

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
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Policy Board Special Meeting
CRCOG Offices, 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor Board Room, Hartford, CT 06106
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
12:00 pm
DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Joe Higgins
Chris Edge
Jack Healy
Jon Colman
Joyce Stille
Leslee Hill
Mark Walter
John Elsesser
Dave Kilbon
Marcia Leclerc
Lori Spielman
Peter Falk
LaShaunda Drake
Chip Beckett
Alex Beaudoin
Scott Shanley
Paul Shapiro
Robert Lee
John Mehr
Robert Phillips
Steve Werbner
Matt Hart
Chris Kervick

Town/Organization

Andover
Berlin
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Columbia
Coventry
East Granby
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
GHTD
Glastonbury
Hartford
Manchester
Mansfield
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Southington
Tolland
West Hartford
Windsor Locks

Staff

Cheryl Assis
Winsome Barnaby
Kimberly Bona
Emily Hultquist
Tim Malone
Lyle Wray
Pauline Yoder

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
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CRCOG

Guests

Alex Johnson
Maureen Lawrence
Grayson Wright
Chris Smith

Capital Work Force Partners
CTDOT
CTDOT Dept. Coordinator
Rome, Smith and Lutz

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Marcia Leclerc called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2018:

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

Dave Kilbon made a motion to approve the Policy Board Meeting minutes from October 24, 2018. Jon Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence/Handouts:

- Panel Discussion: Connecticut's Fiscal Future

This Panel discussion will be held tomorrow, Thursday, November 15, 2018, at UConn Hartford Jim Smith, Co-Chair of the CT Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth Commission will speak about the work of the Commission and their recommendation of a revenue reworking of the tax system. Responses will be provided by UCONN Professor of Public Policy Mark Robbins, and West Hartford Town Manager, Matthew Hart.

- Letter to Dannel Malloy from CRCOG re: Connecticut Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI)

Dr. Wray explained that it is still unknown at this time whether the State's Bond Commission will allocate up to \$50-million in bonding to finance the CAI. Dr. Wray stated that in addition to this letter to Dannel Malloy, he has reached out in hopes to see that this is placed on the next Bond Commission agenda.

5. Monthly Reports:

a. Chair and Executive Director Report

Dr. Wray discussed the two handouts before the Board.

Handout 1: Dr. Wray spoke about the article from the Boston Globe regarding the Springfield-Boston Rail Service. He stated US Representative Richard Neal will be chairing the House Ways and Means Committee, and spending bills, including the Springfield-Boston rail service infrastructure project will go through him. He explained

Representative Neal is a big advocate for connecting Springfield and Boston via rail and feels this will be very beneficial to see that this project moves forward.

Handout 2: Dr. Wray stated the second handout consists of a legislative summary of the November 6th election results.

Mayor Leclerc announced that this will be Leslee Hill's last Policy Board meeting as she won the election and will be serving as State Representative for District 17, representing the towns of Canton and Avon. Mayor Leclerc congratulated Leslee and thanked her for her time serving on the Policy Board.

Ms. Hill stated she has learned a lot while serving on the Board and thanked the members for their shared wisdom. Canton's Chief Administrative Officer Robert Skinner will most likely be attending future Policy Board meetings in place of Ms. Hill.

Mayor Leclerc also announced Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne won his election to State Senate to represent District 35. Congratulations Mr. Champagne.

Executive Director Dr. Lyle Wray asked if the Board had any questions regarding his monthly report. There were no questions.

Dr. Wray stated CRCOG continues to work towards completion of both the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the Metro Hartford Future Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). He stated the LRTP is anticipated to be completed by first quarter of 2018 and the year and completion of CEDs will be by the end of 2018.

b. Opportunities and Resources

Dr. Wray stated it is time to form the CRCOG Legislative Committee and asked that those members interested in serving please submit interest to himself or Mayor Leclerc prior to the Thanksgiving Holiday next week. He would like to hold the first meeting of the committee the first week of December.

Dr. Chip Beckett and John Elsesser expressed interest in serving on the Legislative Committee.

c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council

Pauline Yoder stated Town Salary Surveys are due on November 16th. If you have not completed yours yet, please do so by 11/16. She stated all the information from last year has carried over, they just require updating.

Ms. Yoder stated there are now 50 towns using EzIQc.

The next Municipal Services meeting will be held on December 4th.

d. Policy and Planning

Emily Hultquist provided this update to the Board.

The CRCOG Policy and Planning Department did submit an application by the October 31st deadline for a \$200,000 DECD Brownfields grant. This grant was for phase II and III assessments on two properties. The first property is 1141 East Street in New Britain and the second is the Levits Property on River Street in Enfield. Both of these properties would be considered transit-oriented development when eventually redeveloped. CRCOG received over 10 requests for letters of support from Capitol Region communities seeking grant funding from the same grant program.

EPA is likely to release the NOFA for its next round of Brownfields grant funding just before or just after the Thanksgiving holiday. These grants are for assessments, clean up, brownfields characterization, inventories, community involvement and several other purposes. CRCOG anticipates submitting an application for this funding.

CRCOG was a partner on a CT Department of Public Health SPAN (State Physical Activity and Nutrition) grant from the US CDC and has been notified that the grant was awarded to DPH. CRCOG's portion of funding (approximately \$200,000) go toward active transportation implementation in the Capitol Region to build upon the work currently underway on the CRCOG Complete Streets Action Plan and Policy.

At 5:30 PM on November 15th at the West Hartford Town Hall in Room 400, CRCOG will hold a public meeting on the Draft Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Comments on the plan are due to CRCOG by November 21st (Deadline has since been pushed back to November 30th).

AmeriCorps Vista is currently requesting concept papers for new vista volunteer projects. The AmeriCorp Vista mission is to provide long-term solutions to poverty through projects focusing on economic opportunity, education, healthy futures, veterans and military families, etc. State and local governments are eligible to submit concept papers. The deadline for registering is November 19th and a November 20th webinar will explain more specifics on the process.

e. Public Safety and Homeland Security

Joyce Stille reported that the State Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications reached out to Cheryl Assis in terms of municipalities joining the statewide radio system. It was discussed with the Chiefs at yesterday's Capitol Region meeting and they will be scheduling a meeting of interested parties shortly. Stonington, Groton and Norwich have joined, and Coventry will likely be the first from our region. It is a Motorola system and they are just completing a P25 upgrade now. The system has 98% coverage with 24/7 monitoring. John Elsesser discussed Coventry's experience and stated their Council will be voting on it next Monday.

f. Transportation Committee

Jon Colman provided this update to the Board.

Eversource Utility Relocation Policy - Various municipalities have reported new Eversource interpretations of State statutes resulting in additional utility relocations charges for roadway reconstruction projects. COST, CMM, and CTDOT have been notified and CRCOG staff will continue to coordinate and strategize regarding action. Discussion followed.

FAST- ACT Rescission - The Federal Transportation Bill contains provisions to rescind FHWA carryforward in various funding categories by the end of September 2019. Due to current political environment, it's unlikely that the rescission will be avoided. CTDOT's initial analysis estimates well over \$160M could be at risk statewide, but thinks that it can mitigate rescissions to \$38M by swapping funding via TIP actions and amendments. CTDOT anticipates sending these requests to the regions for approval in December. Staff is coordinating to try to minimize any impacts to municipal projects.

Long Range Transportation Plan Involvement - CRCOG is updating the Long Range Transportation Plan and is beginning the process of soliciting input from the public and other stakeholders. CRCOG has developed an online survey that asks about big picture priorities, and would really appreciate any help spreading the word. The survey is available on our LRTP website: <https://crocogconnect2045.com/> .

g. Capital Work Force Partners (CWP)

Alex Johnson stated that CWP was awarded a total of \$6,452,000. This grant will allow CWP to support 500 dislocated workers with training and prepare them for jobs in manufacturing, healthcare and other occupations in demand. Other grants included the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, \$400,000 grant to BEST Chance Program, Travelers Foundation, \$98,000 grant to the Hartford Data Collaborative, and several other grants were awarded as well. CWP continues to work hard to increase awareness of the importance of the Connecticut Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) and the importance of the State Bond Commission to take action.

CWP is working with CRCOG on the CEDS development strategies, including support of the Dual Track system and strategy.

CWP has appointed Kimberly Staley as CWP's Chief Administrative Officer, effective November 30th, 2018. Kimberly was most recently the CAO for Bridgeport, CT and is nationally recognized for workforce development and career education professional.

CWP is now recruiting for a Chief Development Officer to assist the President and CEO.

Mr. Johnson stated that CWP will hold its annual Consortium of CEO's on December 12th at 11am, at CRCOG prior to the December Policy Board Meeting.

6. Presentation/Updates:

- **Metro Hartford Future (CEDS), Tim Malone, CRCOG Principal Planner II**

Tim Malone, CEDS Project Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board, discussing the vision, strategies, goals and solutions of the Metro Hartford Future/CEDS.

To view the presentation, please click [here](#).

Mark Walter spoke about the Mike Rowe Works Foundation. He explained that this is a wonderful public charity that rewards people with a passion to get trained for skilled jobs that exist. Please click [here](#) for more information on this organization.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. Action: 2019 CRCOG Executive Committee and Policy Board Meeting Schedules

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the 2019 CRCOG Executive Committee and Policy Board Meeting Schedules as presented. Joyce Stille seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Items:

8. Action: TIP Amendments

The amendment involves NHPP funding for a project on I-84 Eastbound in Hartford near Union Station.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the TIP amendment as presented. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Information/Opportunity/Resource Items

9. Legislative Update

Chris Smith provided this update to the Board. He spoke about four recount races, one in the Senate, three in the House. He provided a session timeline and updates on gubernatorial transition team that were available.

10. CRCOG Recruitments

Cheryl Assis announced that CRCOG has made offers to the candidates selected for the Senior Planner position and Senior Community Development Planner positions. Once these positions are filled, CRCOG will begin conducting interviews for the Director of Transportation position. She hopes to begin this process the first week of December.

11. Other Business: No other business was brought forward.

12. Adjournment:

With no further discussion items, Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adjourn.

Jon Colman moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.