



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 3, 2020
TO: CRCOG Policy Board and Alternates
FROM: Lyle Wray, Executive Director
SUBJECT: CRCOG October 2020 Monthly Report

Here is the October 2020 CRCOG monthly report. If you have questions or suggestions, please let me know (lwray@crcog.org). My direct number is 860 724 4232.

Executive Director Report

On Thursday October 1 had a videoconference on the ACIR study on improving shared services in the state with the student intern. Helped host the UConn CRCOG webinar on **Bouncing Forward in CT** after the pandemic.

On Friday October 2 watched a webinar on recovery in the restaurant industry. Participated in the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations videoconference meeting. Participated in the statewide COVID recovery funders meeting hosted by Lisa Tepper Bates of United Way CT. Participated in a CT Council of Governments legislative preparation meeting with several colleagues. Participated in a staff discussion on our comprehensive economic development plan update. Participated in an infrastructure planning effort on the core of the region with a working group.

On Monday October 5 participated in our staff meeting on Long Term Recovery in the region. With staff reviewed CRCOG draft financial procedures documentation. Participated in the state ESF-14 Long Term Recovery Committee. Participated in the infrastructure working group on the core of the region. Participated in the National Association of Regional Councils Executive Director meeting videoconference.

On Tuesday October 6 with Ad Hoc Transition Committee Chair Jon Colman did an interview with a community leader for the transition process. Participated again in the National Association of Regional Councils Executive Director meeting videoconference. Participated in the CT Chapter of the Regional Plan Association and shared the PowerPoint on COVID impact trends. Participated in the state ESF-14 Long Term Recovery Committee.

On Wednesday October 7 participated in a CRCOG Planning Department check in videoconference. With staff had a check in via videoconference on the Hartford

Springfield Boston rail economic impact study. With staff had a discussion with Dandelion Energy on home heat pump start up needs.

On Thursday October 8 participated in a videoconference on Next Generation Workforce Partnerships in the state. Participated in part of the COST webinar on police accountability. One interesting feature was a vendor using smartphones and open storage to save funds on police body cameras (<https://visuallabsinc.com/>). Participated in a Railvolution webinar on Transit Oriented Development featuring Peter Calthorpe who invented the term. Good implications for the region on next steps in TOD. Participated in a national webinar on COVID trends and pandemic preparedness lessons (Report at: <https://www.cfr.org/report/pandemic-preparedness-lessons-COVID-19/>).

On Friday October 9 reviewed a Pantheon report on at risk and disconnected youth in CT affecting about 40,000 youth with an eye for being part of the Metro Hartford Future CEDS update process (Report: https://www.ctopportunityproject.org/Content/www/CMS/files/Untapped_Potential_-_September_2016_Report.pdf). Participated in a CT COG legislative agenda discussion conference call. Participated in working group on infrastructure planning effort on the core of the region with a working group.

On Monday October 12 CRCOG was closed for the Columbus Day holiday.

On Tuesday October 13 participated in the CT Council of Governments videoconference. Participated in the 1000 Friends of CT property tax reform videoconference. Participated in the ESF-14 stateside COVID recovery videoconference.

On Wednesday October 14 participated in the CFSIC crumbling foundations annual meeting by conference call. Participated in an American Society of Public Administration economic recovery webinar. Had an update session on the ACIR paper on best practices reviews with student from the University of Georgia.

On Thursday October 15 participated in a Next Generation Workforce planning videoconference for the region. Presented at the second CT Bounced Forward webinar chaired by Commissioner Beth Bye. My presentation on helping at risk people get to a family living wage is at: https://crocogfoundation-my.sharepoint.com/personal/lwray_crocog_org/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B14DCFFD2-A0FE-45E2-98F7-4B809DAD38AF%7D&file=High%20Potential%20Programs%20to%20Boost%20High%20School%20Students%20October%202013%202020.pptx&action=edit&mobileredirect=true&CT=1604254100598&OR=ItemsView .

On Friday October 16 discussed transportation issues for possible inclusion in a CRCOG 2021 legislative agenda. Participated in a videoconference with CT DOT with CRCOG staff on performance criteria in capital plans and transit-oriented development

issues. Had a mentor videoconference with a UConn student Asmas Al-Hashimi. Participated in working group on infrastructure planning effort on the core of the region with a working group.

On Monday October 19 participated in the weekly staff preparation meeting for our Regional Long-Term Recovery Committee. Also participated in a state long-term recovery committee videoconference. Joined part of the NARC major metros videoconference. Participated in a Community Indicator Consortium hiring committee call for a new executive director.

On Tuesday October 20 participated in the CRCOG Municipal Services Committee videoconference. Participated in a national webinar on strategies for digital inclusion. Participated in the ESF-14 Long Term Recovery statewide committee. Participated in the Knowledge Corridor Steering Committee videoconference. Listened in on the Hartford 400 infrastructure presentation to the East Hartford Town Council.

