

## CRCOG Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, December 14th, 2020

12 Noon

*Meeting held remotely via Zoom*

DRAFT until  
  
Endorsed  
by the  
Committee

**Name**

Eric Anderson  
Larry Baril  
Jon Colman  
Patrice Carson  
Doug Wilson  
Timothy Webb  
Donald Nunes  
Russ Arnold  
Kirk Severance  
Kevin Kelly  
John Carrington  
Peter Hughes  
Gary Fuerstenberg  
Mark Moriarty  
Jim Sollmi  
Todd Rolland  
Tom Roy  
Jeffrey Doolittle  
Devin Cowperthwaite  
Derrick Gregor  
Troy Sposato  
Adam Kessler  
Jen Rodriguez  
LaShuanda Drake

**Organization**

Andover  
Avon  
Bloomfield  
Bolton  
East Hartford  
Ellington  
Enfield  
Farmington  
Granby  
Hebron  
Mansfield  
Marlborough  
Newington  
New Britain  
Rocky Hill  
Somers  
Simsbury  
South Windsor  
Stafford  
Wethersfield  
Willington  
Windsor  
Windsor Locks  
GHTD

**Guests**

Grayson Wright  
Jennifer Carrier  
Charles Harlow  
Michael Fisher  
Jonathan Thiesse  
Rob Trottier  
Jeff Shea  
Keliesha Jones  
Ed Perzanowski

CTDOT  
FHWA  
Fuss & O'Neill  
BL Companies  
Bloomfield  
New Britain  
Simsbury  
CT*rides*  
CT*rides*

**Staff**

Robert Aloise  
Mike Cipriano

CRCOG  
CRCOG

Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Alphabetically by Member Municipality, then others. The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by the Chair, Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield.
2. **Public Forum** – No one chose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020** – A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, to approve the minutes from the November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Transportation Committee meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Staff Reports**
  - **Greater Hartford Mobility Study Factsheet** – Mr. Robert Aloise gave an overview of the Greater Hartford Mobility Study Factsheet. Mr. Aloise stated that CTDOT recently took a step back from the EIS process for the Hartford I-84 Study and has refocused on a Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL), which includes a broader study area with bigger goals. Mr. Aloise noted that the duration for this study is two to three years. He also mentioned that a presentation with more information will be given at the January Transportation Committee meeting, and Committee members will have an opportunity to ask questions of the study team at that meeting. Mr. Aloise also said the GHMS will be actively informed by public input, and more information is available at [www.hartfordmobility.com](http://www.hartfordmobility.com).
  - **Cumulative Statewide LOTCIP Finances** – Mr. Robert Aloise discussed the Cumulative Statewide LOTCIP Finances chart, which has been prepared by CTDOT. Mr. Aloise reviewed Cumulative LOTCIP Funds Committed and Cumulative LOTCIP Funds Awarded. Mr. Aloise stated that due to concerns related to the budget, CTDOT suggested that Towns and MPOs should be diligent about expending funds at the rate they are authorized. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield noted that he did not believe the MPOs or Towns are the ones slowing down expenditures. Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough suggested that CTDOT should add a line to the chart that tracks completed projects. Mr. Aloise said he would make this suggestion to CTDOT.
  - **CTDOT Solicitations Update** – Ms. Cara Radzins mentioned to the Committee that CTDOT expects to release a Corridor Studies Solicitation in 2021. Ms. Radzins will keep the Committee updated. Mr. Pramod Pandey gave an update on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Request for Proposals, which was distributed via email and posted on the CRCOG website last week. Mr. Pandey stated that CRCOG is inviting municipalities to submit proposals for projects to be funded under the federal CMAQ Program. He stated that for each solicitation, which covers a 2-year period, CTDOT earmarks \$12 million each year in CMAQ funds,

prior to matching requirements. Mr. Pandey said CRCOG will be permitted to submit five (5) projects for consideration. He noted that letters of intent to apply are by **Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:00 pm** and full applications are due by **Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 by 4:00 pm**. Mr. Pandey mentioned that to submit the most competitive projects, CRCOG staff proposes rating project proposals utilizing CTDOT's project selection criteria as a general guideline. Rating guidelines will be discussed during the Transportation Committee meeting January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mr. Pandey also said the CRCOG staff will present recommendations regarding proposal rating and ranking at the Transportation Committee and Policy Board and their meetings in March to meet CTDOT's submission deadline of April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

- **Other: Centerline Rumble Strip Program for Local Roads** – Mr. Roger Krahn shared that CTDOT is planning to initiate a statewide safety improvement project to install centerline rumble strips (CLRS) on eligible municipally-owned and maintained roadways. Mr. Krahn noted that the deadline for participation has been extended to December 31, 2020, as very few towns had indicated interest in response to the initial notification. Committee members noted that there might be limited participation in the program because it requires a minimum speed limit of 35mph on roads under this program.

