

Transportation Committee
MIRA, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Monday March 19th, 2018
12 Noon

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Larry Baril	Avon
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Patrice Carson	Bolton
Neil Pade	Canton
Jeff LeBeau	East Hartford
Tim Webb	Ellington
Donald Nunes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Councilman George Norman	Glastonbury
Kirk Severance	Granby
Sandra Fry	Hartford
Jim Ford	Hartford
Kevin Kelly	Hebron
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Rob Trottier	New Britain
John Bossi	Plainville
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Tom Roy	Simsbury
Keith Hayden	Southington
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Rick Zulick	Stafford
Heidi Samokar	Tolland
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Jennifer Cassidy	GHTD

<u>Guests</u>	
Mary Deppe	GHTD
Peter Falk	Enfield
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Charlie Carson	CTTransit
Charles Harlow	Fuss & O'Neill
Carl Gandza	New Britain

<u>Staff</u>	
Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Jillian Massey	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG

Cara Radzins
Karen Stewartson
Terri Thompson
Lyle Wray

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1. **Roll Call** – Chairman Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12 Noon
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from February 12th, 2018** – Ms. Patrice Carson noted there the meeting minutes date was incorrect. Councilman George Norman from the Town of Glastonbury noted that one of his comments regarding the LOTCIP bridge solicitation was not reflected in the minutes. Ms. Jennifer Carrier said that staff would take another look at the minutes and amend as needed. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Mr. Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington to accept the meeting minutes, once amended, from the February 12th, 2018 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with one abstention from Mr. Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain. Mr. Trottier noted that the February meeting was held on Lincoln’s Birthday, which is a holiday for several towns. Mr. Trottier suggested that CRCOG avoid such holidays when scheduling Transportation Committee meetings. Ms. Carrier noted that the month of February has two Monday holidays in a row, which can make scheduling a challenge. She asked whether committee members would be open to a Tuesday meeting in such a situation, and there was a general consensus that this would be acceptable.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Update** – Ms. Terri Thompson gave a brief update on TIM. Ms. Thompson mentioned that a newly formed Traffic Incident Management Coalition met on January 31, 2018 and has representatives covering the Hartford Urbanized area. The area not only includes those towns in CRCOG but also additional towns in three other COGS (Naugatuck Valley, Northwest Hills, and RiverCOG). The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is also a partner with the Springfield Urbanized Area being within the CRCOG region. The intention is to have quarterly meetings and have some key issues to focus on, one being the updating of diversion plans. The plans are outdated and need to also utilize GIS mapping and place in an electronic format for easier accessibility and use. Funding opportunities are being identified, and meeting will be scheduled with towns that fall along diversion routes for their input. TIM was an agenda item on recent Major Metro Roundtable attended by Dr. Lyle Wray in February in Washington DC. CRCOG presented information on their TIM efforts and also showcased heat maps of crash data. The 1/31/18 meeting and handouts are available at the following link <http://crcog.org/event/traffic-incident-management-tim-coalition/>
 - **CRCOG Letter on Stabilizing The STF** – Dr. Lyle Wray discussed the letter submitted by the policy board to Governor Dannel Malloy and the members of the

Connecticut General Assembly. The letter highlighted the need to balance Connecticut's Special Transportation Fund (STF) before adjournment in May 2018. Dr. Wray mentioned that approximately \$60M was necessary to stabilize the fund in the short term (FY19). Key transportation objectives may be maintained while the revenue changes could be relatively modest in the current budget year. Supported options include: advancing the transfer of the current motor vehicle sales tax on new vehicles into the STF prior to FY2021 (this alone could meet the targeted amount), a gas tax increase, and road tolling. Dr. Wray said he would keep the Committee updated. Councilman George Norman asked for clarification regarding the transfer of the new car tax from the General Fund. Dr. Wray explained that this money currently goes into the General Fund, but as of FY2021 the funds will instead be allocated to the STF. CRCOG is suggesting that this transfer be accelerated to occur in FY2019 instead of FY2021 as scheduled.