On Wednesday October 21 attended the videoconference of the Western Mass economic development group. Attended a World Affairs Council presentation on Infosys and workforce in the region. Participated in the CRCOG Planning Department manager check in. Attended part of the COST affordable housing webinar. Attended a Railvolution conference session.

On Thursday October 22 chaired a CRCOG all staff videoconference to discuss issues of interest. Had a videoconference with Jim Redeker on a national project on MPO decision making on capital plans.

On Friday October 23 attended the CBIA videoconference on their activities. Attended an Ameristar videoconference on a proposal for expanded rail service in the US including Hartford Boston service. Participated in Community Indicator Consortium board nominating videoconference. Participated in working group on infrastructure planning effort on the core of the region with a working group.

On Monday October 26 participated in the weekly staff preparation meeting for our Regional Long-Term Recovery Committee. With Ad Hoc Transition Chair Jon Colman interviewed a former CRCOG Board Chair as part of information gathering. Participated in the MAP Forum call. Participated in the CRCOG Transportation Committee videoconference. Participated in a statewide ESF-14 and 16 videoconference. Participated in a GRI call on long-term recovery assessment outreach. Attended part of the NARC major metros videoconference. Attended the Community Indicator Consortium board meeting videoconference.

On Tuesday October 27 participated in a videoconference on a search for head of CFSCI crumbling foundations organization. With staff interviewed three candidates for administrative assistance position at CRCOG by videoconference. Participated in the 1000 Friends of CT property tax reform group. Participated in an ESF-14 long-term recovery committee videoconference.

On Wednesday October 28 participated in an AdvanceCT videoconference with partner organizations. Helped staff the CRCOG Policy Board meeting. Joined a state discussion on database for managing transition from COVID isolation to follow on services.

On Thursday October 29 joined some sessions of the Railvolution webinar conference. In the evening joined an online conference in affordable housing in CT.

On Friday October 30 joined a videoconference by AdvanceCT and DECD on a small business grant program. Had a call on the ACIR study on shared services with a UConn public policy student. Joined a call with CT Treasurer on possibility of a revenue bond to accelerate repair of homes with crumbling foundations. Had a call with Jessie Feller Hahn on Meeting of the Minds plans for the virtual conference world. Joined an ESF-14 statewide long-term recovery committee videoconference.

Finance Highlights

No report from Finance this month.

Municipal Services Highlights

Municipal Services Committee

The Municipal Services Committee met on October 20th. There was a discussion of diversity and inclusion activities by the various municipalities. The next Municipal Services Committee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 8th**.

Human Services Coordinating Council

The Human Services Coordinating Council met on October 21st and received a presentation on case management software from UniteUs. To view the presentation, please [click here](#). Those who are interested in registering can go to Unite Us [partner registration form](#) or send an e-mail to connecticut@uniteus.com.

Regional Long-Term Recovery Committee

The Regional Long-Term Recovery Steering Committee is meeting on a monthly basis. In addition, working groups are meeting more frequently to coordinate recovery needs.

Currently, the Human Services Working Committee meets on a weekly basis. Ryan Flynn, Senior Principal at the McChrystal Group, and Howard Smith of Global Resilience Group (GRI), spoke to the group on the current GRI Research Project. Researchers from Northeastern University's Global Resilience Institute will begin conducting background research and community interviews with diverse stakeholders to assess regional resilience strengths and challenges. This link contains initial and basic information regarding the Regional Long-Term Recovery Committee:

<https://crcog.org/ltr/> Questions may be directed to Kim Bona at kbona@crcog.org

CRPC Bid Activities

October Activities:

- Quantities for gasoline and traffic guidelines were due on October 27th. **If you have not submitted your quantities yet, please contact Kim Bona as soon as possible.** These bids will be issued to vendors on November 12th.
- The website for CRPC bids was reorganized to allow easier access to CRPC bids. The new website makes it easier to search for CRPC bids and warehouses future bid results. Visit <https://crcog.org/bids/> for more details or contact Kim Bona.
- CRCOG has conducted an RFQ for COVID-19 related vendors. They can be found on our COVID-19 for municipalities at <https://crcog.org/2020/03/covid-19/>

Upcoming Activities:

- Protective clothing and protective accessories will be issued in October.
- Quantities for gasoline and pavement markings/traffic guidelines will be issued in early October and due October 19th.

Regional Assessment

Assessment of the CRCOG area assessment offices will be benchmarked again in the late Fall.

Energy Consortium

The reverse auction that was scheduled to take place on October 27th has been rescheduled to November 19th. Municipalities who are still interested in joining the Electricity Consortium for savings have opportunities in other services and should contact Kim Bona (kbona@crcog.org).

