

Metro Hartford Future – Implementation Committee DRAFT Minutes

10/17/2019 at 8:30am

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main Street

Hartford, CT

Implementation Committee Members and Alternates in Attendance

David Griggs, MetroHartford Alliance (Co-Chair)

Alyce Stiles, CT Center for Advanced Technology

Jackie Mandyck, iQuilt Partnership

Jim Boucher, Capital Workforce Partners

Mark Contreras, Connecticut Public

Patrick McMahon, Connecticut Main Street

Alex Johnson, Capital Workforce Partners

Jim Horan, LISC

Jen Widness, CT Conference of Independent Colleges

Jim Scannell, Travelers

Mike Freimuth, CT Redevelopment Authority

Additional Attendees

Lyle Wray, CRCOG

Scott Gaul, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Emily Hultquist, CRCOG

Jevon Gibb, Metro Hartford Alliance

Tim Malone, CRCOG

David Griggs called the meeting to order at 8:36 AM

1) Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2) Introductions

Chairman Griggs welcomed people to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

3) Metro Hartford Future Overview

Chairman Griggs gave an overview presentation of the Metro Hartford Future Plan. Lyle Wray and Tim Malone assisted with explaining each of the plan's strategies. The plan is organized into three categories: Talent, Invest, and Brand.

4) What is the status of the strategies?

For each strategy, an overview of progress was given. Under "talent", Capital Workforce Partners has convened a group to pursue a dual-track training program for the region. Under "brand", David Griggs detailed the many achievements of the first year of the MetroHartford Alliance's new business retention and attraction initiative. He also explained how MHA is making strategic investments to improve the program. Under "invest", Lyle Wray gave an overview of recent progress that has been made on the East-West rail line which, if completed, would provide a rail connection between Hartford and Boston.

Tim Malone also noted that a meeting was scheduled for the next week to regroup on the college student retention strategy.

Members in attendance offered additional information and comments:

- It may be beneficial to offer a future presentation from the German American Chamber of Commerce on "dual track" programs
- The state has been looking into hiring a firm to conduct a comprehensive labor market analysis, but they may be balking at the price. The region may want to pursue this effort on its own.
- It was noted that private colleges are trying to get the UPass program expanded.
- It was noted that in addition to downtown, efforts to increase development in city neighborhoods should also be advanced.
- The region rates poorly on inclusiveness measures.
- The region needs to create a narrative about itself. It needs a simple to understand message both internally and externally. The region's existing online presence is heavily skewed toward negative information. It is critical that the region invest in creating a message and getting everyone onboard.

5) What are the priorities for future work?

The consensus of the group was that branding and marketing efforts were critical to success. Talent strategies should also be advanced.

6) Other Business

There was no other business.

7) Adjournment

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 AM