- **CTDOT Fare Increase And Service Reductions Update** – Ms. Cara Radzins noted that CRCOG staff attended some of CTDOT's public hearings on the proposed transit fare increases and service reductions. Within the CRCOG region, these meetings were held in Hartford, New Britain, and Rocky Hill. CRCOG also submitted a comment letter regarding the proposed fare increases and service reductions. The letter explained that CRCOG would prefer to see the STF made whole instead of placing the burden of the STF shortfall on transit users, and the letter Dr. Wray discussed earlier was included as an attachment. Ms. Radzins added that the letter also included a desire to better understand the upcoming Bradley Airport Express bus service that was referenced in the fare proposal.
- **2018 LOTCIP Solicitation RFP** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari gave a brief update on the memo that was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Montanari mentioned that CRCOG is inviting municipalities to submit proposals for Transportation projects to be funded under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) 2018 Solicitation. At this time CRCOG is reserving \$25.5M for this purpose. Ms. Montanari noted that the availability of LOTCIP funding for the solicited projects is dependent on the legislature solving the current STF solvency issues, and if LOTCIP funding is not available that the projects will need to transfer to utilize federal STP-Urban funding. Ms. Montanari indicated that, utilizing LOTCIP funds it is estimated that projects are not anticipated to start construction until 2020 at the earliest. Additionally, the provided RFP states that "Due to the potential of LOTCIP program discontinuation, selected projects may be further delayed and need to transition to the STP-Urban program". Ms. Montanari indicated that all proposals are due by 3pm on Tuesday, May 22, 2018, and that copies of this CRCOG's LOTCIP selection policy, along with the RFP required and supporting documents can be accessed at:
<http://crocog.org/transportation/funding-opportunities/lotcip2018/>.
- **Statewide LOTCIP Program Pictograph** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTCIP Pictograph that was issued to the Committee. The purpose of developing the statewide graphic was to have LOTCIP facts readily available to present.

Highlights depict the benefits of LOTCIP program, a map showing 42 projects in Construction/Completed, 59 Projects in Design and 90 Conceptual Projects approved by COGs and the impact of the program on the job market. Chairman Jon Colman noted that CRCOG is a leader when it comes to LOTCIP. Ms. Patrice Carson applauded the fact that the handout is clear and easy to understand.

- **LOTICIP/STP-Urban Programming** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the CRCOG LOTICIP and STP-Urban Programs. Ms. Carrier reviewed the Program Expenditures and the Fiscal Years 2017-2019 LOTICIP budgeted funds which are not bonded. Ms. Carrier indicated that the LOTICIP funds continue to be in jeopardy due to revenue shortfalls in the STF. Chairman Jon Colman noted that a discontinuation of LOTICIP funding would potentially set up the need for challenging conversations with CTDOT regarding project selection, transitions, and state project advancement under the STP-Urban program. Currently CTDOT has projects that are expected to receive STP-Urban funding, but this funding source is ultimately overseen by the Region and therefore the transferring of regional project into STP-Urban funding may need to take priority over currently programmed State projects. It was noted that this discussion would be brought to the Policy Board's attention.
- **Performance Measures** – Mr. Rob Aloise provided the Committee with an update on CTDOT and CRCOG's efforts in complying with federally required Transportation Performance Measures and Target Setting. Mr. Aloise mentioned that the provided table summarizes each of the FHWA and FTA performance measures and their deadlines. Mr. Aloise noted that CRCOG is expecting to receive bridge condition and pavement condition data at an upcoming coordination meeting with CTDOT on March 27th. He stated that he will keep the Committee updated. Councilman George Norman asked where the specific targets can be found. Mr. Aloise noted that CRCOG has distributed this information at previous Transportation Committee meetings as the targets were approved and that CRCOG staff will send this information to Councilman Norman. Ms. Jennifer Carrier added that CRCOG will develop a page on CRCOG's website dedicated to performance measures. Ms. Patrice Carson asked if the approved targets were for 2018. Mr. Aloise said that the targets that have been approved are in effect currently but will be reevaluated periodically. Councilman Norman asked whether or not there is existing data for the targets. Mr. Aloise responded that the targets were developed based on historical data.
- **Federal Certification Review** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier mentioned to the Committee that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) certified CRCOG's planning process for the Hartford Transportation Management Area (TMA). Ms. Carrier shared a copy of the final report of the review (dated March 5, 2018) with the Committee, noting that CRCOG received numerous commendations alongside recommendations that will be incorporated into the planning process over the next several years. Chairman Jon Colman acknowledged CRCOG staff and all others who participated in the certification review for a job well.

- **Bradley International Airport Master Plan Public Meeting** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier shared that the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) will be holding a public meeting on the Bradley International Airport Master Plan on Wednesday March 28th, 2018 at the Windsor Locks High School. At this meeting information on the study will be presented, with the opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments. For more information, please visit: www.bradley-planning.com. Ms. Carrier noted that she is on the Steering Committee for the Master Plan Update, and she will continue to inform the committee about this effort as it continues. Ms. Carrier also noted that she, Dr. Lyle Wray, and Ms. Cara Radzins recently met with the Executive Director of the CAA to discuss plans for the airport and enhanced transit access. Ms. Carrier also noted that CRCOG staff is also working with CTDOT to better understand the upcoming Bradley Airport Express bus service. Mr. Rob Trottier noted that there is a need to address the parking at the airport, specifically as it relates to informing users of availability. Dr. Wray concurred, noting that real-time information about parking availability with web app or LED information screen would be helpful for travelers. Dr. Wray added that the increased presence of Uber and Lyft is making it so that less parking is needed at the airport.
- **FRA Grant Opportunities** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared with the Committee that the FRA (Federal Railroad Administration) is currently accepting applications for two discretionary grant programs:

1. Law Enforcement Strategies for Reducing Trespassing Pilot Grant Program. Funding Total: \$150,000. Deadline: April 23, 2018. More information can be found at <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page1082>
2. Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program. Funding Total: \$65,232,400. Deadline: June 21st, 2018. More information can be found at: <https://www.fra.dot.gov/Page/P1079>

Ms. Radzins noted that towns are eligible applicants for both programs. Chairman Jon Colman asked for more information about the application process for these grants. Ms. Radzins explained that applications must be submitted via grants.gov, which is the same protocol as TIGER applications. Chairman Colman asked whether CTDOT or CRCOG would be coordinating a submission or whether towns must apply themselves. Ms. Radzins responded that interested towns should apply directly. Ms. Jennifer Carrier added that if towns have questions about the application process they can contact CRCOG for assistance.

5. **TIP Amendments** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP amendments bulleted below. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Councilman George Norman from the Town of Glastonbury to accept items 1a-2b. This motion was passed unanimously.
 - Southington- Construction of a portion of the Farmington Canal Trail
 - Somers-Replace Bridge 05587 over Gillette's Brook

- 6. Plainville FCHT Gap Closure Trail Study Draft Final Report** – Mr. Malone stated that the staff is seeking endorsement of the Final Report for the Plainville portion of the Gap Closure Study, which Mr. Malone presented to the Committee at the February meeting. Following endorsement by the Transportation Committee, a resolution will be brought before the Policy Board for adoption on March 21st, 2018. Mr. Malone noted that the study team had received a large number of public comments on the effort and that the Plainville Town Council voted unanimously to accept the plan's recommendations on February 20, 2018. Councilman George Norman asked about the type of comments that the study team received about the study. Mr. Malone explained that while most of the comments were positive, some concerns were raised by homeowners along the alignment regarding privacy. Mr. Malone added that those concerns would need to be addressed in the design phase of the project. Mr. CJ Gandza, a member of the study's Steering Committee, added that the study team had done an excellent job on public outreach for this study. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Mr. Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to endorse the Final Report. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 7. Presentation: GRIDSMART intersection Traffic Control, Data Collection, and Situational Awareness** – Mr. C.J. Gandza from the City of New Britain gave a presentation on GridSmart, which is a camera based vehicle detection system that also collects and provides important traffic and safety data to traffic personnel. Mr. Gandza shared information about the components and benefits of the system and then showed the Committee a demonstration of the system. Mr. Gandza noted that this system is being used throughout the CRCOG Region and the State, most notably in Hartford. Committee members asked questions and discussed items such as red-light monitoring, video storage, video clarity at night, and system costs. Ms. Jennifer Carrier added that CTDOT is looking to partner with towns regarding intersection data collection and that CRCOG may be a logical forum for this collaboration.
- 8. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.
- 9. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.