Cybersecurity

The bimonthly meeting of the Region 3 Task Force was held virtually on October 8th and the next meeting will be on December 10th, 2020 at 10am. CRCOG is also representing Region 3 on the CT Cyber Security Committee and attended the monthly meeting on October 26th. CRCOG and Region 3 continue to lead the way in regional cyber security coordination. For additional information, please contact Erik Snowden at esnowden@crcog.org.

Job Order Contracting

The mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020, at 9 AM for Construction and 10:30 AM for Road and Bridge Maintenance. Bids for both projects are due to CRCOG no later than November 17th. Questions may be directed to Kim Bona at kbona@crcog.org.

HR-Portal

Register now for the HR Portal Interview Panel Database. The database is now live and can be accessed by logging into nutmeghr.org.

CRCOG is collecting Municipal Human Resource Documents for the HR Example Document Database. If you have any HR Policies, Procedures, Forms, or Checklists, (Applications; Job Posting Templates; Affirmative Action Plan; Introductory Period Definition; Jury Duty Leave Policy; other HR documents), please send them to Kim Bona at kbona@crcog.org.

Continued to activate registrations on the HR Portal at Nutmeghr.org. The site provides access to model documents, a link to the Municipal Salary Survey and Reporting Tool and key HR resources/links.

The FY'2020-2021 CT Municipal Salary Survey will be sent to cities and towns on Monday, October 5th. No new positions have been created this year. Please note: participation in completion of the salary survey is at the discretion of the municipal leader, not CCM. Please visit ctmunicipaldata.org for more information and to access the salary survey. Questions may be directed to Kim Bona at kbona@crcog.org.

Human Resources Initiative

Policy Board approved contracting with Human Resources Consulting Group, LLC. The contract has been executed and information on these services may be viewed [here](#).

Electronic Document Management Services (EDMS)

EDMS has entered program mode. A demonstration webinar has been scheduled for November 17, 2020. Please contact pyoder@crcog.org for log-in information

Regional Geographic Information System (GIS)

- CRCOG IT/GIS now serves on the CT GIS Task Force. This group includes state legislators and is focused on championing and developing state GIS infrastructure and leadership. CRCOG GIS Coordinator is heading a working group that has collected data on the GIS capabilities of state, university, utility and regional entities. This data is being synthesized into a summary document to present to the legislature.
- CRCOG GIS staff and CAI Technologies are nearing completion of the FY 2021 annual parcel data collection.
- Installation of CAMA data processors continues.
- CRCOG GIS staff met with ESRI (GIS software vendor) and CAI (CRCOG GIS consultants) to develop a strategy for enhancing the CRCOG GIS platform.

For more information about CRCOG GIS projects and activities please contact Erik Snowden at esnowden@crcog.org or 860-724-4217.

Solid Waste Management

CCSWA held a special meeting on October 29, 2020 to allow for open discussion regarding the current status of MIRA. A follow up meeting will be scheduled in the next couple weeks per the request of CCSWA members.

Crumbling Foundations

Requests for Qualifications

The current RFVQ closed September 30th and the applicants have been evaluated and references are being evaluate4d.

Concrete Foundation Issues Facilitation

CRCOG staff continues to work with various stakeholders including the housing advocate for crumbling foundations on these issues.

Foundation Testing Program

The Foundation Testing Program has been operating since November 28th, 2017. To date, 2510 applications had been received. 2260 applications had been paid and 41 approved for payment. A total of 2005 unique addresses have been reimbursed through this program.

On-Going Programs and Services

Hosting and IT Services

Regional Online Permitting System

Regional Online Permitting System

- [OpenGov](#) (formerly ViewPointCloud) is offering Connecticut municipalities a special discounted package for rapid, templated deployment of the permitting platform. For inquiries, contact Kim Bona at kbona@crcog.org.

HR Consulting Group

- Class and Compensation Studies
- Training (including Sexual Harassment and Diversity)
- General HR Needs

HR Consulting Group hosted webinar on **Paid Family Medical Leave in Connecticut**, on October 13, 2020. Please [click here](#) to view a recording of the webinar.

VoIP Project

Fiberoptics Installation Services

COG Regional Election Monitor (currently recruiting for an REM)

Public Safety and Homeland Security Highlights

CRCOG Homeland Security & Grant Initiatives

Staff has closed out the FY 2017 grant which ended August 15th. Work has started on the FY 2018 grant. All open grants include funds for training and exercise, contractual support and sustainment and maintenance of regional equipment. There are also set asides for the Hartford Bomb Squad, Capitol Region HAZMAT team and Metropolitan Medical Response System.

CRCOG submitted our FY 2020 SHSGP grant application which was approved by this body at the September meeting. The budget was presented at the DEMHS Regional Collaboration meeting on October 23rd where all regions participated in a roundtable. In addition, through left over State FY 2018 funds, CRCOG will receive an extra \$28,000 for the Hartford Bomb Squad which serves as our regional squad as well as \$58,000 additional for equipment maintenance and sustainment

There was a virtual federal homeland security monitoring visit held on September 24th. It went very well.

