

Transportation Committee

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

Monday, May 20th, 2019

12 Noon

Name

Larry Baril
Jonathan Thiesse
Patrice Carson
Doug Wilson
Donald Nunes
Russ Arnold
Daniel Pennington
Sandra Fry
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Gary Fuerstenberg
Rob Trottier
John Bossi
Jim Sollmi
Jeff Bord
Jeffrey Doolittle
Rick Zulick
David Smith
Derrick Gregor
Duane Martin
Bob Jarvis
Jennifer Cassidy

Organization

Avon
Bloomfield
Bolton
East Hartford
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Mansfield
Marlborough
Newington
New Britain
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Somers
South Windsor
Stafford
Vernon
Wethersfield
West Hartford
Windsor
GHTD

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Guests

Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Charles Harlow	Fuss & O'Neill
LaShaunda Drake	GHTD
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Gregory Sommer	West Hartford
Gannon Long	Ctr. for Latin Progress/Hartford
Alan Blasenstein	Transport Hartford

Staff

Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Emily Hultquist	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG

Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Andrew Schroder	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Dr. Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Mr. Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Mr. Jon Colman welcomed Mr. Roger Krahn, Principal Transportation Engineer to CRCOG.
2. **Public Forum** – There was no public comment.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from April 22nd, 2019** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to accept the April 22nd, 2019 meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously with five (5) abstentions made by David Smith from the Town of Vernon, Kevin Kelly from the Town of Hebron, Robert Trottier from the City of New Britain, Rick Zulick from the Town of Stafford, and Larry Baril from the Town of Avon.
4. **Staff Report**
 - Regional Park and Ride Lots Utilization – Ms. Cara Radzins gave a brief update on CRCOG’s biannual counts of the Region’s 45 park and ride lots. Ms. Radzins noted that while lot-level counts have some variation, the overall parking lot utilization in the Region has remained fairly constant over the past three years. Ms. Radzins also noted that the data is shared with CTDOT and that the spreadsheets and maps associated with the counts can be found on CRCOG’s website.
 - Eversource Relocation Charges Update – Mr. Roger Krahn gave an update on Eversource Relocation Charges. Mr. Krahn noted that CRCOG sent a letter to Eversource on May 13, 2019 requesting clarification on Eversource’s charging Towns for the cost of utility relocations on municipal road improvement projects. CRCOG staff met with Eversource Community Relation staff, Kevin Witco and John Arsego; Mike Piteo, CTDOT Utilities Section; and John Elsesser, Town of Coventry, on May 16. Mr. Krahn explained that the group discussed the 12/29/18 “Guidelines for Cost Reimbursement for Utility Relocations” chart that Eversource had prepared. Mike Piteo highlighted the importance that if a Project is eligible for the Federal STP Urban Program, then the Utility company pays 100% of the relocation costs. Three of the most applicable Federal STP Urban Program eligibility requirements are if 1) the roadway functional classification is Urban Collector or higher, or 2) the total bridge span length is 20’ or greater, or 3) construction of pedestrian and bike facilities such as sidewalks and multi-use trails. Some projects had been incorrectly charged in the past for utility relocations, and Eversource agreed to refund Towns for payments incorrectly charged. Eversource suggested a reasonable timeframe be established for refund requests from the Towns. CRCOG agree to follow up with Eversource on a reasonable timeframe for refund requests. Mr. Krahn further explained that if a LOTCIP project is located on a State owned right of way, then then the Utility company pays 50% and the State pays 50% of relocation costs. So again, there is no utility relocation cost to the

Town. Dr. Lyle Wray noted that he had recently been at an event with an executive from Eversource who indicated a willingness to assist with expediting the process if needed. Mr. Rob Aloise noted that there has been good progress and CRCOG will continue to work with Eversource.

