

Transportation Committee

CRCOG, 241 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hartford, CT 06106

**Monday, October 21st, 2019
12 Noon**

Name

Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Todd Penney
Doug Wilson
Donald Nunes
Russ Arnold
Dan Pennington
Sandra Fry
Faith Ucar
Veera Karukonda
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
Peter Hughes
Gary Fuerstenberg
Rob Trottier
Jim Sollmi
Tom Roy
Jeffrey Doolittle
Heidi Samokar
David Smith
Derrick Gregor
Duane Martin
Bob Jarvis
Jen Rodriguez

Organization

Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Coventry
East Hartford
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Hartford
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Marlborough
Newington
New Britain
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
South Windsor
Tolland
Vernon
Wethersfield
West Hartford
Windsor
Windsor Locks

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Guests

Jonathan Thiesse
Mary Deppe
Charles Harlow
Josh Rickman
Jeff Shea
Grayson Wright
Amy Watkins
Carl Gandza
Rich Armstrong

Bloomfield
GHTD
Fuss & O'Neill
CTtransit
Simsbury
CTDOT
Walk for Me CT
New Britain
GM2 Association

Staff

Robert Aloise
Mike Cipriano

CRCOG
CRCOG

Emily Hultquist	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Mr. Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.
2. **Public Forum** – There was no public comment.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Daniel Pennington from the Town of Glastonbury, to accept the meeting minutes from September 23rd, 2019. This motion was passed unanimously with one (1) abstention made by Kevin Kelly from the Town of Hebron.

4. Staff Report

- **DRAFT LOTCIP Solicitation Schedule** – Mr. Roger Krahn gave a brief update on the LOTCIP Solicitation Schedule. He stated that CRCOG staff met with CTDOT staff in September to discuss the status of LOTCIP funding. Mr. Krahn mentioned that CTDOT is expected to request an additional \$18 million in bond allocation for CRCOG LOTCIP projects at a state Bond Commission meeting anticipated in November. Also, CTDOT’s budget request to the State Legislature included \$18.76 million in SFY 2020 and \$18.76 million in SFY 2021 for CRCOG LOTCIP projects. If these bonding and funding levels are approved, CRCOG plans to proceed with a solicitation for additional LOTCIP projects. Mr. Jon Colman suggested revising the Transportation Committee review and approval date, currently scheduled for July, because of lower attendance at summer meetings.
- **LOTCIP Quarterly Review Report (Quarter 1) Update** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari gave an overview of the LOTCIP Quarterly Reporting meeting Memo. Specifically, she reported that CTDOT issued three Authorization to Award Letters in the amount of \$2,617,954 for Rocky Hill Dividend Road Project, Farmington Brickyard Road Project and Hebron Church Street (Rte. 85) Sidewalk Installation Project. Additionally, she mentioned that CRCOG received three (3) Authorization to Advertise Letters, totaling \$6,152,406 for New Britain East Main/Myrtle Complete Streets, Tolland Old Cathole Road Reconstruction, and Glastonbury House Street Multi-Use Trail. Ms. Montanari explained that Quarter 2 projections expenditures will be approximately \$12.8 million from eight (8) projects, which includes the \$6.1 million previously mentioned. She stated that the Towns and CTDOT have made substantial advancements on projects overall.
Ms. Montanari also reported that CTDOT issued three (3) Commitment to Fund Letters for South Windsor Avery Street, Suffield Mountain Road (Rte. 168) Multi-Use Trail, and Hebron Wall Street/Main Street (Rtes. 316/66), and an additional three (3) have been issued during October and will be reported on for next quarter.

Ms. Montanari reported that twenty-nine (29) projects have been awarded or completed construction since program inception.

Two Towns were provided updates on their design submission schedules. Mr. Jeff Shea from Simsbury reported on Route 189 Multi-Use Trail and he indicated he is coordinating with the District regarding the guiderail issue and is hoping to have it rectified soon. Mr. Rick Zulick from Stafford was not available but Ms. Montanari reported that the Town is coordinating with the company that owns the dam below the bridge because specific repairs also need to be completed on the dam. This issue has delayed the progression of the project.

- **Draft 2020-2024 CTDOT Capital Plan Comments** – Mr. Robert Aloise gave an update on CRCOG’s staff comments on the draft 2020-2024 CTDOT Capital Plan. He stated that they are concerns that 20-25% of the program identified in the Plan may be determined to be unaffordable once the program is constrained to available revenue. Mr. Aloise mentioned that cutting projects that are identified to be funded through bonding would result in the loss of critical projects in the Capitol Region, including but not limited to preliminary engineering for the 1-84 Hartford project, track and station improvements on the CTrail Hartford Line, and multiple trail projects. Alternative funding approaches would be necessary to address the growing needs associated with the region’s and state’s transportation needs and aging infrastructure. Mr. Aloise said he will share additional information with our municipalities following a meeting with CTDOT staff to discuss project priorities on November 7, 2019. Mr. Jon Colman noted that at Executive Committee Dr. Lyle Wray had expressed concerns regarding funding for the Hartford Line and noted that there may be a need to consider alternative funding and/or design options. CRCOG is also working with PVPC on an economic impact study of Hartford-Springfield-Boston rail service.
- **2020 Transportation Safety Performance Measures Targets Memo** – Mr. Roger Krahn briefed the Committee on Transportation Safety Performance Measures, noting that CTDOT sets targets for safety in accordance with FHWA requirements. Historically, CRCOG has adopted these targets, which are based on a five-year rolling average, as those for the region. Committee members discussed their concerns about these targets not being aggressive enough. Mr. Krahn noted that there are consequences for not achieving the targets, which tends to lead to the creation of more conservative targets that are more easily obtainable.
- **Technology Takes the Wheel Speaker Series** – Mr. Mike Cipriano shared that the next Technology Takes The Wheel event on autonomous vehicles will be held on Wednesday, November 6th, 2019 from 9am until noon at Goodwin College. Mr. Cipriano mentioned that this event is free but requires preregistration. More information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/TechTakesTheWheelreg>
- **Other** –
 - **Regional Bikeshare Update** – Ms. Emily Hultquist gave a brief update on CRCOG’s Regional Bikeshare RFQ. She noted that following an interview process and product demonstration, CRCOG has selected Zagster for a regional bikeshare-only contract. While 19 towns originally