There was a quarterly CREPC meeting held last week. This included an Interoperable Communications training session.

Hosted a flu shot clinic for all CRCOG staff.

COVID-19 Support Activities

The Regional Emergency Support Plan was activated on March 18th. The Regional Coordination Center is on a partial virtual activation. Coordination is being done by the ESF-5 (Emergency Management) and ESF-8 (Public Health and Medical Services) duty officers.

The Capitol Region Incident Management Team (CT-IMT3) has been activated and developed an Incident Action Plan (IAP) which is being reviewed by local public health leads and reissued weekly.

We are using our Regional Distribution Site Standard Operating Guide. Our Regional Distribution Center in West Hartford was opened on March 25th and the three day a week operation ended at the end of August. The site is currently now open on an as needed basis. It was recently opened twice to distribute masks to school districts, and we expect this will occur again. The Capitol Region Incident Management Team is manning the site along with staff from the Town of West Hartford, National Guard, CRCOG and area CERT teams.

Finally, we have had requests for our Medical Reserve Corps tent and cabana unit. In addition, MRC members have been deployed to many area nursing homes and hospitals and we are now looking at them to play a role in the contact tracing process. MRC volunteers have also begun assisting at Bradley International Airport to distribute materials for the Governor's Travel Advisory program.

Other Highlights

A bi-monthly Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council meeting was held via Zoom. Our CERT teams found creative and innovative ways to help during the pandemic and

reported out on their activities. Many of our teams assisted with a mask and thermometer distribution program for local businesses. They assisted with meal delivery for elderly and shut-ins within their communities, partnered with local Boards of Education for meal distribution to school children and helped at United Way Farm to Families events. Traffic control was conducted for drive by high school graduations and for street blockages during Tropical Storm Isaias. Finally, many made masks for local first responders.

Participated in the CRCOG Cybersecurity Task Force meeting.

Working with the Department of Public Health to act as the fiduciary agent for local public health emergency preparedness funds. The third and fourth quarter progress and financial reports from the 14 local public health departments have been submitted along with 24/7 coverage forms, our MCM Action Plan and Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan. BP1 ended on June 30th and we begin BP2 (while waiting for guidance from DPH). We continue to have CRI Lead meetings on a weekly basis along with local Public Health Director Zoom meetings.

Staff completed work on the deliverables for the Ebola/infectious disease funding. An order using the balance of the funds was placed for the purchase of PPE for our EMS providers. The CAPTAIN modems will soon be converted to the FirstNet system.

Policy Development and Planning Highlights

Regional Planning Commission (RPC). Staff worked on reviews and comments for referrals sent to the Regional Planning Commission. Staff made preparations for the November 19 meeting of the Commission. A presentation on Desegregate CT is planned.

Municipal Zoning, Subdivision and Plan Referrals. Nine (9) new referrals were received. Comment letters were issued for six (6) referrals.

MetroHartford Brownfields Program. Staff submitted quarterly and annual reports for the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program. Staff also posted a Request for Proposals for Licensed Environmental Professionals services to support the new EPA Assessment grant. Staff also attended several webinars dealing with brownfields issues: "Challenges and Solutions to Redevelopment," October 6, "PFAs Workshop," October 7, "The Funding Stack," October 15, "Market Insights for Brownfields Redevelopment: Covid19," October 16, and "Adapting to Changing Times," October 27.

Transit-Oriented Development and Town Center Action Collaborative. The vision for this group is aimed at coordinating resources and assisting communities in filling gaps to doing economic development along transit corridors and in town centers. Staff worked on a draft scope of work for a new TOD study.

Corridor Advisory Committee. The CAC is a convening of the chief elected officials and other key stakeholders along the CT **fastrak** and CT **rail** Hartford Line corridors.

There was no new activity with the Corridor Advisory Committee this month.

Active Transportation Planning.

Staff worked on a CDC-funded active transportation project that is being conducted statewide:

- Held check-in calls with the consultants on October 5 and 19
- Continued coordinating with T2 Center and CT DOT on the Complete Streets Info Exchange (2-day virtual webinar/workshop in October). Moderated a panel discussion at the event on October 29.
- Presented on the project at the Southern New England American Planning Association Conference on 10/30.
- Distributed a solicitation for new projects. Applications are due November 20.

Regional Bikeshare. Sent proposed revisions to Superpedestrian. Setting up call for early November to discuss. Organized a meeting with CRCOG towns and other organizations with bike share systems to discuss bike share updates. Meeting set for November 2.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy/Economic Development.

Provided updated information to the EDA in support of CRCOG's application for Economic Development District designation.