- BUILD Grants – Ms. Cara Radzins mentioned to the Committee that the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has announced a \$900 million in discretionary grant funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program for road, bridge, transit, rail, port, or intermodal projects. As in previous rounds, projects will be selected based on safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, state of good repair, innovation, and partnerships. Ms. Radzins noted that minimum funding awards are \$5 million for urban project, \$1 million for rural projects, and no minimum for planning grants. She added that the maximum awards will be \$25 million per project and \$90 million per state. Ms. Radzins explained that there is a 20% match requirement for urban projects, and that rural projects are not required to provide a match. She further noted that USDOT has indicated a commitment to spending up to 50% of funding in rural areas. Ms. Radzins said the deadline to submit an application is July 15th, 2019, and more information is available at <https://www.transportation.gov/BUILDgrants>. A Committee members asked whether CTDOT will be submitting a project, and Ms. Radzins replied that she was not aware of a specific application from CTDOT. Another questions was raised regarding the agency responsible for the funding, and it was noted that the funds came from USDOT and would be filtered through either FHWA or FTA depending on the project. Mr. Rob Aloise also added that projects that can show something closer to a 50% non-federal match have historically been more competitive.
- Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that since the last Transportation Committee meeting CRCOG staff became aware that CTDOT had extended the TA Set-Aside submission deadline to September and that there was some disagreement regarding how the non-CRCOG project would be selected for Hartford Transportation Management Area (TMA) funding. On May 13th, CRCOG staff met with staff from NVCOG and RiverCOG. The meeting outcome retained the CRCOG competitive process for three project selections but resulted in authorizing NVCOG and RiverCOG staff to determine the selection process for the single fourth project. Ms. Radzins explained that it was further agreed upon to maintain the previously determined schedule, because despite CTDOT's extension, rescheduling meetings for over the summer would be a challenge. To maintain this schedule, CRCOG staff have reviewed the eight projects and identified a short-list of five projects for presentation and ranking at a June 3rd Special Subcommittee Committee Meeting. In accordance with the schedule, CRCOG staff plans to inform each municipality of their short-list status on the afternoon of May 20th. Ms. Radzins reminded the committee that municipalities with short-listed projects will be scheduled for a brief presentation at the June 3rd meeting followed by an opportunity for committee questions. Committee members will then rank each project. These rankings will be used to identify the three projects that will be submitted to CTDOT. Staff proposes that the two unsuccessful short-listed projects be submitted to CTDOT as contingency

projects, available if another project cannot advance or additional TA Set-Aside funding is available. Ms. Radzins also noted that final approval of the prioritized list, inclusive of an NVCOG/RiverCOG project, will be addressed at the June 17th Transportation Committee, when the Committee will be acting as Policy Board.

- CTDOT LOTCIP Guidelines Update-March 2019 – Ms. Sotoria Montanari gave a brief update on the revised CTDOT LOTCIP Guidelines, dated March 2018. Ms. Montanari mentioned that a copy of the guidelines is posted on CRCOG’s website and will be distributed during on-board design meetings. No policies were changed, however, clarification and more explanation on the Rights-of-Way and Bidding sections were added. Also, Ms. Montanari mentioned as a follow-up to the discussion regarding LOTCIP project delays, a meeting has been scheduled with CTDOT for May 28th, 2019.
- CTDOT MS4 Permit Update – Mr. Mike Ciprano mentioned that CTDOT is currently in the process of holding a series of public meetings throughout the state regarding the Department’s MS4 permitting and Stormwater Management Plan. He mentioned that including this morning’s meeting at CTDOT Headquarters, they have held 4 of 5 public meetings, with the remaining one to be held at MetroCOG in Bridgeport on June 5th. Beginning July 1st, CTDOT is subject to goals and requirements of a stormwater discharge permit that aims to reduce the amount of pollution discharge to the state’s surface waters and wetlands. There is a 5-year MS4 permit term which runs from July 1st of this year to June 30th, 2024. CTDOT’s Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) is how DOT will be implementing its MS4 Program and lists the best practices to be applied to meet permit requirements. The comment deadline for the SWMP is on June 30th. CTDOT will also be mapping its MS4 system. Half of the MS4 program must be mapped within the first 5 years, and the rest within 10 years. For the areas that have been mapped, CTDOT will be calculating the Directly Connected Impervious Areas (DCIA). CTDOT will also be sharing this MS4 interconnection data with municipalities. A link to CTDOT’s presentation, including more information on the SWMP and DCIAs, can be found on CRCOG’s website.
- **Other** – Ms. Emily Hultquist gave a brief update on Regional Bike Share. An RFQ is scheduled to be distributed in the first two weeks of June. Twenty (20) towns have expressed interest, and the goal is to have a program in place by next spring.

