

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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Policy Board Meeting
Former MIRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT
Wednesday, May 30, 2018
12:00 pm
DRAFT

Members and Alternates

Joe Higgins
Brandon Robertson
Jack Healy
Jon Colman
Joyce Stille
Robert Skinner
Mark Walter
Dave Kilbon
Marcia Leclerc
Lori Spielman
Peter Falk
Nancy Nickerson
Joan Gamble
Chip Beckett
John Ward
Alex Beaudoin
Luke Bronin
Andrew Tierney
Paul Shapiro
Derrick Kennedy
Scott Shanley
Roy Zaratarian
Robert Lee
Robert Phillips
Melissa Mack
Steve Werbner
Jeff Bridges
Chris Kervick

Town/Organization

Andover
Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Columbia
East Granby
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
GHTD
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Mansfield
Mansfield
Manchester
Newington
Plainville
Southington
Suffield
Tolland
Wethersfield
Windsor Locks

Staff

Cheryl Assis
Winsome Barnaby
Kimberly Bona
Jennifer Carrier
Jane Culkin

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG Intern

Mary Ellen Kowalewski
Cara Radzins
Lyle Wray
Pauline Yoder

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Guests

Rebecca Nolan
Alicia Leite
Grayson Wright

Metro Hartford Alliance
CTDOT
CTDOT Dept. Coordinator

1. Call to Order: With a quorum present, Chairperson Marcia Leclerc called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

Mayor Leclerc welcomed and introduced Mansfield’s new Town Manager Derrik Kennedy and Berlin’s new Town Manager, Jack Healy.

Mayor Leclerc informed the Board that Enfield Town Manager, Bryan Chadkowski has resigned, and the acting Town Manager is now Christopher Bromson.

2. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Mayor Leclerc welcomed Robert Patricelli, co-chair of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth to the meeting. She thanked him for attending and requested addressing his presentation as the first item of business.

Robert Patricelli stated that the Commission will possibly be presenting a modified report in December 2018. He then discussed the Commissions key recommendations to help improve the state’s economic growth and well-being. These recommendations include:

- A pro-growth, revenue neutral rebalancing of state taxes
- Raising minimum wage
- Creating a Joint Budget Committee of the legislature with the power to set limits on revenues and expenses
- Develop and implement a plan to cut 1 billion out of annual operating expenses
- Have legislature assume responsibility to define state employee fringe benefits by removing them from collective bargaining for new contracts
- Reform the Teachers’ Retirement System to lower costs and to make it sustainable by paying down unfunded liabilities by 7 billion through concession of state Lottery revenues
- Raise the gas tax by seven cents to fund transportation projects and produce a plan for implementation of electronic tolls. Prioritize projects that impact growth
- Reinvest in cities – extend CRDA model from Hartford to two other cities, and build a new STEM campus in a city in partnership with a major research university
- Undertake a series of growth initiatives, led by the executive branch, with the funding and support from the legislature to:
 - (1) develop and retain the workforce Connecticut needs,
 - (2) support the growth of Connecticut’s highest-potential economic sectors,

- (3) transform the business environment for entrepreneurship and innovation
- Diversify municipal revenue streams beyond the property tax through power to levy fees and fund capital projects through referenda. Authorize COGS to levy 0.5% sales tax only for regional economic development and shared services projects. Amend binding arbitration laws to permit award of compromise outcomes and to facilitate multi-town projects

Mr. Patricelli discussed the results to date, as well as limited action thus far. He expressed that he is very grateful in terms of the municipal level of response to this issue, and is seeking feedback as to what should be done next. Specifically, for input on making this issue a theme of the 2018 campaigns.

A lengthy discussion ensued among the Board.

Mayor Leclerc asked if the next proposal could consist of a long-term plan that contains different aspects/outcomes, in a “step-by-step” manner. Robert Patricelli explained that the risk with phasing or breaking down the plan is bipartisan consensus.

Dr. Chip Beckett feels that it is critical that the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) is brought up. He stated local businesses must take a stand.