Participated in a kickoff meeting for a statewide Next Generation Industry Sector Partnerships initiative on October 8.

Submitted a revised application for funding to the EDA under the CARES Act in September. Worked with the other COGs to gather additional necessary documents for the application.

Participated in a meeting with the Global Resilience Institute regarding Phase 1 of the statewide COVID recovery project on October 26. Participated in a Regional Long-Term Recovery Coordination Meeting on October 19.

Helped organize and participated in meetings to discuss the Hartford 400 project and a broader regional transportation vision on October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Held a coordination call with an EDA representative to discuss three potential regional EDA grant applications.

Held a coordination call with the Town of East Hartford and Goodwin University on October 26 to discuss a potential EDA grant project.

Held a coordination call with representatives of the Hartford Public Library on October 22 to discuss a potential EDA grant project.

Held a meeting with the MetroHartford Alliance to discuss an upcoming talent attraction initiative.

East Hartford Silver Lane Transportation Corridor Study. No activity.

Enfield Routes 190 & 220. Finalized the fee and scope with consultant on October 6. Sent documents to DOT for review and sent final drafts to Town as well. Have set up a scenario planning project in Urban Footprint.

CRCOG Foundation. No activity.

Scenario Planning. Staff continued collecting land use and zoning data for CRCOG's 38 towns to support our scenario planning initiatives. Staff attended Urban Footprint webinar, "Sharper Skills in 30 Minutes: Environmental Justice Projects," October 7.

Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development. CRCOG continues its participation as a representative on the CTC&D. No activities involving CRCOG occurred during October, however, we expect a meeting in early November focused on aquatic invasive species in the Connecticut River.

Sustainable CT. No staff activities involving CRCOG occurred during October, however, Sustainable CT announced that the Capitol Region communities of Avon, Bolton, and Windsor Locks earned Bronze-level certification and New Britain and Wethersfield earned silver-level certification.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff began drafting a grant application for FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program to support the next update to the Capitol Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Staff attended a webinar on the BRIC opportunity on October 13 and filed a Notice of Intent to apply for a grant with CT DEMHS which oversees the program for the State. The Policy Board passed a resolution on October 28 to allow CRCOG to apply for and participate in the program and member municipalities were requested to submit commitment to participate forms to be included in the grant application. Staff also attended a webinar on the grant application process.

Other

Staff continued to participate in webinars and events sponsored by Desegregate CT including a webinar on October 8 entitled, "Overcoming Barriers to Bringing ADU [Accessory Dwelling Units] Development to Scale." Desegregate CT is a collaborative of individuals and institutions working to change statewide land use laws to ensure a more just and equitable Connecticut.

Staff attended the Hartford Complete Streets Working Group on October 5.

Staff attended the State Water Planning Council meeting on October 6.

Staff also attended webinars on:

- October 15, entitled “Planning and Infrastructure: Reimagining our Communities.”
- October 16, entitled “Equity Through Zoning Reform in Connecticut.”

Staff attended the SNEAPA conference on October 29 and 30. Sessions included:

- Virtual Engagement Strategies and Insights from COVID-19
- Keynote Speaker- Elizabeth Rush, Author of Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore
- Are Your Small Businesses Prepared for a Changing Climate?
- Land Use Law – Pandemic and Precedents
- Peril and Promise: The Impact of COVID-19 on the Streetscapes of Today’s Cities and Towns and the Promise of Social Infrastructure
- Striking the Right Balance in Planning and Economic Development
- ActiveCT - Healthy Transportation for Connecticut Communities” (a presentation on CRCOG’s work on the CDC grant.)
- Featured Speaker: Justin Moore of New York City Public Design Commission and BlackSpace
- Race Matters: How Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Influence Your Work
- Hustling for Small Businesses During a Pandemic: Advancing Small Business Recovery Through Municipal and Regional Support
- Branching Out: Collaborating for Resilience and Social & Climate Equity
- Equitable Street Design: Vision to Reality User-Centered

Transportation Highlights

Management of the Planning Process

The Transportation Committee held a meeting on October 26. Agenda items included the adoption of the September 14 meeting minutes, and staff reports on LOTCIP Quarterly Report, Roundabout Screening Study RFQ, New CTDOT Safety Projects for Towns, UCONN T2 Using Data to Make Roads Safer Workshop, Complete Streets Information Exchange Webinar, Active Transportation Project Solicitation and America Walks Community Change Grant. Action items included TIP Amendments, FFY2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program, FFY2021-2024 Air Quality Conformity Resolution, Urban Planning Certification Resolution, Endorsement – Route 4 Farmington Transportation & Improvements Study, LOTCIP Transfer of Funding Request on Marlborough Blackledge River Trail and North Main Street Sidewalks projects.

No Cost Review Subcommittee meeting was held in October.

