

Transportation Committee
MIRA, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Monday May 21st, 2018
12 Noon

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Name

Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Jeff LeBeau
Timothy Webb
John Cabibbo
Matt Walsh
George Norman
Sandy Fry
Kevin Kelly
Derek Dilaj
Peter Hughes
John Bossi
Jim Sollmi
Tom Roy
Keith Hayden
Rick Zulick
Bill Hawkins
David Smith
Duane Martin
Bob Jarvis
Jennifer Cassidy

Organization

Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Hartford
Hebron
Mansfield
Marlborough
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Southington
Stafford
Suffield
Vernon
West Hartford
Windsor
GHTD

Guests

Peter Falk
Dan Pennington
Grayson Wright
Chuck Harlow
Kevin Burns
Erik Bergeras
Stephen Curley
James Kulpa
Tess Schwartz

Enfield
Glastonbury
CTDOT
Fuss & O'Neill
CTDOT Rails
CTDOT Rails
CTDOT Tails
VHB
Tessera Engineering

Staff

Rob Aloise
Jennifer Carrier
Devon Lechtenberg
Jillian Massey

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Dr. Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Chairman Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.

3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from April 23rd, 2018** – A motion was made by Peter Falk from the Town of Enfield, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to accept the meeting minutes, from the April 23rd, 2018 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with three abstentions from Ms. Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, Mr. Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington, and Mr. George Norman from the town of Glastonbury.

4. **Staff Reports**

- **BUILD Grant** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier noted that CRCOG had previously shared information about the new BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Grant Program, which replaces the former TIGER (Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Program. This program includes \$1.5 billion in funding, with a maximum project award of \$25 million. Evaluation criteria includes safety, state of good repair, economic competitiveness, quality of life, innovation, partnerships, and environmental impacts. Project readiness and a benefit cost analysis will also be evaluated. Applications are due on July 19, 2018. Funds must be obligated by September 2020 and spent by September 2025. Ms. Carrier explained that CRCOG had previously requested that Towns submit project ideas and that staff will be meeting with CTDOT on May 22nd to discuss which project to put forward as the Regional application. Mr. George Norman from the Town of Glastonbury asked for a definition of economic competitiveness. Ms. Carrier responded that the application must explain how a proposed project will create economic growth at the local, regional, state, and/or national level. She suggested that the NoFO would provide clearer guidance. Mr. Norman asked how such a regional project would be evaluated. Ms. Carrier responded that as an initial step CRCOG staff is looking at potential project comparatively against each other to try to understand how they can compete in the various categories. Mr. Norman added that economic competitiveness is a challenging criterion to evaluate because often it becomes a chicken-or-the-egg debate over the relationship between transportation infrastructure and economic development. Dr. Lyle Wray also noted that Connecticut as a whole is at a competitive disadvantage for programs like BUILD because of the required non-federal match. He explained that although the minimum match is 20%, a higher match helps an application compete. While other

states have dedicated funding for non-local match, there is no such funding source in Connecticut. Chairman Jon Colman asked whether CRCOG was still accepting project proposals. Ms. Carrier said that Towns would need to submit any ideas by today because the meeting with CTDOT to vet the options was taking place the following day. Ms. Carrier noted that CRCOG staff only has the capacity to work on one Regional application and that the following projects have been proposed:

- Albany Avenue: Hartford
- FCHT Gap Closure: Plainville and New Britain (possible Hartford and West Hartford also)
- Putnam Bridge Bike/Ped Connections: Glastonbury
- Hartford Line Rail Stations: West Hartford, Berlin, Enfield
- **CTfastrak** Expansion: Manchester
- Farmington River Crossing: Farmington

Potential projects in Enfield had also been mentioned, and Ms. Carrier added that CTDOT may be interested in pursuing funding for the Charter Oak Bridge or the I84 Viaduct. Mr. Colman noted his disappointment in the lack of rural projects on that list. He suggested that there's a need to be innovative and that perhaps looking at CT**fastrak** to UConn could be an option. Ms. Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton also suggested that I384 or trail connections could be potential rural project options. Ms. Carrier said that staff would look into this further. Ms. Sandy Fry from the City of Hartford noted that the BUILD solicitation allows for the submission of planning projects and that an application for planning funds could be a way to incorporate rural communities.

- **CRCOG Communications Plan** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier shared that Hedy Ayers from CRCOG has launched an effort to develop a CRCOG Communications Plan. CRCOG has contracted with GEM to develop this plan. These consultants previously developed similar plans for CREC and the Archdiocese of Hartford. Ms. Carrier stated that as a step in the development of the Plan, the consultant team will conduct focus groups, brainstorming sessions, and online surveys. The consultants will be meeting with CRCOG's Chief Elected Officials before and after the Policy Board meeting on May 30. Ms. Carrier explained that the consultants will also be seeking input from Transportation Committee members. The date for this session is yet to be determined, but the consultants will be seeking to learn about best practices and ways to communicate the good work being done by CRCOG and within its member Towns.
- **Regional and Municipal Infographics** – Mr. Pramod Pandey explained that CRCOG staff has worked to summarize employment and commuter information for the Region as well as for individual towns. Mr. Pandey noted that the Regional summary was included in the packet, and he handed out local information to representatives from the individual towns. Mr. Pandey noted that this information would be used in the development of the Long Range Transportation Plan. Chairman Jon Colman asked what towns should do if they discovered any errors

or had questions about the information shown. Mr. Pandey said that Towns could contact him directly with any questions or concerns.

- **CTrides Quarterly Report** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg gave a brief summary of the **CTrides** Quarterly Report for the first quarter of 2018. Mr. Lechtenberg noted that **CTrides** spent the quarter preparing for its Drive Less Connecticut Competition (www.drivelessct.com) where employers and individuals would compete for recognition and prizes resulting from their efforts to decrease the number of single occupancy vehicles used. Mr. Lechtenberg also shared that **CTrides** collaborated with BEworks to create behavioral journey maps. The Telework Focus Group continued to examine ways in increase teleworking, and a new Manager of Marketing and Communications was also hired. Mr. Lechtenberg noted that during this quarter, there were 204 worksite meetings along with 96 commuter events, while 795 new members were added to the Ridematching & Rewards program. **CTrides** received 5,575 inquiries, supplied 16 emergency rides home, and distributed six trial bus passes.
- **Special Transportation Fund (STF)** –Dr. Lyle Wray gave a brief update on the Special Transportation Fund. Dr. Wray told the Committee that the allocation of the sales tax on new cars to the STF was moved up by two years, making the STF solvent for up to five years. This action avoided transit fare increases and disruptive service reductions. Dr. Wray noted that there are ongoing conversations about how to maintain the LOTCIP program and how to manage the capacity issues at CTDOT. He also shared that the projections for the State’s next biennial budget currently show a \$4.5 billion deficit.
- **Other** – They were no other staff reports.

5. **LOTICIP and STP-Urban Program Updates** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier provided a brief overview of the CRCOG LOTICIP and STP-Urban Programs. Ms. Carrier reviewed the total LOTICIP funding by fiscal year, the bonded amounts and how the totals align with the estimated STP-Urban Program Targets. She stressed the importance of the State bonding the LOTICIP funding and indicated that CRCOG had taken measures to communicate this issue with CTDOT. Additionally, Ms. Carrier outlined the expenditures to date, the total amount of projects in FY2018, FY2019 (projected) and approved projects. This sum, including the 2018 CRCOG Solicitation amounted to over \$111M in programmed projects, extending in FY2020. A question was posed regarding the total LOTICIP funding and the difference of approximately \$9M in anticipated projects. Ms. Carrier indicated that staff continually keeps the Transportation Committee apprised of LOTICIP’s programming status and that the committee typically approves the issuance of LOTICIP solicitations each two years to appropriately adjust the amount of programming relative to funding.

6. **Performance Measures** - Rob Aloise reviewed a handout presenting the 2 and 4-year targets for 10 FHWA transportation performance measures in five categories (pavement conditions, bridge conditions, NHS performance, Freight performance, and Congestion Mitigation/CMAQ) that were set by and forwarded to the regions on

5/20/2018 by CTDOT. Mr. Aloise indicated that for each measure, CRCOG now has 180 days (until 11/16/2018) to either support the state's target or set its own for the region. It was highlighted that most measures were limited in scope to conditions on the National Highway System (NHS), which consists only of the most major roadway types such as Interstates, Freeways, and Principal Arterials. Also noted was that most projects initiated by CRCOG municipalities are on roadways categorized as Minor Arterial and Collectors, and therefore are not on the NHS.

Mr. Aloise indicated that the required performance measure target setting involves very in-depth and detailed analysis. For that reason, over the next few months staff is planning to hold various workshop meetings to review the performance measure information/analysis and formulate Transportation Committee recommendations regarding targets.

7. Resolution Authorizing Transportation Committee to Act as the Policy Board –

A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington to allow the Transportation Committee to act as the Policy Board during the summer when Policy Board meetings would not be held. Mr. George Norman from the Town of Glastonbury asked whether the Policy Board needed to approve this resolution first. It was explained that the Policy Board would be acting on the resolution at their meeting on May 30. This motion was passed unanimously.

8. Tip Amendments – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP amendments. A committee member asked when construction would begin on the Farmington signal replacement. Mr. Grayson Wright did not know when in fiscal year 2018 construction would begin, but he stated that he would get additional details. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations in District 4

9. New Britain/Bristol Transit Study: Draft Final Report and Recommendations –

Ms. Cara Radzins told the Committee that the New Britain/Bristol Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis was nearing completion. Ms. Radzins noted that the DRAFT Executive Summary was included in the mailing and that the full DRAFT Final Report is available on the study website at <http://hartfordtransitstudy.com/new-britain-bristol/>. Ms. Radzins said that comments on the draft documents are due by June 13th, 2018, and that CRCOG staff will be seeking an endorsement of the CSA's recommendations by the Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board at the next meeting on June 18th, 2018. Ms. Radzins explained that once endorsed, the report documents will be considered final, and the recommendations therein can be incorporated into future updates of CRCOG's Long Range Transportation Plan and other documents. Ms. Radzins then shared a brief presentation of maps showing the existing and proposed bus routes and paratransit coverage areas. Mr. Peter Falk from the Town of Enfield asked why this study was conducted. Ms. Radzins noted that CRCOG originally

undertook a study of the Hartford Division of CT *transit* to understand opportunities to improve the system. When CRCOG's region expanded, the study scope was expanded to include the new towns of Berlin, Plainville, New Britain, and Southington. Chairman Jon Colman asked what the timeline would be for implementation of the recommendations. Ms. Radzins responded that because CRCOG does not operate the bus service, it is somewhat challenging to assign a timeline. She noted, however, that recommendations were classified into short-term, mid-term, and long-term solutions, and that depending on the alternative implementation would be dependent on additional operations funding and vehicle procurement. Mr. Chris Edge asked how any comments should be submitted. Ms. Radzins stated that comments could be emailed directly to her at cradzins@crcoq.org.

10. Presentation: CT *rail* Hartford Line Safety and operation Lifesaver: Stephen Curley, Supervising Rail Officer and Kevin Burns, State Coordinator for Operation Lifesaver, CTDOT – Mr. Stephen Curley gave a brief presentation on the roadway and signal improvements being implemented to improvement safety at crossings of the CT *rail* Hartford Line. Chairman Jon Colman asked about the speeds that trains would be traveling as they went through the crossings. Mr. Curley noted that it could vary from 30-40mph in speed-restricted areas up to over 60mph in some other areas. Mr. Kevin Burns then gave a brief presentation regarding Operation Lifesaver, which is a non-profit public safety education program focused on reducing collisions at rail crossings as well as reducing trespassing on rail rights-of-way. It was noted that Enfield is very involved in the program and that safety presentations are being shared on public access television. More information about the program can be found on www.OLI.org. Mr. Colman asked whether consideration was given to potential conflicts with freight rail traffic on the line. Mr. Burns responded that all conflicts and all crossings were a focus of this program

11. Other Business – Ms. Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton asked for confirmation that the CT *rail* Hartford Line would begin on June 16th, 2018. CRCOG staff replied that there will be an inaugural event on June 15th, with service beginning on June 16th. Service will be free for the first weekend, and CTDOT will have ambassadors at stations to assist passengers.

12. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.