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

**6. LOTCIP Funding Increase Request: Route 189 Corridor Multi-Use Trail, Simsbury/Bloomfield** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTCIP Funding Increase request for State Route 189 Corridor Multi-Use Trail Project (L128-0001) in the towns of Simsbury and Bloomfield. Ms. Montanari mentioned that based on CTDOT's District and Traffic Unit Reviews, the estimated construction cost has increased from \$1,570,00 to \$2,067,400 (31.7%). The towns are requesting the approval of a LOTCIP funding increase of \$497,400 from \$1,020,000 to \$1,517,400 (48.7% increase) with the towns' share of \$550,000 split to supplement the approved LOTCIP funds. Ms. Montanari also mentioned that the project was originally approved under the 2015 LOTCIP Solicitation by the Transportation Committee as multi-use project, for \$700, 000 with a subsequent funding increase of \$320,000 (for rock excavation and guiderail) in September of 2017.

Based on the CTDOT reviews, Ms. Montanari stated there were additional requirements related to roadway improvements at the State Routes 315/189 intersection. Specifically, included were geometric improvements, widening the intersection, and adding a bypass lane at an estimated cost of \$40,000 to provide better traffic flow for the crossing of the proposal trail at the intersection. Ms. Montanari also mentioned traffic signal modifications and replacement of existing storm drainage facilities, which will limit gutter flow spread, will also be added to the project at an additional cost of \$185,000. Rock slope scaling and a rockfall barrier in the existing rock cut will provide protection on the trail, and landscaping in lieu of a barrier separating the existing roadway from the multiuse path are included in the project at a cost of \$110,000. Additionally, Ms. Montanari stated incidentals and contingencies and police protection during construction will amount to \$162,400.

The trail project, located alongside State Route 189, is part of the East Coast Greenway route which is prioritized for completion by CRCOG. Additionally, the project represents a unique joint effort by two CRCOG towns to address a regional priority, with both contributing significant town funds towards the project's costs. Mr. Jeff Shea from the town of Simsbury noted that this project has seen a long design process, and while the Town was able to compromise with CTDOT regarding separation of the facility, these compromises had cost implications for the project. Mr. Jonathan Thiesse from the Town of Bloomfield added that CTDOT had done their best to work with the Towns to find solutions for this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by Mr. Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington, to accept the approval of LOTCIP Funding Increase Request of \$497,400 from \$1,020,000 to \$1,517,400. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 7. Performance Measures – 2021 Annual CTDOT Safety Targets** – Mr. Roger Krahn shared that in response to FHWA requirements, CTDOT has established five (5) safety performance targets for calendar year 2021. He mentioned that FHWA requires MPOs to either support the established statewide targets or to set their own within 180 days of the setting of statewide targets. Mr. Krahn stated that to reach the deadline, CRCOG will need to endorse safety targets no later than February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He also mentioned that CTDOT has chosen more aggressive targets for 2021 than was done in the past. The new method of target selection aims to strike a balance between conservative, attainable target setting and bolder, long-term goals for crash reduction. Mr. Krahn said that CRCOG staff recommends Transportation Committee endorsement of the CTDOT 2021 Safety Targets and recommends submitting the attached resolution to the CRCOG Policy Board for approval at their meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A motion was made by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to endorse the five CTDOT 2021 Safety Targets. This motion was passed unanimously
- 8. Approval of Regional Transportation Safety Plan, Capitol Region** – Mr. Roger Krahn shared that CRCOG staff received an updated draft of the Regional Transportation Safety Plan on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from VN Engineers, who is CTDOT's consultant responsible for preparing the report. Mr. Krahn noted that CRCOG staff is seeking endorsement of the Regional Transportation Safety Plan for the Capitol Region by the Transportation Committee and recommends submitting the attached resolution to the CRCOG Policy Board for approval at their meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Once the plan is adopted, it will be available to the public on the CRCOG website. A motion was made by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain, seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, to endorse the Regional Transportation Safety Plan for the Capitol Region. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 9. Presentation: CTrides Program Overview and COVID 19 Return to Work Survey Results – Ed Perzanowski, Statewide Commuter Program Manager, CTrides** – Mr. Ed Perzanowski shared an overview of the program and services offered by CTrides, which is a program that assists commuters in finding better commuting options such as

shared ride services, bicycling, walking, and telecommuting. Mr. Perzanowski also noted that CT**rides** conducted a statewide survey from July 10<sup>th</sup> to July 28<sup>th</sup> to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on commuting in Connecticut. The purpose of this survey was to understand the current impact of COVID-19 on the commuting characteristics of Connecticut's workforce and its lasting effects. The survey included 4,133 respondents. Mr. Perzanowski stated that a major shift to some form of teleworking is likely to occur post COVID-19, and for those returning to the workplace, there will be a shift to single-occupancy personal vehicles for a portion of individuals who do not feel comfortable using shared ride services. Mr. Perzanowski noted that CT**rides** will continue to support employers and employees in this shifting commuter landscape. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield asked if the slides from this presentation would be made available. Ms. Cara Radzins stated that the slides would be posted to the meeting event page on the CRCOG website. Mr. Colman also asked if a follow-up survey would be conducted to assess shifting trends. Mr. Perzanowski stated that another survey is anticipated for 2021.

**10. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.

**11. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm by a motion from Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin.