

October 6, 2017

Mr. Mark Rolfe, P.E.
CTDOT Chief Engineer
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
PO Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Dear Mr. Rolfe,

We appreciate the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) coordination of the draft 5-year Capital Plan (2018-2022) for CRCOG's preliminary review. We are especially pleased to see the effect of significant state *Let's Go CT!* and LOTCIP capital investments on the plan. The supplementing of federal funding with these state investments appears to be key in addressing the growing needs associated with the region and state's aging infrastructure.

Provided below are CRCOG's staff level comments. We will share these comments with our municipalities and look forward to meeting with CTDOT staff later this fall to discuss further.

- We appreciate the recent efforts of CTDOT to evaluate a roundabout option at the North Main Street / Albany Avenue intersection in Hartford. We continue to be interested in advancing this project through the TIP process and reflecting construction dollars in the Capital Plan.
- As we strive to implement a Performance Based Planning and Programming approach towards Transportation Capital Investments, projects entering the TIP and STIP (via the 5 year Capital Plan) will need to aim to achieve performance targets. CRCOG is interested in working with CTDOT to evaluate methodologies that link investments to performance and developing an appropriate project prioritization process.
- CRCOG is beginning the process of updating our Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP outlines anticipated capital costs and revenues within our region. We would be very interested in working with CTDOT in the coming year to better understand projects of regional significance and how the capital costs match up against the revenues, understanding the significant Interstate 84 Hartford Viaduct reconstruction project costs will need to be factored into the financial plan.
- CRCOG is interested in improving coordination and transparency with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) as it relates to transit projects. We are available to strategize with CTDOT Transit professionals to understand transit needs and priorities within the Capital Plan. In the short term, we will also be outreaching to CTDOT to finalize the process of having a CTDOT representative sit on our MPO Board.
- CRCOG continues to be interested in establishing a transit enhancement set aside each year to support transit amenities (e.g. regional bus shelters, improved wayfinding). Currently some of this money is contained in another larger program line item however we would be interested in understanding how to break this out specifically and ensure it remains a stable, continuous source of funds.

- The Capital Plan references 'Program of Projects' sheets for FTA Section 5310 and 5311 programs, CRCOG would be interested in seeing those programs. On a related note, CRCOG recently worked with CTDOT, and the Town of Enfield on repurposing federal earmarks. Within the repurposing exercise there are elements that directly correlate to the Section 5310 program. Will this repurposing exercise result in edits to the Program of Projects?

Feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns. We look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,



Lyle D. Wray
Executive Director

cc: Thomas Maziarz, CTDOT
Richard Andreski, CTDOT
Chip Beckett, CRCOG Policy Board Chair
Jonathan Colman, CRCOG Transportation Committee Chair
Jennifer Carrier, CRCOG Transportation Director