

**CRCOG Transportation Meeting**  
**Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**12 Noon**  
***Meeting held remotely via Zoom***

**DRAFT until  
Endorsed  
by the  
Committee**

**Name**

Larry Baril  
Chris Edge  
Jon Colman  
Patrice Carson  
Neil Pade  
Doug Wilson  
Len Norton  
Timothy Webb  
Donald Nunes  
Russ Arnold  
Daniel Pennington  
Kirk Severance  
Sandy Fry  
Kevin Kelly  
Jeff LaMalva  
Peter Hughes  
Rob Trottier  
Gary Fuerstenberg  
John Bossi  
Jim Sollmi  
Tom Roy  
Todd Rolland  
Annette Turnquist  
Jeffrey Doolittle  
Bill Hawkins  
Duane Martin  
Derrick Gregor  
Bob Jarvis  
Vicki Shotland

**Organization**

Avon  
Berlin  
Bloomfield  
Bolton  
Canton  
East Hartford  
East Windsor  
Ellington  
Enfield  
Farmington  
Glastonbury  
Granby  
Hartford  
Hebron  
Manchester  
Marlborough  
New Britain  
Newington  
Plainville  
Rocky Hill  
Simsbury  
Somers  
Southington  
South Windsor  
Suffield  
West Hartford  
Wethersfield  
Windsor  
GHTD

**Guests**

Mike Fisher  
Jonathan Thiesse  
Grayson Wright  
Kurt Salmoiraghi  
Charles Harlow  
Adam Kessler

BL Companies  
Bloomfield  
CTDOT  
FHWA  
Fuss & O'Neill  
Windsor

**Staff**

Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Dr. Lyle Wray	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Alphabetically by Member Municipality, then others. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by the Chair, Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield.
2. **Public Forum** – No one chose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to approve the meeting minutes from the October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Staff Reports**
  - **LOTICIP FY20 Year End Overview** – Mr. Ryan Faulkner (CRCOG Intern) briefly summarized the LOTICIP FY20 Year End Overview, which is posted on the CRCOG website. Mr. Faulkner stated that the photos represent the types of projects funded in the LOTICIP program. They include Bridges, Stand-Alone Sidewalks, Pavement Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Multi-use trails, and Intersection Improvements. The State has allocated \$133 million towards the CRCOG portion of the LOTICIP program. He mentioned for fiscal years 2021/2022, CRCOG 's allocation was for \$37 million, which approximates the 2020 LOTICIP Solicitation award total approved by the Transportation Committee. Mr. Faulkner indicated the bar chart represents the expenditures, with \$13.3 million in fiscal year 2020 being the most funds expended in a year. In fiscal year 2021, substantially more funds are expected to be expended. Below the bar chart is a pie chart representing totals in design or construction phases. He noted that the map is representative of the widespread array of municipalities throughout the region. The overview also included before and after pictures as well as metrics to demonstrate program progress.
  - **LOTICIP Project Delivery Metrics** – Mr. Rob Aloise stated that the Transportation Committee requested at its October meeting that staff review LOTICIP project delivery time durations. He indicated that previously staff was tracking design phase metrics only and reporting to the Committee on those specific time durations. Mr. Aloise said based on Committee feedback, a more comprehensive approach was implemented, which included tracking the application, design, and bidding phases as well as the time durations in each phase. Mr. Aloise then summarized the Project

Delivery Metrics memo. He noted that fiscal year 2018 durations were the longest. The reasons for the delays were CTDOT staffing issues, such as employee turnover and a temporary freeze on issuing Commitment to Fund Letters. He noted there was a slight improvement with the subsequent increase in CTDOT staffing. Mr. Aloise noted that this topic was discussed in detail at the Cost Review Sub-Committee meeting and several highlights came out of the discussion, including the continuance of metrics tracking and the implementation of target measurements that have quicker time frame responsiveness, specifically the application phase. Mr. Aloise indicated there are opportunities to reduce response time for application reviews. Additionally, he mentioned the response time for the 100% design submission should be reviewed and reduced. Another recommendation from the Subcommittee was to review the encroachment permit process, especially delays from the CTDOT traffic unit. Mr. Aloise said regular meetings with CTDOT to review project delivery delays and problematic projects will also be recommended. He said legislative changes are not recommended, but as a last resort if other efforts are not showing promise then this approach may be revisited. He noted that CRCOG will continue to request CTDOT pre-screening of applications to ensure eligibility. Committee members who were unable to attend the Subcommittee meeting shared their opinions on the LOTCIP program. Mr. Russ Arnold of Farmington indicated that keeping project advancing through system is key to the success of the program. Mr. Dan Pennington of Glastonbury and Mr. Jeff LaMalva echoed their satisfaction with the program. Mr. Pennington said program refinement to achieve shorter timeframes was important, but an overhaul of the program was not necessary. Mr. Jon Colman summed up the discussion and indicated coordination with CTDOT is important; the LOTCIP Program is generally working for everyone; and there are opportunities for improvement related to efficiency.

- **Commuter Parking lot Utilization** – Ms. Cara Radzins mentioned that in October CRCOG staff conducted their biannual park and ride lot count. She noted that they've now collected four years of this data. Ms. Radzins mentioned that there was 50% greater utilization than was seen with the Spring counts, but that the overall utilization of the lots was still low due to COVID. She shared that overall the count saw about 77% fewer cars than the average in the previous three years, so while there was an increase from the Spring there was still a substantial decrease from the norm. Ms. Radzins said staff will go back out to count again in April and hopefully things will continue to rebound.
- **2020 Multimodal and Transit Summit** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Northeast Multi Modal Transit Summit, which is put on by the Transport Hartford Academy from the Center for Latino Progress, will be held virtually on November 23, 2020. Registration and more information about the event can be found at: <https://www.ctprf.org/2020summit/>.
- **Performance Measures-2021 Annual CTDOT Safety Targets** – Mr. Roger Krahn shared that that CTDOT has established five safety performance targets for calendar year 2021. Mr. Krahn stated that CRCOG will need to endorse these safety targets by February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mr. Krahn also mentioned that CTDOT has chosen targets for 2021 that are more aggressive than those derived from a lagged five-year moving average as was done in the past. Mr. Krahn stated that the CRCOG staff suggests the Transportation Committee review the targets and the

memo. He also stated that a draft resolution for approval will be brought up for action at the December Transportation Committee and Policy Board meetings.

- **State Local Bridge Program and Eligible Bridge List** – Mr. Roger Krahn gave a brief summary on the State Funded Local Bridge Program. Mr. Krahn mentioned that \$18 million is available to municipalities. The application period is now open for FY2021 State grants, and the application deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Mr. Krahn mentioned that Mr. Francisco Fadul, CTDOT Project Engineer, can be contacted at [Francisco.fadul@ct.gov](mailto:Francisco.fadul@ct.gov) to inquire if a specific application is on the list. He also mentioned that applications for Federal Local Bridge Program funding may be submitted at any time. Detailed information regarding the Local Bridge Program can be found on CTDOT's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/local-Bridge-Program/local-Bridge-Program>. Mr. Krahn also said an Excel spreadsheet showing bridges that are eligible is posted on CRCOG's website.
- **Congestion Management Process Updated Report** – Mr. Pramod Pandey gave a brief update on the Congestion Management Process Updated Report, which was completed earlier in November 2020. The report was produced in coordination with the Northwest Hills COG, Naugatuck Valley COG, and RiverCOG. This report is updated every five years to show trend analysis and potential mitigation strategies. This update utilized 2019 travel time data.
- **Draft FY2021-2025 Capital Plan-CRCOG Staff Comment Letter** – Mr. Robert Aloise gave a brief update on the staff comments that CRCOG submitted regarding the CTDOT Draft 5-year Capital Plan for FY2021-2025. Mr. Aloise mentioned that CRCOG requested to meet with CTDOT staff to discuss project prioritization and potential mitigation measures.
- **Other** – Dr. Lyle Wray mentioned to the Committee that there were several transition activities happening on the Federal level for Transportation. Dr. Wray mentioned that President-Elect Biden choose two persons from New York and Pennsylvania to be on his team. Dr. Wray also noted that there are rumors that a large Transportation bill may be forthcoming, but it will depend on what happens in the Senate. Dr. Wray also said that the previously mentioned RFP for a shared lobbyist is not yet ready but moving forward. Dr. Wray shared that CRCOG's legislative agenda for 2021 is being prepared, and solvency of the Special Transportation Fund (STF) will be a high priority.

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

6. **LOTICIP Project Scope Modification Request: Town of Bloomfield Blue Hills Complete Streets Phase 1** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari shared that Bloomfield is requesting the approval of a scope change without revisions to the awarded LOTICIP project funding amount. Ms. Montanari stated that based on comments from a public information meeting in August 2020, the Town of Bloomfield would like to modify the project scope to incorporate additional elements to create a more robust complete streets project. In order to do so within the existing funding allocation, the town is requesting a scope modification that reduces the project limits from 1,700 to 1,100 linear feet. Ms. Montanari also said additional elements proposed that will be added to improve the project include granite curbing, decorative lighting, a brick snow shelf, and buffered bike lanes, centered in the area of the project where it is more densely

populated. Also, the newly proposed project limits will be from the City of Hartford line to Elizabeth Avenue. Originally the project limits were from the City of Hartford line to Britton Drive. Ms. Montanari stated that the Subcommittee approved the motion for recommendation and staff recommends Committee approval as well. A motion was made by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to accept approval of Blue Hills Complete Streets Phase 1 project scope modification involving additional complete streets elements and reducing the project limits from 1,700 to 1,100 linear feet. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 7. Authorizing Resolution: Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CRCOG staff had conducted a qualifications-based selection process for the Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy. Nelson\Nygaard has been identified as the top-rated consultant, and negotiations are underway. Ms. Radzins noted that a resolution was required to be passed by the Transportation Committee and Policy Board to allow Dr. Lyle Wray to sign the upcoming contacting documents for this effort. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to authorize Execution of an Agreement for the Capitol Region Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 8. Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program: Confirmation of Project Support** – Ms. Cara Radzins gave a brief update on the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program. Ms. Radzins shared that in 2019 CRCOG endorsed four recommended projects and three contingency projects from the Hartford Transportation Management Area (TMA) for FFY2021-2025 TA Set-Aside Program funding. Ms. Radzins stated that CTDOT has begun initiating the top-rated projects across the state. Within the Hartford TMA, this includes New Britain’s Beeline Trail (Phase 1) and Mansfield’s Downtown Pedestrian Loop Closure. Ms. Radzins said because of the length of time that has passed since these projects were originally approved by CRCOG, CTDOT has requested confirmation that it is still the Region’s desire to move these projects forward. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to confirm the Transportation Committee’s continued support of these projects. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 9. Draft Transportation Committee Meeting Schedule for 2021** – Ms. Cara Radzins noted that the Policy Board recently adopted their meeting schedule for 2021 and Transportation Committee now is being requested to adopt a 2021 schedule for their meetings, which will be held, as usual, on the Monday preceding the Policy Board meetings. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to accept the CRCOG Transportation Committee 2021 meeting schedule. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 10. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.
- 11. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm with a motion made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin. This motion was passed unanimously.