Senior staff met to discuss staff workloads and regularly updated Executive Director on activities within the Planning Department.

Staff reported on Transportation Committee activities at the October 28 Policy Board meeting.

While working remotely, Planning staff met daily via Zoom.

Attended CRCOG staff meeting on October 22.

Reviewed applications for two positions in the Planning department: Transportation Planner and Senior Planner. Applications were accepted until October 13, and interviews are anticipated for early November.

Had an introductory meeting with Kim Lesay, the new CTDOT Bureau Chief of Policy and Planning on October 1. Had a follow-up meeting with her staff to discuss TOD and performance measures on October 16.

Attended MAP Forum organization call on October 26.

Attended MPO Transportation Director Coordination meetings on October 14 on October 27.

FFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

TIP Amendments for action this month included Hartford – Rehab Bridge over Capitol Ave. and Amtrak, District 1 – Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations, District 4 – Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations, Statewide – Replace Highway Sheet Aluminum Signs, East Hartford – Resurfacing, Bridge and Safety Improvements – Move AC Entry to FY21 and Section 5311 – Funding Adjustment.

FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Completed an updated draft of the FFY2021-2024 TIP, which incorporated public comments. The draft, and its associated Air Quality Conformity Analysis, was endorsed by the Transportation Committee and approved by the Policy Board at their meetings on October 26 and 28, respectively.

Transit Related

Attended remote HNS monthly briefing on October 20.

Coordinated with CTDOT, CT *transit*, and the Town of Wethersfield regarding bus shelter maintenance. Met with the town on October 6 to discuss options for moving forward.

Held project update meeting for the Rail Improvements Economic Impact Analysis on October 7. Reviewed draft MassDOT report on the East West Passenger Rail Study.

Conducted bi-annual utilization counts of the commuter parking lots in the Capitol Region.

Attended “AmeriStarRail: A New Approach to the Northeast Corridor” virtual presentation on October 23.

Sustainable Communities

Staff worked on a CDC-funded active transportation project that will be conducted statewide:

- Held check-in calls with the consultants on October 5 and 19
- Continued coordinating with T2 Center and CTDOT on the Complete Streets Info Exchange (2-day virtual webinar/workshop in October). Moderated a panel discussion at the event on October 29
- Distributed a solicitation for new projects. Applications are due November 20.

CRCOG continues its participation as a representative on the Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development (CT RC&D). Staff also continues participation in the Central Water Utility Coordinating Committee and State Water Planning Council and attended the WPC meeting on October 6.

CRCOG continues to administer the MetroHartford Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund program including filing quarterly and annual reports with the EPA in October. Staff continues coordination with Town of Somers and CTDOT regarding Maple Street Bridge project and Somersville Mill site brownfields remediation which is being partially funded through an RLF subgrant. Staff also posted an RFP for licensed environmental professional services to assist with the new EPA funded Assessment grant.

Staff continued work on a FEMA grant application to support the next update of the multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Capitol Region.

Staff continues to review and prepare recommended comments for the Regional Planning Commission on zoning amendments and subdivisions which may have inter-town or regional impact, as well as on local plans of conservation and development. During the month of October, nine (9) new referrals were received. Comment letters were issued for six (6) referrals.

Regional Bikeshare

Sent proposed revisions to Superpedestrian. Setting up call for early November to discuss. Organized a meeting with CRCOG towns and other organizations with bike share systems to discuss bike share updates. Meeting set for November 2.

Project Funding & Development

CRCOG staff regularly works with towns and CTDOT staff to advance projects funded through federal and state programs. Efforts this month included:

1. Zoom/Remote Meetings:

- Attended an on-board consultant meeting to discuss best-practices on October 1
- Reviewed and followed up with LOTCIP Selection Policy mark-ups for next Solicitation on October 7
- Attended LOTCIP Quarterly Report Discussion meeting on October 7
- Attended a meeting to discuss LOTCIP Piktochart on October 13
- Attended internal transportation staff meeting (via Zoom) to discuss LOTCIP projects on October 2,5,9,16,19,23,26 and 30

- Prepared for and attended two (2) 90% on-board design review meetings for South Windsor Avery Street 5 on October 28 and Stafford Furnace Avenue on October 29
- Scheduled one (1) on-board 35% design meeting for November 10 (Coventry South Street) and one (1) 90% design review (for Coventry Swamp Road)
- Attended meetings for Marlborough Trail and Sidewalk Projects on October 13, 16 and 21.
- Attended a meeting with intern to discuss metrics document on October 20.

