

Transportation Committee Meeting

**Committee Members are requested to join remotely:
Via Web:<https://zoom.us/j/8605222217>
Or by phone:1-646-876-9923; Meeting ID: 860-522-2217**

**Monday May 18th, 2020
12 Noon**

Name

Eric Anderson
Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Neil Pade
Todd Penney
Doug Wilson
Timothy Webb
Donald Nunes
Russ Arnold
Sandy Fry
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
Peter Hughes
Mark Moriarty
John Bossi
Jim Sollmi
Tom Roy
Keith Hayden
Jeffrey Doolittle
Bill Hawkins
Duane Martin
Derrick Gregor
Troy Sposato
Adam Kessler

Organization

Andover
Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Coventry
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Marlborough
New Britain
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Southington
South Windsor
Suffield
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Willington
Windsor

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Guests

Grayson Wright
Joe Ouellette
Mary Deppe
Jennifer Carrier
Mike Fisher
Chuck Harlow
Rob Trottier

CTDOT
CTDOT
GHTD
FHWA
DL Companies
Fuss & O'Neill
City of New Britain

Bridget Bouchard	VN Engineers
Steve O'Neill	VHB
James Kulpa	VHB
Bob Gomez	VN Engineers
Eric Tang	VN Engineers

Staff

Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Frank Adarkwa	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Eric Snowden	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	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 Jon Colman.
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from April 20th, 2020** – A motion was made by Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington, seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton to adopt the meeting minutes from April 20th, 2020. The motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **Annual MPO Coordination Meetings** – Mr. Robert Aloise gave a brief update on the Annual MPO Coordination Meetings, which CRCOG recently held with the Hartford TMA (NVCOG and RiverCOG) and PVPC. Mr. Aloise noted that several of the MPOs have challenges with funding limitations for fixing deteriorated highways such as I-84 in Hartford, I-91 in Springfield, and the mixmaster in Waterbury. Mr. Aloise also summarized ongoing rail, bikeshare, and trail efforts going on in the regions. He also noted that the meetings included discussions related to the need for COG involvement in the project selection process.
 - **Draft Capitol Region Freight Fact Sheet** – Ms. Cara Radzins stated that it is a requirement for CRCOG to conduct freight planning. Ms. Radzins shared that to achieve this, CRCOG staff has developed a Freight Fact Sheet that highlights freight movements and activities in the region while also identifying limitations and potential improvements. Ms. Radzins asked Committee members to send her any

comments by the end of the month, after which the documents will be finalized and placed on the CRCOG website.

- **Commuter Park and Ride Lot Utilizations** – Ms. Cara Radzins informed the Committee that CRCOG staff conducted an inventory of commuter lot utilization in April. Ms. Radzins shared that they were only approximately 300 total vehicles utilizing the parking lots, which is an 85% decrease from average utilization and aligns with decreased commuter bus service alongside increased teleworking. Ms. Radzins noted that staff anticipated the steep decline due to COVID-19 and that this Spring's counts will serve as an interesting data point for comparison in the Fall and into next year.
- **FFY 2019 Section 5310 Funding Solicitation** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg shared that the solicitation for Section 5310 funds is now open. He noted that because of COVID-19 the opening of the solicitation was delayed, and the duration of the solicitation has been extended. Mr. Lechtenberg stated that applications are due no later than 4:00 pm on Friday June 26th, 2020 and that traditional applications also require earlier legal notices and notifications. Mr. Lechtenberg stated that any questions can be directed to him or to CTDOT at DOT.Section5310@ct.gov.
- **Municipal Grant Program (MGP) Forms for FY2021** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg mentioned to the Committee that MGP maintenance forms have also been sent out by CTDOT and CRCOG. Mr. Lechtenberg noted that towns without a passed budget may submit a draft budget. All forms are due by June 1st and should be submitted to dlechtenberg@crcog.org. Questions can also be directed there or to Aimee Marques at CTDOT (amarques@ct.gov).
- **LOTICIP Solicitation – May 27th Application Deadline** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reminded the Committee that the deadline for the LOTICIP Solicitation is May 27th. Ms. Montanari noted that two towns asked if the deadline was going to be extended again, but she indicated that CRCOG would hold the date unless the Committee wanted an extension. Mr. Jon Colman asked for confirmation that this date was already an extension, and Ms. Montanari confirmed that it was. Since there was no discussion or strenuous objection from the Committee, Mr. Colman stated that it didn't seem an extension was needed.
- **Other – LOTICIP Appreciation Letter** – Mr. Robert Aloise made mention of the LOTICIP Appreciation letter that was sent from CRCOG to CTDOT Commissioner Joseph Giuliatti. This letter commended CTDOT's Local Roads Unit, especially Hugh Hayward, Bill Grant, and their LOTICIP support staff. Mr. Aloise noted that the letter also highlighted the many advantages of LOTICIP, including construction phase cost savings; reduction of project design phase lengths; and reduction of agency administrative costs.
- **Other – NADO/NARC COVID-19 Funding** – Dr. Lyle Wray mentioned to the Committee that CRCOG submitted a letter to the Connecticut delegation in support of a request by NADO and NARC to House and Senate leadership for the inclusion of STGP funding in next COVID-19 funding package. Dr. Wray noted that CRCOG will continue to support bills related to transit and transportation funding.