Joan Gamble expressed concern with the amount of land that is being consumed by non-tax paying entities.

Jon Colman feels the challenge is finding a public figure, leading legislature or in the Governor’s Office, that will champion the proposals being set forth.

Luke Bronin feels all the candidates have read the report and are aware of the situation. However, does not feel it is a good idea to bring this forward during the campaign. He recommends reaching out to the business community, and then having the CEO’s speak to the Governor elect.

Peter Falk stated the unions are a very large voting bloc in this state, and that this is a major issue. He feels that they need a basic structure change on how unions and governments operate.

Steve Werbner feels that under the current municipal structure, the chance for change is slim to none.

Mark Walter stated eliminating the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) would help immensely.

Paul Shapiro spoke about labor being strongly opposed to the report.

Discussion followed.

Mayor Leclerc asked what the next steps will be for the Committee. Mr. Patricelli explained they will make efforts to brief the gubernatorial candidates privately in addition

to working on more tax proposals. Mayor Leclerc thanked Robert Patricelli for his time and presentation.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2018:

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

Dave Kilbon made a motion to approve the Policy Board Meeting minutes from April 25, 2018. Jon Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence/Handouts:

- Governor Malloy Announces Cybersecurity Action Plan for Connecticut
- Letter from Secretary of State Denise Merrill to Lyle Wray re: appointment as Vice Chair of CT Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

5. Monthly Reports:

a. Chair and Executive Director Report

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

Dr. Wray stated there will be another Communications Strategy Focus Group following the Policy Board Meeting.

Dr. Wray stated that the Annual Meeting on June 13th is filling up quickly, and encouraged Board members to attend.

Dr. Wray provided an update on CEDS, and stated the project is coming along very well and encouraged Board member involvement.

Dr. Wray stated he met with a group from Shanghai last month at CRCOG, which produced a very interested meeting.

b. Opportunities and Resources

c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council

Pauline Yoder stated the RFI for the timekeeping software will go out on Thursday, May 31st. If any town is interested in participating, please contact Maureen Goulet at CRCOG.

d. Policy and Planning

Mary Ellen Kowalewski provided this update to the Board.

CRCOG Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

- Staff and our consultant, Millone and MacBroom, held 5 public meetings this past month to gather input on the regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- The meetings were held throughout the region in Columbia, Ellington, Hartford, Simsbury and Plainville
- Received good input on the natural hazards of most concern to our member communities, and also what types of mitigation measures make the most sense in our region
- The natural hazards focused on in the plan are: floods, high winds and tornados, hurricanes and tropical storms, winter storms, drought, forest and wildfires, earthquakes and dam failures
- Additional public input was obtained through an on-line survey (over 100 responses) and a presentation to the CRCOG Regional Planning Commission

Next Steps:

- A draft plan is being developed, and will be distributed to municipal points of contract in late June
- Municipalities will have an opportunity to review the plan over the summer, after which it will be submitted to FEMA for its review
- The target date for adoption of the plan is Spring, 2019

e. Public Safety and Homeland Security

Joyce Stille provided this update to the Board.

The 2018 Statewide EPPI Exercise will be held on June 16th and 20th. The scenario will be a tropical storm. CRCOG will be participating.

CRCOG completed a surge coalition test for the Healthcare Coalition. Bristol Hospital volunteered to be the site. DPH conducted the full day activity and it went extremely well.

Work is complete on the original FY 2015 grant and CRCOG is completing a supplemental FY 2015 grant received in November. Work has begun on the FY 2016 grant and the FY 2017 grant will be open as soon as all municipal MOA's are returned. All open grants include funds for training and exercise, contractual support and sustainment and maintenance of regional equipment. There are also set asides for the Hartford Bomb Squad, Capitol Region HAZMAT team and Metropolitan Medical Response System.

CRCOG has been involved in the statewide Puerto Rico and Islands Evacuee Relief effort and have been participating in conference calls on this effort and assisting as necessary. Report outs have been provided at Policy Board meetings and to the CREPC Emergency Support Function Chairs. In addition, the City of Hartford established a workgroup on displaced residents comprised of the cities most affected. The CREC Welcome Center has closed and Catholic Charities will continue this work.