5. LOTCIP Projects Cost Increase and Scope Change Requests

- West Hartford Mountain Road Scope Change: Ms. Sotoria Montanari explained that the Mountain Road Intersection Improvement Project scope change request was discussed in detail at the subcommittee meeting. The project was originally approved under the 2015 solicitation and has progressed through the preliminary design phase. Ms. Montanari stated that the primary purpose and need of the project is to alleviate congestion and the secondary purpose is to incorporate a complete streets design that provides suitable accessibility for all users. The Town of West Hartford is requesting a change to the project’s proposed bicycle/pedestrian accommodations, specifically the removal of an existing 500 feet of sidewalk along Mountain Road along the southeast corner. Concerns have been raised by the town’s bike/ped commission and a letter to this effect was

included in the mailing. The Town of West Hartford is currently in the process of following the exceptions process with the Town Council. Ms. Montanari said a significant amount of material was provided in the memo for the committee to review regarding this project. Mr. Duane Martin and Mr. Greg Sommer of West Hartford presented design iterations to the subcommittee and explained how they progressed and decided on the current design. Ms. Sandra Fry from the City of Hartford indicated that since she wrote the letter representing the West Hartford Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission, she would abstain from voting, as to not confuse her roles. A motion was made by Mr. Peter Hughes of the Town of Marlborough to accept the scope change, seconded by Mr. Jim Sollmi of the Town of Rocky Hill. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Sandra Fry from the City of Hartford abstaining.

- Hartford Main Street/Boce Barlow Bridge Scope Change: Ms. Sotoria Montanari explained that the Hartford Main Street/Boce Barlow Bridge Project was approved under the 2018 solicitation as a resurfacing project and has progressed through preliminary design. The City is requesting a scope modification to extend the resurfacing on Main Street by 900 linear feet to Park Street intersection. Ms. Montanari stated that the original application had the project limits from Gold Street to mid-point between Buckingham Street and Park Street, however, Park Street is a more logical terminus. The City proposed the initial project limits to ensure it did not interfere with utility work, which has since been completed. Since the pavement condition warrants extension of the project limits to Park Street, the City is requesting this scope modification. The resurfacing extension is estimated at an additional \$400,000, but the overall resulting cost estimate is \$1.7 which is within the previously approved amount. Therefore the current allocated funding is not anticipated to be affected by the scope change request. A motion was made by Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough seconded by Mr. Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to accept the scope change request. This motion was passed unanimously.

6. TIP Amendments – Mr. Robert Aloise reviewed the TIP Amendments. A motion was made by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Statewide Highway Sign Inventory

7. FY2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program – Mr. Robert Aloise updated the Committee on the DRAFT Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), noting that the it outlined CRCOG staff's efforts for the next two year. He also noted that the draft had been previously shared with the Committee at the April meeting. Mr. Aloise explained that the UPWP had been reviewed by CTDOT, FHWA, and FTA and that staff was looking for endorsement from the Committee on the UPWP. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton to accept the UPWP seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill. This motion was passed unanimously.

8. Annual Urban Planning Certification Resolution – Mr. Rob Aloise explained that CRCOG needed to endorse a self-certification to demonstrate that it's transportation

program was being conducted in accordance with federal guidelines. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton seconded by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain to accept the Resolution on the Annual Urban Planning Certification. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 9. FY2020-2021 CTDOT Planning Agreement Resolution** – Mr. Rob Aloise explained that a resolution was needed to allow Dr. Lyle Wray to sign agreements and other documents related to CRCOG’s contract with CTDOT for efforts associated with the UPWP. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to Authorize a Resolution for Execution of Agreement with the Connecticut Department of Transportation for CRCOG’s FY2020 and 2021 Transportation Planning Program. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 10. Resolution Authorizing Transportation Committee to act as Policy Board** – Mr. Jon Colman explained that a resolution was needed to allow the Transportation Committee to act as the Policy Board during the summer, as the Transportation Committee continues to have meetings when the Policy Board does not. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to Authorize Resolution for the CRCOG Transportation Committee to Approve Action Items on Behalf of the CRCOG Policy Board. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 11. Other Business** – Dr. Lyle Wray shared that a presentation on tolling would be given by Thomas Maziarz, Bureau Chief of Policy and Planning at CTDOT, at the Policy Board meeting on Wednesday May 22nd. Dr. Lyle Wray indicated he will make the presentation available to the Committee members following that meeting. Dr. Wray also mentioned that the Special Transportation Fund (STF) is not yet fixed. The transfer of the new car sales tax is critical, and the general obligation bonds for transportation projects has not yet been rectified. Dr. Lyle Wray says he will keep the Committee updated, but he anticipates this will be a last-minute fix to the State budget.
- 12. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 pm.