>	<i>Manchester</i>	<i>Final design date slipped from FY17 to FY18 Q4 final design submission re-scheduled from 6/30/2017 to 7/31/2017</i>
<i>Buckland Road Sidewalks</i>	<i>South Windsor</i>	<i>Q4 90% design submission re-scheduled from 6/30/2017 to 9/27/2017</i>
<i>Brewer Street (3)</i>	<i>East Hartford</i>	<i>Design duration exceeded 36 mo.</i>

Each town representative provided scheduling updates to the sub-committee. Ms. Montanari also mentioned that an email was received by Mr. Jon Colman regarding the extended design times of the projects. Mr. Colman suggested establishing a small focus group to analyze ways to tighten up the design phase. Ms. Montanari indicated that staff will make a recommendation for the next meeting. Additionally, Ms. Montanari provided a copy of a letter from CRCOG Executive Director to CTDOT that addressed the concerns regarding the expediency of the LOTCIP application advancement. Ms. Jennifer Carrier provided an overview of the LOTCIP financial summary provided in the packet. Ms. Carrier mentioned that the State Budget has allocated \$101,413,300 (pending FY18/19 approval) towards the CRCOG portion of the LOTCIP program. She indicated that \$16,404,225 has been expended, \$56,758,503 are additional commitments with a total of \$73,162,728 programmed projects. The estimated LOTCIP balance is \$28,250,572 to be used in a solicitation, pending approval of the budget. Additionally, Ms. Carrier mentioned that staff will provide a bid analysis at the next meeting, demonstrating a savings of approximately \$2 million.

- Fall Bicycle/Pedestrian Count – Ms. Emily Hultquist informed the Committee that CRCOG is gearing up for the bike/pedestrian counts scheduled for the week of September 11-17. Ms. Hultquist mentioned that the bike/pedestrian committee will be looking for volunteers to conduct the counts that are completed every three (3) years. Additionally, Ms. Hultquist mentioned that a draft 2017 Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update is available for review on the CRCOG website or at www.ctbikepedplan.org. Comments for the plan are due by August 11.
- Other – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has released the Record of Decision (ROD) and Selected Alternative for the Northeast Corridor (NEC) Future project. The selected alternative acknowledges the ongoing CT*rail* initiative between New Haven and Springfield, but does not incorporate enhancements between Springfield and Boston. The Selected Alternative also eliminated the controversial diversion through a historic section of Old Lyme and instead calls for further analysis of capacity and service options between New Haven and Providence, which could include analysis of a route from Hartford to Providence via Storrs. Mike Ciriello of the Town of Enfield stated that FRA had indicated a preference towards the Hartford-Springfield-Boston link at a public meeting, and he questioned why there had been a change. Mr. Lyle Wray noted that Hartford-Springfield-Boston is regional rail and is being considered separately from the high-speed study of NEC Future. Mr. Wray indicated that there is a need for CRCOG and its member communities to advocate for this inland route, both in terms of economic connectivity and environmental resiliency.

5. **FFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier briefed the Committee on the 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Carrier reported that the TIP is a list of all the federally funded transportation projects scheduled to receive federal transportation funds within the next four years. Ms. Carrier mentioned that the TIP is prepared every four years, but frequently

amended through the amendment process. CRCOG's approval is required before any federal funds are expended on any transportation project in the Capitol Region. Also, Ms. Carrier mentioned that TIP changes and a summary of the comments were provided to the committee for their review. CRCOG also prepares an equity analysis assessment of the TIP every four years. Ms. Carrier indicated that the equity assessment was prepared in accordance with CRCOG's Environmental Justice Policy. The Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board, was asked to endorse the full four-year program of the Capitol Region Transportation Improvement Program. Tim Webb of the Town of Ellington made the motion and Russ Arnold of the Town of Farmington seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

- 6. Air Quality Conformity Analysis (AQCA) and Self-Certification** – Mr. Tim Malone stated that CTDOT asked CRCOG to endorse an Air Quality Conformity Resolution, which is required whenever an MPO develops a new TIP or Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Malone indicated that the State performs the AQCA on a statewide basis. The May 2017 analysis (available on <http://www.crcog.org/tip>) showed that CRCOG's new TIP is within approved 2009 motor vehicle emissions budgets. The Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board, was asked to endorse the Resolution on Conformity with the Clean Air Act – Ozone. Jim Ford of the City of Hartford made the motion and Kevin Kelly of the Town of Hebron seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.
- 7. Annual Urban Planning Certification** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier explained that when a new TIP is passed, the MPO must pass a new self-certification. The Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board, was asked to endorse the Resolution on Annual Urban Planning Certification. Mr. Chris Edge of the Town of Berlin made the motion and Jeff Doolittle from the Town of South Windsor seconded the motion. The resolution passed unanimously.
- 8. TIP Amendments** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reported there were no TIP amendments for action, but a special August meeting of the Transportation Committee may need to be called in the event that new amendments need action.
- 9. LOTCIP Bridge Solicitation** - Mr. Rob Aloise gave an update on the LOTCIP Bridge Solicitation. Mr. Aloise indicated that at the June CRCOG Subcommittee meeting, staff had presented the rankings of the nine proposals received and staff's recommendations for selections. However, before acting the committee indicated that they would like to receive and consider more information relative to each bridge's condition and proposed improvements. Therefore, for July CRCOG staff provided a memo summarizing each bridge's condition (per inspection report), and the proposed improvements based on the provided municipal descriptions. Mr. Aloise summarized the July subcommittee discussions regarding the memo and a portion of Mr. Peter

Hughes’s e-mail to staff voicing concerns regarding the appropriateness of funding any projects that would not be eligible for State Bridge Program funding, and with exceeding the \$10 million agreed solicitation size. Mr. Aloise summarized the Subcommittee discussions, and indicated that the Cost Review Sub-Committee approved a motion that the top seven projects to advance. The Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board was asked to endorse the approval of the top seven projects. A motion was made by Tim Webb, seconded by Russ Arnold to approve the top seven ranked projects for LOTCIP funding. The motion passed unanimously. The seven projects are listed in the table below:

LOTICIP Phase 1 – Projects approved for application submission to CTDOT

Municipality	Bridge	Location	Requested Funding	Cumulative Requested	Sufficiency Rating
Southington	131016	Marion Avenue over Falls Brook	\$1,107,600	\$1,107,600	Not inspected within 10 years
Granby	04528	Moosehorn Road over Moosehorn Brook	\$2,528,750	\$3,636,350	47.1
Stafford	04783	South Road over Roaring Brook	\$570,000	\$4,206,350	47.7
West Hartford	04081	Fern Street over West Branch Trout Brook	\$3,000,000	\$7,206,350	62.4 (60.4*)
Berlin	03657	Kensington Road over Mattabasset River	\$738,000	\$7,944,350	65.0
Coventry	04632	Folly Lane over Skungamaug River	\$922,800	\$8,867,150	67.6
Vernon	03936	Dart Hill Road over Hockanum River	\$2,014,800	\$10,881,950	76.1

Mr. Aloise indicated that the subcommittee also consider allowing the City of Hartford and Somers projects (shown in the table below) to receive either Phase 2 funding accommodations (pre-selection or additional points) or not receive any accommodations. Mr. Aloise indicated that the subcommittee made and approved a motion to Table this discussion until a future subcommittee meeting. No Transportation Committee motion was made regarding these two projects.

LOTICIP Phase 1 – Projects with status tabled for discussion at a future meeting

Municipality	Bridge	Location	Requested Funding	Cumulative Requested	Sufficiency Rating
Hartford	05354	Boce Barlow Way over Amtrak & CT Southern RR	\$468,000	\$11,349,950	79.3
Somers	04439	Kibbe Grove Road over Scantic River	\$336,000	\$11,685,950	82.5

10. Local Road Accident Reduction Program – Ms. Cara Radzins explained that CRCOG had received five proposals for Local Road Accident Reduction Program funding, but that CRCOG can only submit two proposals for consideration by CTDOT. Ms. Radzins noted that CTDOT will perform a benefit-cost analysis on all of the proposals received and then allocate funding to the top-rated projects. Ms. Radzins requested Committee approval for CRCOG to submit proposals from Manchester and Hartford, as they have the highest crash rates of the proposals received by CRCOG. She also noted that CRCOG will continue to work with the remaining three municipalities of Wethersfield, Suffield, and Stafford to attempt to locate alternative funding sources for the proposals submitted under this solicitation. A motion was made by Jim Ford of Hartford, seconded by Chris Edge of Berlin. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Other Business – Mr. Lyle Wray noted two Legislative Proposals to follow as they may impact Transportation Funding: Bonding Cap Reduction and Transportation Fund insolvency due to cutting of the sales tax.

Ms. Jennifer Carrier mentioned that notification of an August meeting (if required) will be provided.

13. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.