

Capitol Region Council of Governments
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Policy Board Special Meeting
CRCOG Offices, 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor Board Room, Hartford, CT 06106
Wednesday, September 25, 2019
12:00 pm
DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Sandra Pierog
Robert Skinner
John Elsesser
Jim Hayden
Bob Maynard
Lori Spielman
Chip Beckett
David Grant
Scott Shanley
Paul Shapiro
Amy Traversa
Robert Lee
John Mehr
Maria Capriola
Rob Phillips
Steve Werbner
Michael Purcaro
Matt Hart
Erika Wiecenski
Peter Souza
Chris Kervick

Town/Organization

Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Coventry
East Granby
East Windsor
Ellington
Glastonbury
Hartford
Manchester
Mansfield
Marlborough
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Southington
Tolland
Vernon
West Hartford
Willington
Windsor
Windsor Locks

Staff

Rob Aloise
Kimberly Bona
Emily Hultquist
Tim Malone
Lyle Wray
Pauline Yoder

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Guests

Kevin Bielmeier
Eric Dorsey

CERC
CTDOT

Grayson Wright
Mike Maglaras
Kevin Witkos
Mark Massaro
Kathie Lutz

CTDOT
CFSIC
State Senator/Eversource
Eversource
Rome Smith Lutz

1. Call to Order: Second Vice-Chair Paul Shapiro called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

2. Public Comment:

Mark Massaro of Eversource provided the following update:

Eversource is near completion of its annual Emergency Response Plan update meeting across the state to first responders and municipal officials.

Eversource is once again the Title Sponsor for the Hartford Marathon on October 12th.

The [storm checklist](#) has been created and was included to monthly statements to Eversource customers.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2019:

Vice Chairperson Paul Shapiro requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Policy Board Meeting minutes from May 22, 2019. Lori Spielman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence/Handouts:

Dr. Wray provided an update on the following handouts:

- [Metro Hartford Future CEDS memo](#)
- [CEDS Next Steps](#)

Dr. Wray stated that the CEDS plan has been submitted and state approval has been granted. Next, letters of support from municipalities will be needed.

- [Letter from Governor Lamont re: adoption of CEDS](#)
- [Sample Letter to Secretary Fleming re: endorsement formation of CEDS](#)
- [Letter to Senator Murphy re: Northeast Corridor Rail Governance and Financing](#)
- [Panel Discussion: Five Steps to Accelerate Economic Growth in CT](#)

5. MONTHLY REPORTS:

a. Chair and Executive Director

Mr. Shapiro informed the Board that he will not be running for re-election in Mansfield.

Dr. Wray asked the Board if there were any questions on the monthly report. There were none.

b. Opportunities and Resources

Dr. Wray stated that CRCOG is in the process of implementing the new GIS system and that the new purchasing system, Bonfire, is currently in place and running smoothly.

Dr. Wray stated that the Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) has had several meetings regarding municipal services. Dr. Wray stated that he and John Filchak of Northeast COG are drafting a report for ACIR.

c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council

Peter Souza provided the following update to the Board:

- Cybersecurity Model Policies are complete and ready for distribution. We are working on an on-line distribution location. For now, please contact Brian Luther if you are interested.
- CRPC will be collecting quantities for Gasoline (as well as other commodities) October 1 with a due date of October 16th. Gasoline is a bid that requires you to enter your quantities ahead of time.
- CRPC is issuing a request for proposal for an energy consultant and we are looking for review/advisory committee members
- Bonfire Training Webinar for CRPC is scheduled for Thursday, the 26th at 1:30 PM.

d. Policy and Planning

Scenario Planning Conference & Workshop

Holding the Lincoln Institute for Scenario Planning Conference November 6-8th. Intimate event bringing together practitioners, consultants, academics, includes tracks on Scenario Planning for newcomers, regional planners and transportation and climate specialists. Paths to Resilience through climate and transportation planning. First day of the conference is CRCOG highlighting the region and there will be a tour on CTfastrak.

October Workshop with communities – two Scenario planning experts will come to help further educate staff on best practices and there will be a portion where we invite communities to attend to work on scenario planning process building around TOD and dead strip malls. We'll be doing outreach to communities on this workshop shortly

Bikeshare RFP Process

We are currently in the selection process and hope to come to the PB next month with a recommended vendor for launch Spring 2020.

CRCOG Complete Streets Policy

Coming next month and currently under review by transportation committee.

You will see CDC grant demo projects popping up throughout the region over the next months and year. This Saturday in Hartford we'll be doing another painting project at the corner of Charter Oak and Main to shorten the crossing distance and make the intersection safer for pedestrians.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

All communities have formally adopted the plan – thank you! As soon as we receive a couple of final resolutions, new of local adoption will go to FEMA who will formally approve.

Metro Hartford Brownfields Steering Committee Meeting October 3rd 1-3PM in this room ahead of our next application for EPA Brownfields Funding. Also, to help spread the word about our Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund.

e. Public Safety and Homeland Security

Lori Spielman provided the following update to the Board:

The 2nd Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Awareness day will be held on Saturday October 19th at Nevers Park in South Windsor. We expect at least fifteen of the teams in our region to participate to share their mission and demonstrations with the other teams. Everyone is welcome to attend.

There was a federal homeland security monitoring visit conducted last Friday. They reviewed various items that CRCOG has purchased for the Hartford Bomb Squad onsite at their public safety complex. It went very well.

f. Transportation Committee

Rob Aloise provided the following update to the Board:

Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program: The funding source primarily funds Bike/Ped projects. Last week, CROG submitted to CTDOT 4 priority and 3 contingency project applications (shown below) as the result of a solicitation for the Hartford Transportation Management Area. Funding for these projects assumes the continuation of this funding source at its current levels for the years 2021-2025.