expressed interested in the program, the following six (6) towns will be included in the initial roll-out: Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford, Newington, New Britain, and Manchester. MOUs with Zagster will be developed with each community, and each can decide whether or not to incorporate scooters.

- **Commuter Parking Lots** – Mr. Jon Colman noted that new CTDOT licensing agreements would require that privately-owned commuter parking lots would need to have their insurance covered by the private entity or town instead of CTDOT. Mr. Daniel Pennington from Glastonbury explained that two churches in Glastonbury would not cover the increased insurance and liability coverage required by the new CTDOT agreements. Mr. Pennington noted that the Town Council was considering whether or not to have the Town take on the insurance. Mr. Colman expressed concern that this approach could impact private lots in other communities. Ms. Sandy Fry noted that this could be a matter of CTDOT trying to obtain a form of local match from the Town for its transit service. Ms. Cara Radzins shared that she had obtained limited initial information about the situation but that it seemed that the reason the two lots in Glastonbury were impacted was due to the fact that their contracts had expired. Mr. Colman requested that Ms. Radzins do some further investigating on this matter and report back to the Committee.

5. TIP Amendments – *There was no TIP amendments for action this month*

6. Wethersfield LOTCIP Project Cost Increase Request

- **Highland Street pavement Rehabilitation**

Ms. Sotoria Montanari gave an overview of the Town of Wethersfield Cost Increase request. Ms. Montanari mentioned that the Town of Wethersfield requested a LOTCIP funding increase of \$346,800 from \$640,800 to \$987,600 (54.1% increase). Ms. Montanari stated the project was approved under the 2018 LOTCIP solicitation and was in the application phase.

Specifically, she indicated the increase cost to the overall project was the result of addressing feedback from CTDOT's application review comments that included a revised pavement analysis to achieve a 15-year service life, an extension of 300 ft of sidewalk, and an addition of uniformed police officers. The pavement analysis to achieve a 15-year minimum service life added \$140,000 to the cost estimate, the sidewalk extension cost included signage, crosswalk and ramps adding \$25,000 to the cost and an additional \$28,000 was added for curb replacement, driveway reconstruction and sidewalk ramps on adjoining streets. Ms. Montanari also stated that \$20,000 was added to the cost estimate for uniformed police officers.

To accommodate a required 15-year pavement design life and to incorporate CTDOT feedback and resulting Town modifications, staff recommends committee approval of an additional \$346,800 of LOTCIP funding for the Wethersfield (L159-0001) project, increasing the funding approval from \$640,800 to \$987,600. A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by

Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor to approve this cost increase request. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 7. LOTCIP Project Funding Transfer Policy** – Mr. Roger Krahn gave a brief update on the LOTCIP Fund Transfer Guidelines, which were discussed in more detail during the preceding Subcommittee Meeting. A motion was made by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington, seconded by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury to accept approval of funds to a new project. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 8. 2019 CRCOG Complete Streets Policy Memo** – Mr. Rob Aloise noted that there had been substantial discussion at the Subcommittee Meeting regarding the draft Complete Streets Policy. The primary areas of concern included the proposed finding of ineligibility if a project is not granted an exceptions and proposed additional LOTCIP points and changes to ranking criteria. Mr. Aloise said that if Committee members had additional comments, they could share them directly with him or Mr. Tim Malone. CRCOG staff will revisit the draft and work to find solutions to the Committee’s concerns. A motion was made by Peter Hughes of the Town of Marlborough, seconded by Bob Jarvis from the Town of Windsor, to postpone action on this item until a later meeting.
- 9. Presentation: Watch for Me CT, Amy Watkins, Program Coordinator** – Ms. Amy Watkins gave a presentation on Watch for Me CT. In Connecticut 1,500 pedestrians and 550 bicyclists are hit by cars each year. Of those, 60 pedestrians and 5 bicyclists die due to their injuries. Ms. Watkins stated that Watch For Me CT is a comprehensive program aimed at reducing the number of fatalities from traffic crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists. Watch For Me CT is funded by CTDOT and offers free services to Towns, including educational materials and community engagement. In response to Committee member questions, Ms. Watkins noted that Watch for Me CT works with a number of stakeholders, including AAA. A Committee member requested that the slides be make available, and Mr. Rob Aloise said that they would be distributed to the Committee following the meeting.
- 10. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.
- 11. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm