

Transportation Committee Meeting
MIRA, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Monday September 25, 2017
12 Noon

Name

Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Marilyn Cruz-Aponte
Len Norton
Timothy Webb
John Cabibbo
Russ Arnold
Kirk Severance
Jim Ford
Sandy Fry
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Rob Trottier
Craig Minor
John Bossi
James Sollmi
Tom Roy
Jeffrey Doolittle
Bill Hawkins
David Smith
Duane Martin
Derrick Gregor
Bob Jarvis

Organization

Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
East Hartford
East Windsor
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
Newington
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
South Windsor
Suffield
Vernon
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Guests

Vicki Shotland
DJ Gonzalez
Donald T. Nunes
Ted DesSantos
Jeff Shea
Jamis Kulpa
Peter Calcaterra
Nanci Fitzgerald
Brandon Robertson
Michael Fisher
Ken Shooshan-Stoller
Amy Jackson-Grove

GHTD
GHTD
Enfield
Fuss & O'Neill
Simsbury
VHB
CTDOT
The Rideshare CO.
Avon
BL Companies
FHWA
FHWA

Mark Moriarty

New Britain

Staff

Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Michael Cipriano	CRCOG
Emily Hultquist	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

- 1. Roll Call** – Mr. Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. Mr. Colman acknowledged Ms. Amy Jackson-Grove and Mr. Ken Shooshan-Stoller from FHWA, thanking them for their attendance and their support of transportation efforts in the Capitol Region.
- 2. Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
- 3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from July 24, 2017** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington, to adopt the meeting minutes from the July 24th, 2017 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously, with one abstention made by Marilyn Cruz-Aponte from the Town of East Hartford.
- 4. Staff Reports**
 - **CTrides Quarterly Report** – Ms. Cara Radzins gave a brief review of the CT**rides** quarterly report for April to June 2017. Ms. Radzins noted that the two primary events for this quarter were Earth Week (April 17-21) and CT**rides** Week (May 15-19). Earth Week included 21 events at employers such as Sikorsky, The Hartford, UConn, Cigna, and Jackson Labs, and 500 people registered for the Ridematching and Rewards program. CT**rides** Week encouraged commuters to try a new green commuting option and began with a kick-off event in Bushnell Park with speakers from CTDOT, Traveler’s, AETNA, and the City of Hartford. The week featured 63 events, 886 pledges, and a VMT reduction of 452,628 miles. Ms. Radzins also noted that during the quarter CT**rides** added seven new employer partners and nearly 2,300 new members to the Ridematching and Rewards program. CT**rides** also handled 5,051 inquiries including 12 emergency rides home and 43 trial bus passes.
 - **CTDOT Statewide Freight Plan** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier shared that CTDOT had released a Draft Statewide Freight Plan for comment. Ms. Carrier noted that 94% of the state’s freight is moved by truck and that infrastructure deficiencies are identified as part of the reason rail does not account for a larger share. Ms. Carrier

shared a copy of the comment letter CRCOG submitted to CTDOT. These comments related to funding allocation, truck parking, future freight coordination, and the identification of critical freight corridors.

- Storrs Express Bus Service – Ms. Cara Radzins briefed the Committee on the Storrs Express Bus Service (Route 913) that began operating on August 13th between Hartford and Storrs Center with stops including Buckland Hills and the Tolland Park and Ride lot. The route offers connections to CT **fastrak** (Sigourney Street), CT **transit** local and express service, Union Station, Windham Regional Transit District, and UConn Transportation services. The route operates hourly from approximately 6:00am to Midnight, Monday through Saturday, and on Sunday from 7:00am to 8:00pm. Ms. Radzins noted that the route has been well received with more than 11,000 riders in the first six weeks of service, and preliminary numbers are showing increased ridership on Fridays into Hartford, which could indicate that students are using the service to get off campus for the weekend. Ms. Radzins stated that CRCOG will monitor this service and keep the Committee updated with notable information. Mr. Rob Trottier of New Britain noted that students at UConn are all assessed a \$20 fee for a U-Pass whether or not they choose to utilize this service. Mr. Chris Edge of Berlin and Ms. Sandy Fry of Hartford discussed the potential expansion of the U-Pass program to private universities.
- Transportation Safety and Improvement Study-UConn Hartford Campus – Mr. Rob Aloise provided a study update, indicating that a Draft version of the final report was produced September 1, 2017 and has since been available for comment on CRCOG’s website. Mr. Aloise stated that comments are due by October 2, 2017. Ms. Sandy Fry of Hartford noted that the City was happy with the recommendations and that the draft had been made available to Hartford’s Complete Streets Committee for further comment. Mr. Jim Ford of Hartford added that he would like to see some of the pedestrian improvements implemented.
- Corridor Study Solicitation – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the Transportation Planning Study Applications Memo. Ms. Carrier mentioned that to apply for a study, municipalities should complete the Study Screening form located at (<http://crcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Study-Screening-Form-2017.docx>) and return a signed original to CRCOG by **4PM on October 26, 2017**. Due to the current uncertainty of the state budget and LOTCIP funding, it is envisioned that this study will utilize STP-Urban funding and therefore studies will need to have a minimum size of \$150,000, and **municipalities will be required to provide a 20% non-federal match** (CTDOT may split the match 10% state, 10% municipality for studies on state roadways). Ms. Carrier also said CRCOG staff will provide a summary of the municipally initiated study applications along with a staff recommendation at the November Transportation Committee meeting. We will also have more of a regional study framework for committee input. Following our November meeting, CRCOG will coordinate with CTDOT who CTDOT anticipates

reviewing corridor study ideas by February 1, 2018 and inviting towns/regions to clear up any questions in the spring of 2018. Selected corridor studies will be assigned to CTDOT staff during the summer of 2018. Ms. Carrier stated that e-mail will follow with more information.

- CTDOT Capital Plan – Ms. Jennifer Carrier noted that CRCOG staff is in the process of reviewing the first draft of CTDOT’s 2018-2022 Capital Plan. Comments are due to CTDOT by October 6th.
- Transportation Performance Measures, and Target Setting – Mr. Rob Aloise reviewed the Transportation Performance Measures and Target Setting Memo, noting the required timelines and metrics associated with new federally required reporting on the Transportation System. Mr. Jon Colman asked what would happen if CRCOG, as an MPO, disagrees with the performance measures developed by CTDOT. Mr. Aloise noted that there will be coordination throughout the target setting process. Mr. Ken Shooshan-Stoller from FHWA added that the process includes a conflict resolution process. Ms. Jennifer Carrier noted that CRCOG is already starting to coordinate with CTDOT regarding data collection and analysis.
- Complete Streets Study Update – Ms. Emily Hultquist gave a brief update on the Complete Streets Plan and Policy, reminding the Committee that this effort is being undertaken with a \$450,000 grant from OPM. Ms. Hultquist noted that CRCOG has contracted with FHI for this effort and are in the process of developing a Technical Committee to represent all 38 towns as well as a smaller Advisory Committee. The study team will be holding “pop-up” public outreach events in October at community events in Hartford, Coventry, and Simsbury during the month of October. Focus Groups are also anticipated.
- Other – Mr. Lyle Wray briefed the Committee on his trip to Denver for the Railvolution Conference, noting that there were over 5,000 attendees. Mr. Wray shared that fixed guideways are being used as test corridors for autonomous vehicles, and this technology can decrease headways from five minutes to two.

5. LOTCIP Update

- FY2017 Overview and FY2018 Projections - Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTCIP overview infographic and FY2018 Projections (project summary) that were handed out to the Committee. Ms. Montanari stated that the latest LOTCIP infographic (or Picktochart) was updated and the figures reflected the end of the 2017 fiscal year. Along with the infographic was a LOTCIP program status summary from where the actual project numbers were extracted. Ms. Montanari provided highlights, specifically pointing out the actual program expenditures and the projected totals broken down by quarter. Because FY2018/19 are projections (28M/28.7M) taken from the program summary listing and some of the projects are still in the application phase, most of the project expenditures will fall into the fourth quarter of the year (at this time). She further stated that once additional

projects are approved (including the bridges), a more clearly defined timetable of when the projects will be awarded and expended will be available. It also draws attention to how important project delivery is to the LOTCIP program. Ms. Montanari pointed out that metrics for the projects in the design and the construction phase were on the back side of the page. Charts/information will be updated every six months.

- Bid Analysis-Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the Bid Summary that was distributed to the Committee. In July, there was a request to provide bid amount actuals to reflect the difference between commitment to fund amounts and actual bid totals. Ms. Montanari indicated that a summary of bids showing the difference between the two amounts was itemized. There are six (6) reconstruction projects and seven (7) pavement rehabilitation projects displaying a bid savings of 12.4% or a savings of \$2,241,672.
- Town Acknowledgments - Ms. Jennifer Carrier and Mr. Jon Colman recognized four (4) towns with expedited project delivery in the LOTCIP program with award certificates. The acknowledged towns were the towns of Coventry, Enfield, Rocky Hill and Windsor. Ms. Carrier congratulated them for their hard work and cake was served.

6. LOTCIP Cost Increase- Rt 189 Multi-Use Trail Project, Simsbury/Bloomfield-

Ms. Montanari provided a brief update on the cost increase for the LOTCIP Project Route 189 multi-use trail, currently in the application phase. The project was approved for \$700,000 (maximum for this type of project) in 2015 solicitation. The total for the project was estimated at \$1,250,000 and the cost difference of \$550,000 was going to be divided between the two towns. The project is part of the East Coast Greenway, was reviewed by CTDOT and resulted in an additional \$320,000 in required safety improvements, increasing the total cost by 25.6% to \$1,570,000. The safety improvements included a more rigid guiderail and rock and earth excavation because of widening.

Because of the unforeseen CTDOT requirements, two CRCOG towns addressing a regional priority and both contributing significant town funds, the sub-committee recommended the approval of an additional \$320,000 increasing the LOTCIP share from \$700,000 to \$1,020,000.

A motion was made by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington, seconded by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough to approve an additional \$320,000 increasing the LOTCIP share from \$700,000 to \$1,020,000. The motion was passed unanimously.

7. TIP Amendments – There were no TIP amendments for action.

8. Presentation: Autonomous Vehicles, Peter Calcaterra, Office of Strategic Planning and Projects, CTDOT – Mr. Calcaterra gave a brief presentation on Autonomous Vehicles and the emerging legislation and pilot efforts being undertaken in the State. Following the presentation, there was a discussion of autonomous versus connected vehicles, the application of autonomous vehicles for freight, and the need for CTDOT to communicate with municipalities as the move towards autonomous vehicles becomes more immediate. Mr. Lyle Wray noted that autonomous vehicles, shared vehicles, and electric vehicles will be disrupting to the current landscape in terms of parking, rights-of-way, and first/last mile solutions.

9. Other Business – There was no other business discussed.

10. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.