Priority Projects

New Britain - The Beeline Trail (Phase 1)
Mansfield - Downtown Pedestrian Loop Closure
Thomaston - Naugatuck River Greenway Trail
Simsbury - Tariffville Multi-Use Trail

Contingency Projects

Hartford-Windsor Riverwalk Final Section
Enfield - Town Farm Road Multi-Use Path
Middletown - Newfield North End Connector Trail

Transportation Funding:

It appears that a \$7.6 Billion nationwide one-time rescission of carryover federal transportation funding will take place on September 30, 2019. Through mitigation measures, CTDOT estimates it has lowered the state's exposure to this rescission from initially over \$100 million to approximately \$15 million.

CTDOT anticipates bringing its annual major ask for funding to the bond commission in mid-November. Due to the debt diet, it is anticipated that the ask will be around \$800 million instead of the \$1 billion that is budgeted. Due to this, some projects will likely be at risk of being postponed or canceled. However, LOTCIP projects should be safe as the ask is anticipated to include an additional \$18M of bonding authority for CROG's LOTCIP program. This would be more than enough to cover our next year of LOTCIP construction contract obligations.

g. Metro Hartford Alliance

Becky Nolan sent the following update for the Board:

- CT IFS has a booth at the InsurTech Connect conference in Las Vegas marketing assets of CT.
- MHA will be attending the annual conferences (Int'l Economic Development Association -Indy, and CoreNet in Orange County CA to market the region.
- MHA hosted another German company that is evaluating the region/state as a location to expand its US east coast operations; this is an IT service provider that employs high on the autistic spectrum.

- The CHC is hosting the “Future of HealthCare 2019” on Thursday 9/26. More than 300 attendees are planning to attend an all-day conference.
- MHA worked to bring together the Israeli/Hartford HealthCare Digital HealthCare USA visit and continues to work to support FDI in the region.
- MHA supported Aerospace / Automotive Manufacturing Indo-North American Chamber of Commerce visit to bring businesses together to align opportunities for growth.

At this time, Vice-Chair Shapiro entertained a motion to address action items #7-11 next on the agenda.

Chris Kervick made a motion to address action items #7-11 at this time. Dr. Chip Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. RESOLUTION of the Capitol Region Council of Governments to Authorize Executive Director to sign any and all documents required in the acceptance and execution of state of federal assistance grants or programs.

Chris Kervick made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Capitol Region Council of Governments to Authorize Executive Director to sign any and all documents required in the acceptance and execution of state of federal assistance grants or programs as presented. Michael Purcaro seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Action: RESOLUTION (Boston Rail) Economic Impact Study

John Elsesser made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing funding for an Economic Impact Study of the Rail Link to Boston as presented. Chris Edge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Action: RESOLUTION Authorizing CRCOG Executive Director to Submit Spending Plan and Enter into MOA’s Regarding FY 2019 Federal Homeland Security Grant Funding for DEMHS Region 3

Lori Spielman made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing CRCOG Executive Director to Submit Spending Plan and Enter into MOA’s in Regard to FY 2019 Federal Homeland Security Grant Funding for DEMHS Region 3 as presented. Jon Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

10. Action: RESOLUTION of the Capitol Region Council of Governments Authorizing the Executive Director to Accept Funds for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

Lori Spielman made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Capitol Region Council of Governments Authorizing the Executive Director to Accept Funds for Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) as presented. Jon Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Metropolitan Planning Organization Items:

11. Action: TIP Amendments

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

At this time, Vice Chair Paul Shapiro resumed order of the agenda.

6. PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

• Connecticut Foundation Solutions Indemnity Company (CFSIC)

Michael Maglaras, CFSIC Superintendent spoke to the Board about the continuing crisis of crumbling foundations. He reviewed CFSIC’s annual report, and several infographics included on the website. He spoke about the influx of inspection requests for licensed engineers. He explained that there are 47 licensed home inspectors who are qualified to perform these inspections, but per the guidelines set forth by the Department of Housing, an applicant cannot use them and be reimbursed for testing costs.

To view the annual report and infographics please [click here](#).

Lori Spielman stated that the 2nd Annual International Crumbling Concrete Symposium will be held on October 5th at Ellington High School. It will begin at 10am. For more information, please [click here](#).

• Metro Hartford Future CEDS update

This item was tabled.

INFORMATION/OPPORTUNITY/RESOURCE ITEMS

15. 2019 Legislative update

Senator Witkos stated that a special session will be taking place, hopefully within the next few weeks, to discuss items such as bonding, the restaurant wage issue and the hospital issue.

Kathie Lutz provided the following US DOT update to the board:

The administration has officially asked the census bureau to use COGs as counties for this purpose.

Website will be live soon www.ct2030

\$18 billion over 10 years is the plan 1/3 would be earmarked for rail.

Tolls will most likely be needed for some of the funding.

No one is quite clear on if these things are wish list or definitively a project list.

16. 2020 DRAFT Policy Board and Executive Committee Meeting Schedules

Dr. Wray kindly asked the Board to review the draft Policy Board and Executive Committee meeting schedules to ensure there are no conflicts for the 2020 Board and Executive Committee meetings.

17. Other Business

None.

18. Adjournment

With no further discussion items, Vice Chair Paul Shapiro 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 1:17 pm.