2. Town and CTDOT Communications:

- Continue to facilitate advancement of CRCOG approved LOTCIP projects to CTDOT
- Provided twelve (12) projects applications to be reviewed by on-board consultants for eventual submission to CTDOT
- Submitted Quarterly Report (worksheets, financials, task listing) to CTDOT on October 16 (Quarter 1)
- LOTCIP 2020 Solicitation Applications advancing to review process
- CTDOT provided eligibility/advancement review for six (6) applications
- CTDOT scheduled follow up meeting for Hartford Traffic Signal Improvement Projects (L063-0002)
- Drafted a cost increase request for Kensington Bridge Project (L007-0002) and submitted the revised application and request to CTDOT; CTDOT issued comments to town and will be issuing a Commitment to Fund letter
- Drafted a memo for transfer of funds from Blackledge River Trail Project to North Main Street Sidewalk Project in Marlborough
- Follow up with CTDOT on project status of Ellington Route 83 Sidewalk (L047-0002) and Marlborough Blackledge River Trail (L078-0003) Projects
- Submitted Windsor International Drive application for review and submittal to CTDOT
- Coordinated with the following municipalities regarding projects and/or application advancement: Berlin, Bloomfield, Coventry, East Hartford, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, New Britain, Newington, Plainville, Simsbury, Stafford, South Windsor, Suffield, Vernon, Wethersfield, Windsor and West Hartford.

3. Administrative/Invoicing:

- Processed BETA and CHA consultant invoices/Work Orders
- Updated four (4) LOTCIP financial spreadsheets, including bid analysis, cost analysis and metrics
- Piktochart.

4. Consultant Coordination:

- Coordinated preparation of invoices, design review memos and minutes

- Processed Notice to Proceed documents for signature
- Worked with consultants on negotiated lump sum fee and follow up discussion
- Allocated project on-call reviews.

Continued coordinating with CTDOT, their consultants, the Town of Mansfield, and the City of New Britain related to project initiation from the 2019 Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside solicitation. This included a virtual meeting about the Mansfield project on October 6.

Section 5310 and Municipal Grant Program (MGP)

CRCOG staff evaluated traditional and non-traditional Section 5310 applications in August and September. In coordination with CTDOT staff, CRCOG reached out to some applicants for clarification or further information. CRCOG staff completed its preliminary ranking of the applications and shared these with CTDOT. The next stage in the process will be for CRCOG and CTDOT staff to come to an agreement on their rankings. Discussion with CTDOT concerning some aspects of ranking is ongoing, although there is general agreement as to the top scoring applicants. CRCOG staff will transmit notice to CTDOT of our agreement with the top ranked applicants once discussions are completed soon.

Transportation Operations and Management - Traffic Incident Management (TIM)

Worked on development of a TIM pocket guide outline for review by Coalition Work Group.

Finalized and submitted responses for the FHWA 2020 TIM Capability Maturity Self-Assessment.

Completed October TIM newsletter and updated web page.

Worked on Hartford Urbanized Area Crash Analysis for January-August 2019 and 2020

Worked on activities for the upcoming National Traffic Incident Response Awareness Week in November including Governor's proclamation, press release, and background information.

Completed comment review of the final draft of the Regional Transportation Safety Plan by VN Engineers.

Attended following meetings/webinars/events (all held virtually):

- 10/8 - Public Scoping Meeting (virtual) Concerning Proposed Interchange Improvements to I-91, I-691, and Route 15 in Meriden and Middletown
- 10/9 - Maine/ New Hampshire Traffic Incident Management Meeting
- 10/14 - Webinar: Where Do We Go from Here? A Critical Discussion on Road Safety & the Pandemic
- 10/14 - Public Info – DOT Project for Signal Replacement/Adaptive Technology, Berlin Turnpike Wethersfield and Newington.

- 10/15- Project 63-703 Charter Oak, Hartford Maintenance and Protection of Traffic Weekly meeting.
- 10/27 - National Volunteer Fire Council event: Protecting the Protectors: Emergency Responders & Traffic Incident Response.
- 10/29 - CT Crash Data Repository Virtual Training.

Greater Hartford Mobility Study and Related Efforts

Continued coordination efforts with CTDOT regarding integration of travel demand modeling and scenario planning related to the Greater Hartford Mobility Study.

Sat-in on visioning meetings on October 6, 9, and 16, held by an ad hoc team exploring the potential benefits of fiscally unconstrained relocation of the freeways in and around Hartford. Virtually attended the October 20th East Hartford Town Council meeting in which US Representative Larson and team presented some initial visioning benefits.

Route 4 Transportation Safety and Improvements Study: Farmington Study Area

The CRCOG Transportation Committee, at their October 26 meeting, recommended that the Policy Board adopt the Resolution for the Endorsement of the Route 4 Transportation Safety & Improvements Study. The Resolution was adopted by the Policy Board on October 28.

Route 5 in East Windsor Corridor Study

Continued work on administering the project, including biweekly coordination call. Consultant is continuing to develop draft alternate improvements to improve overall traffic scenario in the corridor.

Enfield Routes 190 & 220

Finalized the fee and scope with consultant on October 6. Sent documents to DOT for review and sent final drafts to Town. Have set up an advanced scenario planning project in Urban Footprint.

Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy

Compiled materials from the consultant selection for the Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy and submitted them to CTDOT for approval. Upon approval, informed the consultants of their status and started negotiations with the highest-rated firm.

Roundabout Screening Study

CRCOG received 8 Statements of Qualifications, by the October 27 deadline, in response to the Request for Qualifications as posted on September 17. The consultant selection process will proceed with distributing the Qualifications and Rating forms to Consultant Selection Panel members for review and ratings.

Regional Transportation Safety Plan

A revised Regional Transportation Safety Plan was received from CTDOT's consultant on October 13. CRCOG will review this draft to verify incorporation of CRCOG's June 2020 comments on the May 2020 draft report.

Performance Measures - Safety Targets

Correspondence was received from CTDOT on September 8, requesting a Resolution of Support from CRCOG for CTDOT's Safety Performance Targets for calendar year 2021. CRCOG staff is reviewing documents received from CTDOT for presentation to the CRCOG Transportation Committee for review and approval.

Technical Assistance

Hartford's Re-Imaging Main Street Study:

- Attended Advisory Committee meeting on October 28.

Route 229 Corridor Study:

- Attended project kick-off discussion on October 26.

Freight

Attended "Delivering the Goods: Resiliency and Equity in the Evolving Freight System" webinar on October 15.

Attended NJTPA Freight Initiatives Committee virtual meeting on October 21.

GIS / Information Technology

CRCOG GIS Staff and CAI Technologies have continued collection of parcel updates from member municipalities and have had preliminary discussions regarding a second phase of ArcGIS Enterprise development.

CRCOG GIS Coordinator is taking part in a working group with state legislators, state agencies and UConn with a goal of promoting legislative support for statewide GIS coordination.

CRCOG GIS Staff are gathering municipal data for updates of regional zoning and land use datasets

CRCOG IT/GIS Manager serves on both state and regional Cyber Security Committees.

Data and Modeling

CRCOG continued research into new Scenario Planning Software Tools. Staff attended the Urban Footprint webinar, "Sharper Skills in 30 Minutes: Environmental Justice Projects" on October 6. Staff also attended the Spatial Data Science Conference 2020 remotely. Notable presentation topics included agent-based transportation modeling as well as Bayesian statistical modelling of the spread of COVID-19.

CRCOG staff practiced some advanced geospatial analytical techniques for improving the accuracy of statistical models.

CRCOG staff began attending a six-week ESRI MOOC (massive open online course): *Spatial Data Science: The New Frontier in Analytics*.

CRCOG staff have been examining output from the CRCOG travel demand model and seeing how freeway traffic using predetermined critical links (bridges, heavily traveled links prior to diverging traffic flows etc...) is distributed across the region.

Congestion Management Process (CMP)

Staff completed updating draft of the CMP report based on comments received and the updated report is currently being reviewed for completion.

Staff continue to look at performance trends in the INRIX NPMRDS data. Staff have been in contact with CTDOT counterparts and have discussed how to cooperate and share knowledge and experiences going forward in the future.

Public Participation, Title VI, EJ and LEP

There were no complaints of Title VI discrimination received this month.

A representative from the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice (CCEEJ) continues to be a voting member on the CRCOG Transportation Committee.

Attended "Transportation and Climate Justice" webinar on October 1.

Public participation activities specific to tasks and studies are listed in the relevant sections of this report.

Other

Updated various items on the CRCOG website and continued to keep information current.

Reviewed CTDOT's draft Capital Plan for FT2021-2025 and began preparing staff comments, which are due to CTDOT by November 2.

Staff participated in the following:

- Attended the Hartford Complete Streets Working Group meeting on October 5.
- Attended WTS virtual miniseries on October 6-8.
- Attended "MaaS: A Solution for a Mobility Industry in Flux?" on October 14.
- "Planning and Infrastructure: Reimagining our Communities" webinar on October 15.
- Attended "Walkinar #2: Pedestrian Infrastructure, Safety and Health" on October 15.
- Attended "COST Webinar: CT's Affordable Housing Toolkit" on October 21.
- Attended "Balancing the Scales--Equity Analysis in Transportation Planning" webinar on October 22.
- Attended "What Does Equity in Smart Growth Really Mean: A Conversation Between Calvin Gladney and Andre Perry" on October 23.
- Several staff attended the Complete Streets Virtual Information Exchange on October 28-29.

- Several staff attended Southern New England APA (SNEAPA) virtual conference on October 29-30.
- Preparation meeting for Panel Discussion at the CT Strategic Highway Safety Plan Summit.
- CRCOG staff hosted and attended ITS-CT board meeting on October 21. This meeting focused on better member communication and outreach about its upcoming training on Smart City Mobility Course to be held virtually on November 18.