

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274
Web Page: www.crcog.org

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES CRCOG Boardroom, 241 Main Street, 4th Floor, Hartford, CT May 16, 2018 Noon

Attendance

Brandon Robertson
Jon Colman
Marcia Leclerc
Lori Spielman
Peter Falk
Nancy Nickerson
Dr. Chip Beckett
Alexandra Beaudoin
Luke Bronin
Scott Shanley
Robert Lee
Steve Werbner

Town/Organization

Avon
Bloomfield
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Hartford
Hartford
Manchester
Plainville
Tolland

Staff

Cheryl Assis
Winsome Barnaby
Kimberly Bona
Jennifer Carrier
Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Lyle Wray
Pauline Yoder

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Guests

Kathie Lutz
Supriyo Chatterjee

Rome Smith Lutz
Member of the Public

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

2. Public Comment

Supriyo Chatterjee explained that he provided testimony to the legislature and a large portion of it pertained to Amazon HQ2. He stated he is also very interested in CEDS. Dr. Lyle Wray said he would be happy to answer any questions he may have. Supriyo Chatterjee will email Dr. Wray.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2018

Jon Colman moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2018. Nancy Nickerson seconded the motion and it carried with Lori Spielman abstaining.

4. Correspondence/Handouts:

- Complete Streets Open House Flyer

Dr. Wray stated the purpose of the Complete Streets Plan is to make effort to create streets that are friendly to means other than vehicles. i.e. pedestrians, bicycles, etc. He and Mary Ellen Kowalewski encouraged member attendance at the planning studio being held on **May 16th and May 17th** at **reSET, 1429 Park Street, Hartford**. For more information on the Capitol Region Complete Streets Plan, please click [here](#).

- Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

Mary Ellen Kowalewski explained that CRCOG is in the process of updating the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The consultants have met with the communities to learn what the major concerns are in each town. There will be several public workshops throughout the region in May. The purpose of these meetings is to learn about the plan, ask questions, and provide input. She stated that the updated Plan will include all 38 CRCOG towns. For more information on the Capitol Region Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and for a list of the upcoming public meetings, please click [here](#).

5. Chair and Executive Director Remarks and Report

Dr. Wray attended the CT COG meeting at the Legislature yesterday and provided an update on transportation funding. He explained that the good news is there will be no transit cuts or fare increases and there will be no freeze of capital projects. Dr. Wray stated that the LOTCIP is funded through September 2018. Jon Colman expressed concern that not all LOTCIP projects for CRCOG have been funded. Discussion followed.

Dr. Wray explained that CRCOG has hired Global Entertainment and Media (GEM) Communications for the consulting firm to work on a communications strategy for CRCOG. There will be two focus groups, one before the Policy Board meeting and one following the Policy Board meeting on May 30th for Board members to attend and provide input. Specific times have not been set yet, but once they are confirmed Board members will be notified.

Dr. Wray attended the German American Chamber of Commerce meeting in New York last Friday. He showed a video on the German workforce model to the Committee: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Sz7EpoEP3o> . He stated it was a very interesting meeting that discussed a systemic workforce model they created. Dr. Wray explained this model has been adopted by 11 states and consists of more than 300 occupational categories and is employer driven. Dr. Chip Beckett asked if this is something that must be done statewide. Dr. Wray feels that it is something the region could spearhead on its own. Mayor Bronin asked if the designated \$50-million in the budget could be allocated towards this. Dr. Wray suggested reaching out to Senator Osten and Senator Fonfara. Discussion followed.

Dr. Wray stated the CRCOG 2018 Annual Meeting at noon on June 13 will consist of a panel with David Griggs and Jay Williams.

Dr. Wray stated the CRCOG office now has LED lighting fixtures, which uses 80% less energy.

Pauline Yoder explained that there will soon be a board room for CRCOG meetings at CRCOG on the 3rd floor of 241 Main Street. The anticipated completion date is August 31st. The room will be approximately the same size, perhaps a little smaller, than the one at MIRA where Policy Board currently meets. Staff is very excited about this new meeting location.

Dr. Wray will be sending the Board interesting information regarding Penn Studio transportation funding when he receives it. The information consists of several key concepts of Project Finance Authority (PFA) and Mobility as a system.

Dr. Wray stated that Robert Patricelli, co-chair of the Fiscal Stability Commission will be speaking at the May 30th Policy Board Meeting to discuss report findings.

6. Strategic Planning Memo Updates: Amazon HQ2 and 911 Dispatch Center Concept

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the benefits and challenges with this issue. The Executive Committee came to a consensus that a conversation with the Northwest Regional 911 dispatch bases in Waterbury would include that region's fire or police chiefs. Such a panel could be made to the Policy Board with an invitation to the member fire and police chiefs as well so everyone can receive the same message. Dr. Wray will follow-up with a survey on public safety communication needs and plans and prepare for the Northwest dispatch center discussion.

7. Action: FY 2018-2019 CRCOG Budget Approval

Pauline Yoder explained that the budget presented includes an estimated amount for the Regional Services Grant which is not yet final from the state government. Depending on what the final number is, budget amendments will be brought to the Board. She reviewed FY 2018-2019 goals and accomplishments as well as a summary of revenues and expenditures and long-term projections. She stated that CRCOG is stable for at least the next couple of years. Dr. Wray explained that this is a balanced budget recommendation that is in balance a number of years out. Scott Shanley expressed he is very pleased with the budget presented as well as everything CRCOG accomplishes, all things considered in terms of the state.

Peter Falk asked if there is a summary sheet explaining what CRCOG provides to its towns. Pauline Yoder stated a town specific letter is sent to each town every year, and she will send a copy of Enfield's to Mr. Falk.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the FY 2018-2019 CRCOG Budget as presented. Dr. Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Action: Statement of Cooperative Planning Roles and Responsibilities (UPWP Appendix)

Jon Colman made a motion to approve endorsement of the updated statement of Cooperative MPO/State/Transit Operators' Planning Roles and Responsibilities as presented. Scott Shanley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. 2018 CRCOG Annual Meeting DRAFT Agenda

The Board members provided feedback on the proposed DRAFT Agenda for the CRCOG 2018 Annual Meeting.

10. Other Business

Mayor Leclerc explained that there will be a “breakout of COGs” at the CCM Convention which will consist of COG Directors speaking about goals and focuses on the organization. The CCM Executive Board is looking forward to this.

11. Adjournment

Jon Colman moved to adjourn at 1:35pm. Dr. Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.