- **Other – EDA-CARES Act Funding** – Mr. Malone shared that The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides the Economic Development Administration (EDA) with \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. It provides a wide range of financial assistance to communities and regions as they respond to and recover from the impacts of the pandemic. Mr. Malone stated that if towns have potential projects to discuss, he can get interested individuals in touch with the appropriate EDA representative. Dr. Lyle Wray added that this funding source can be used by states to fund COG and municipal projects.
 - **Other** – Dr. Lyle Wray noted that CTDOT recently received an FRA grant to run additional service on the Hartford Line. The funding will allow for the addition of a new AM northbound trip from New Haven as well as a return midday trip from Springfield. These trips will help to close existing gaps in the schedule. Dr. Wray also noted that CRCOG is in the process of evaluating RFP responses for an economic analysis of improved rail service to Boston.
5. **TIP Amendments** – Mr. Rob Aloise reviewed the TIP amendment. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Mark Moriarty from the City of New Britain to accept the TIP amendment. This motion was passed unanimously.
- CT 2 East Hartford- Resurfacing, Bridge & Safety Improvements
6. **Annual Urban Planning Certification Resolution** – Mr. Rob Aloise noted that each year CRCOG needs to self-certify that the agency’s efforts are federally compliant. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington to endorse the Annual Urban Planning Certification. This motion was passed unanimously.
7. **Resolution Authorizing Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board** – Mr. Jon Colman presented a resolution which would allow Transportation Committee to act as Policy Board during the summer. Dr. Lyle Wray mentioned that given the time sensitive nature of issues related to COVID-19, the Policy Board may need to meet in the months of June and July, in which case Transportation Committee would not need to act as Policy Board. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin to endorse the resolution to authorize the CRCOG Transportation Committee to act on behalf of the CRCOG Policy Board as needed during Summer 2020. This motion was passed unanimously.
8. **CRCOG Complete Streets Plan** – Mr. Tim Malone shared that the comment period for CRCOG’s Complete Streets Plan had closed, and that CRCOG has developed a log of comments along with responses/actions. Mr. Malone noted that the updated version of the Plan will go before the Policy Board on May 27th. Mr. Jon Colman commended Mr. Malone and CRCOG staff on their work related to the development of this Plan. Ms. Sandy Fry noted her support of the Plan. Ms. Patrice Carson asked whether the comment log would be available for review, to which Mr. Malone stated that it will be

posted on the CRCOG website. A motion was made by Sandy Fry from the City of Hartford, seconded by Mark Moriarty from the City of New Britain to endorse the Complete Streets Plan for the Capitol Region. This motion was passed unanimously.

9. Presentation by Bridget Bouchard, VN Engineers – Draft Regional Transportation Safety Plan – Ms. Bridget Bouchard and her colleagues gave a brief presentation on the Draft Regional Transportation Safety Plan for the CRCOG region. Ms. Bouchard stated that the purpose of the plan is to reduce fatal and injury crashes on all roadways in the Capitol Region. Ms. Bouchard also stated that the next step is for municipalities to review the draft plan. Comments should be provided by June 5th. Questions can be sent to Bob Gomez at rgomez@vnengineers.com.

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

11. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm