

CRCOG Transportation Committee - Special Meeting
Acting on behalf of the Policy Board

Monday June 22nd, 2020
12 Noon
Meeting held remotely via Zoom

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Larry Baril	Avon
Chris Edge	Berlin
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Patrice Carson	Bolton
Todd Penney	Coventry
Doug Wilson	East Hartford
Len Norton	East Windsor
Timothy Webb	Ellington
Donald Nunes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Dan Pennington	Glastonbury
Kirk Severance	Granby
Sandy Fry	Hartford
Frank Dellaripa	Hartford
Kevin Kelly	Hebron
Jeff LaMalva	Manchester
Derek Dilaj	Mansfield
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Gary Fuerstenberg	Newington
Mark Moriarty	New Britain
John Bossi	Plainville
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Jeff Shea	Simsbury
Jim Grappone	Southington
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Devin Cowperthwaite	Stafford
Bill Hawkins	Suffield
Heidi Samokar	Tolland
David Smith	Vernon
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Adam Kessler	Windsor
Jen Rodriguez	Windsor Locks
Jennifer Cassidy	GHTD
<u>Guests</u>	
Grayson Wright	CTDOT

Jennifer Carrier
Mike Fisher
Jonathan Thiesse
Chuck Harlow
James Kulpa

FHWA
BL Companies
Bloomfield
Fuss & O'Neill
VHB

Staff

Frank Adarkwa	CRCOG
Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG (Intern)
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Erik Snowden	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 12:01 pm by Jon Colman.
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from May 18th, 2020** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Derek Dilaj from the Town of Mansfield to accept he the meeting minutes from May 18th, 2020. This motion was passed unanimously with (1) one abstention made by David Smith from the Town of Vernon.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **CTrides Quarterly Report** – Mr. Frank Adarkwa gave a brief summary of the CTrides Quarterly Report for January-March 2020. The highlights focused on marketing activities and participating organization activities. On the marketing front, Mr. Adarkwa indicated that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, CTrides has redirected its website homepage and employer landing pages towards teleworking resources. Additionally, he stated that CTrides has developed webinar series on Teleworking, the first of which was held on March 26. Mr. Adarkwa also shared with the Committee CTrides' efforts to initiate "Along the Line Podcast" and develop a "Statewide Transportation Plan." Mr. Adarkwa explained that the podcast will focus on discussing issues raised in the "Along the Lines" newsletter, and also feature interviews and guests. He further explained that the plan for the Statewide Transportation Conference has been submitted to CTDOT for review. In terms of CTrides Participating Organization Activities, Mr. Adarkwa reported that CTrides were able to hold 259 Worksite Meetings and 127 Commuter Events. Additionally,

four more new partners joined the *CTrides* Participating Organizations, making the total organizations 311 at the end of the first quarter.

- **CTDOT Virtual Public Involvement Requirements and Checklist** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared with the Committee that in light of COVID-19, CTDOT has updated their Public Involvement Procedures to allow for virtual meetings. Ms. Radzins noted that virtual meetings must be available in real-time; recordings of such meetings must be made available after the fact; meeting notices must be posted ahead of time; meeting materials must be made available; and speakers must identify themselves. Ms. Radzins explained that these requirements are discussed in more details in the document that was included in the mailing. She added that the mailing also included a spreadsheet checklist that CTDOT will require be completed for all virtual public meetings to ensure the procedures are followed.
- **CTDOT COVID-19 Transit Funding** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared with the Committee that CTDOT has been awarded \$224.3 million in federal COVID-19 funding from the Federal Transit Administration to help cover expenses for rail and bus operations in the state. Ms. Radzins explained that the funding includes \$150 million for Metro-North; \$6 million for Shore Line East; \$50 million for *CTtransit*, *CTtransit* Express, and *CTfastrak*; and \$18.3 million for transit districts. CTDOT will be applying for an additional \$244 million later this year.
- **CTDOT Utility Cost Share Determination ED-2030-3** – Mr. Robert Aloise gave a brief update on the Utility Cost Determination. Mr. Aloise mentioned that towns still report periodic issues with Eversource interpretations of state statutes. He also mentioned that Mr. Peter Hughes and himself attended a meeting at the Legislative Building to clarify utility relocation issues involving a Marlborough project. Mr. Aloise stated that this CTDOT document may provide additional guidance in municipalities efforts to ensure utility company compliance with statutes.
- **LOTICIP Solicitation** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTICIP application listing by category submitted for the 2020 Solicitation. Ms. Montanari stated that CRCOG received 34 Applications for a total of \$52,718,014. Ms. Montanari mentioned that Roadway Reconstruction project category (\$24,700,00 reserved; \$3,000.00 max per project) received fifteen (15) proposals in the amount of \$37,397,315, the category of Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects (\$1,800,000 reserved; \$1,000,000 max per project) received four (4) proposals in the amount of \$3,234,700, and five (5) Pavement Rehabilitation and ten (10) Stand-Alone Sidewalk (\$5,400,000 reserved; \$1,000,000 max per project) projects received for a total of \$12,085,999. Ms. Montanari said the CRCOG Staff is currently reviewing and ranking projects and they will make their recommendations at the July Cost Review Sub-Committee meeting. The final recommendations and approval will be sent to the Transportation Committee and Policy Board in September.
- **Regional Transportation Safety Plan, CRCOG Comments on 5/5/20 Draft** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg gave a brief update on Regional Transportation Safety Plan. Mr. Lechtenberg mentioned that any town that did not get a chance to send in their comments they can do so as soon as possible. Mr. Jon Colman asked if any of the comments stood out. Mr. Lechtenberg stated none of the comments stood out to him. He mentioned that they are in the final stages, expect to wrap up in the next few weeks and will keep the Committee apprised.