Working on finalizing the After-Action Review for the West Farms Mall Table Top Exercise. Held several meetings with the principles.

Working with the Department of Public Health to act as the fiduciary agent for hospital and local public health emergency preparedness funds. Completed Standard Operating Procedures for the Healthcare Coalition and made the first round of payments to hospitals and health departments/districts. Attended several budget meetings, a surge collation test meeting and an HCC Co-Chair meeting.

Various training courses were held.

f. Transportation Committee

Mr. Colman updated the Policy Board as it relates to the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grant application, the CTrail Hartford Line and the Special Transportation Fund. Mr. Colman commented that CRCOG staff will be putting resources toward preparing an application for the Plainville Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure and New Britain CTfastrak Connection project. He

mentioned that he was interested in seeing a rural BUILD projects however, given our defined urbanized areas, it has been challenging to identify one. Mr. Colman told the Policy Board that there will be an opening ceremony for CTrail Hartford Line on Friday, June 15th at noon at Union Station in Hartford. There is limited seating on special inaugural trains from select stations north and south of Hartford, CTDOT is coordinating the specific invites and train availability. Finally, Mr. Colman relayed that we have a solution to the Special Transportation Fund (STF) and we are waiting for CTDOT to provide us with guidance as it relates to the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)

g. Metro Hartford Alliance

Becky Nolan stated a data resource has been purchased by MetroHartford Alliance: [Chmura's JobsEQ platform](#) provides detailed labor data and economic trend insights to help with business retention/attraction initiatives, proposal writing, economic impact studies, strategic planning, labor market feasibility analysis, etc.

She spoke to the Board regarding an upcoming Economic Development Training, an offering of the New England Economic Development course. Details are as follows:

MetroHartford Alliance Economic Development Training, an offering of the New England Economic Development Course

The MetroHartford Alliance will provide a Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC) that is accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The training provides a solid foundation for entry-level economic development practitioners, and serves as the equivalent to [IEDC's - Introduction to Economic Development course](#) in preparation for the [IEDC Certification exam](#). Accreditation by IEDC ensures that each BEDC covers subject areas determined to be the core building blocks in any economic development organization.

Date: September 10-13, 2018 (Pending IEDC approval)

Location: Goodwin College *Business and Manufacturing Center, a former Pratt and Whitney site*

6. Presentation/Updates:

- **Fiscal Stability Presentation**

This item was addressed at the start of the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. Action: FY 2018-2019 CRCOG Budget Presentation and Approval

Dr. Wray explained that this is a balanced budget recommendation that is in balance several years out and that the Executive Committee recommends approval from the Board.

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 CROCOG is stable for at least the next couple of years.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the FY 2018-2019 CROCOG Budget as presented. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Action: Resolution Authorizing the Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board

Scott Shanley made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board. Lori Spielman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Items:

9. Action: TIP Amendments

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

Information/Opportunity/Resource Items

10. Legislative Update

Dr. Wray expressed that it would be a good idea to begin preparing for the next session.

11. New Britain/Bristol Transit Study

Jennifer Carrier and Cara Radzins spoke to the Board about the New Britain/Bristol Transit Study. The Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis (CSA) of the New Britain/Bristol Division of CT *transit* is near completion. The full DRAFT Final Report may be found [here](#).

12. CROCOG 2018 Annual Meeting DRAFT Agenda

13. 911 Regional Dispatch Center

Dr. Wray stated the next steps will be to learn more about the operation of the Northwest Safety Communications Center and to create a Public Safety/Communications survey to gather information regarding purchases of public safety equipment in the region.

14. Extension of Agreement with Rome, Smith and Lutz

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the extension of Agreement with Rome, Smith and Lutz as presented. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

15. Other Business: None.

16. Adjournment:

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

Jon Colman moved adjourn meeting. Dave Kilbon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.