- **Other** – Dr. Lyle Wray mentioned to the Committee that CRCOG is in the process of applying for two sets of COVID-19 Emergency Recovery Grants for funding through 2022. Dr. Wray noted that Mr. Tim Malone is CRCOG’s point person on these efforts, which are due in the next few weeks. Dr. Wray mentioned that CRCOG is close to awarding a contract for an economic impact analysis of Hartford/Springfield/Boston rail. Dr. Wray also gave a brief update on the related rail study in Massachusetts, noting that adjusted ridership figures have increased by four times and the cost of the improvements would be \$25 billion. Mr. Robert Aloise mentioned that a new transportation bill is needed on the federal level, as the current legislation expires on September 30. Mr. Aloise noted that various ideas have been floated in Washington, but none seem to be gathering a lot of traction. He also mentioned that federal assistance is needed for the States, as gas tax revenues have decreased due to limited travel as a result of COVID-19. Dr. Wray noted that two very different funding approaches are being presented on the federal level, and as a result the most likely scenario is a continuing resolution. Dr. Wray also shared that the underlying system for transportation funding needs to be addressed at the federal level, which may occur outside of a continuing resolution.

5. TIP Amendments – Mr. Robert Aloise reviewed the TIP amendment. 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 TIP amendment. This motion was passed unanimously.

- I-84 Bridge 01686B over US 44 & Columbus Blvd. Hartford

6. Resolution to Extend Contract for CDC-funded Complete Streets Project – Mr. Tim Malone shared that due to scheduling difficulties and delays associated with COVID-19, CRCOG staff recommends extending the current contract for the CDC-funded Complete Streets Process by one year instead of proceeding with a competitive process as originally planned. Mr. Jon Colman asked if CRCOG counsel had weighed in regarding the use of another sole source contract. Mr. Malone noted that staff determined coordination with counsel was not needed. Dr. Lyle Wray added that the Policy Board chair was made aware of this resolution ahead of time and did not have any objections. A Committee member asked if Fitzgerald and Halliday (FHI) was the consultant for this effort, and Mr. Malone confirmed that. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to authorize the Extension and Amendment of the Contract for Planning Services for the Statewide Active Transportation Project. This motion was passed unanimously.

7. Resolution Authorizing assignment and amendment of a Contract for a No-Cost Regional Micro-Mobility Program – Mr. Tim Malone shared that Zagster, the selected vendor for a regional bikeshare program, was recently acquired by Superpedestrian, Inc. As such, a new resolution was required to move forward with contracting. A Committee member noted that the resolution needed to be updated to reflect CRCOG’s currently Policy Board secretary. Mr. Malone noted the error and said it would be fixed before signature. Dr. Lyle Wray stated that it is likely that a regional bikeshare will require funding, as the original approach was predicated on a title sponsor, which

seems unlikely in the current climate. There was a discussion about the definition of scooters and liability concerns. Mr. Jon Colman asked for more information about Superpedestrian. Mr. Malone responded that they are a relatively new company out of MIT, with advanced scooter technology. Mr. Colman followed up by asking whether the bikeshare program will be put on hold because of a focus on scooters. Dr. Wray noted that the first step in the process will be an e-scooter demonstration in Hartford as CRRCOG revisits how to move forward with a bikeshare program. Mr. Malone added that in the micro-mobility sector there has generally been a pivot to scooters. A motion was made by Sandra Fry from the City of Hartford, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to authorize Assignment and Amendment of a Contract for a No-Cost Regional Micro-Mobility Program. This motion was passed unanimously

8. Other Business – A Committee member asked if there would be a meeting in July. It was confirmed that a Transportation Committee meeting will be held on July 27th.

9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.