

Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
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Policy Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2020
12:00 pm

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

**Meeting access was remote only, consistent with provisions specified in
CT Governor Executive Order No. 7B. This meeting was recorded.
Audio may be found here: <https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-24/>**

Members and Alternates

Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Sandra Pierog
Robert Bessell
Mark Walter
John Elsesser
Jim Hayden
Marcia Leclerc
Lori Spielman
C.J. Thomas
Vicki Shotland
Chip Beckett
John Ward
Scott Shanley
Brock Weber
Robert Lee
John Mehr
Maria Capriola
Mark Sciota
Matt Hart
Michael Rell
Erika Wiczenski
Peter Souza
Chris Kervick

Town/Organization

Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Columbia
Coventry
East Granby
East Hartford
Ellington
Farmington
GHTD
Glastonbury
Granby
Manchester
New Britain
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Southington
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Willington
Windsor
Windsor Locks

Staff

Rob Aloise
Cheryl Assis
Winsome Barnaby
Kimberly Bona
Mike Cipriano
Caitlin Palmer
Lynne Pike Di-Santo
Cara Radzins
Lyle Wray

CRCOG
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Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
<u>Guests</u>	
Ellen Graham	Sen. Blumenthal's Office
Alex Johnson	Capital Workforce Partners
Randy Collins	CCM
Courtney Hendrickson	CERC
Betsy Gara	COST
Maureen Lawrence	CTDOT
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Sana Shah	CT Voices
Erin Sheehan	CT Voices
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
Jonathan Ferrigno	Eversource
Jennifer Carrier	FHWA
Gene Goddard	MetroHartford Alliance
Matt Pafford	OPM
Kathie Lutz	Rome Smith Lutz

1. Call to Order and Roll Call: Chairperson Mayor Marcia Leclerc called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm. Kim Bona conducted roll call.

2. Public Comment:

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2020:

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Policy Board Meeting minutes from September 16, 2020. Dr. Chip Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence/Handouts:

Dr. Wray reviewed the handouts with the board.

- Support Letter for CRCOG Application – Economic Development Planning Assistance Letter to U.S. Department of Commerce
- Letter to Governor Lamont and Legislators from CRCOG re: Pressing Capital Region Infrastructure Needs and Opportunities

Per the board's request, Dr. Wray will reach out to Doug Suisman to see if he will present on the Infrastructure Plan at a future board meeting.

Dr Wray provided a brief update on Federal Legislative and Executive Branch Liaison solicitation. He stated that all four organizations involved, Pioneer Valley, Franklin County, the Knowledge Corridor, and CRCOG, have all approved their share of the funding. Pauline Yoder is in the process of drafting the RFP.

Hartford/Boston Rail Line economic study is coming along well, with Tim Malone and Rob Aloise leading the study.

5. MONTHLY REPORTS:

a. Chair and Executive Director

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc asked if there were any questions on the CRCOG monthly reports. There were none.

b. Opportunities and Resources

Dr. Wray provided an update on COVID recovery, and spoke about the Community Resource Coordinators program, which assists families in need of assistance pertaining to quarantine. After two weeks of quarantine, they will receive assistance and be referred to a case manager. CRCOG is actively participating in discussions on the follow up process will continue to update the board on progress.

c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council

Gasoline bids were due yesterday and is a bid that does not allow piggybacking. Please check with Kim Bona if you have questions regarding your town.

We are currently bidding for Job Order Contracting (ezIQ) bidders and a mandatory pre-bid conference was held this morning.

Personal Protective Gear bid was opened on Monday.

EDMS has entered into program mode and there will be a webinar demonstration on November 17th of the various capabilities.

CRCOG list of qualified vendors for COVID related PPE products is now available on the CT DECD website under the small business reopening resource guide

d. Policy and Planning

Issued a project solicitation for the CDC-funded Active Transportation and Active Living project. The solicitation seeks applicants for demonstration complete streets projects as well as “train the trainer” workshops for educators. Applications are due November 20.

Staff are presenting on the project at the Southern New England American Planning Association Conference on October 30.

Planned for an upcoming regional bike share update meeting.

Continued preparations for an application to the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program to update the region's Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Issued a request for proposals for environmental consulting services for the MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program. Submittals are due November 18.

Transmitted the Enfield Routes 190 and 220 draft scope of work to CTDOT for their review.

e. Public Safety and Homeland Security

The Regional Emergency Support Plan was activated on March 18th. The Regional Coordination Center was on a full virtual activation until recently when it went to partial activation for monitoring purposes. 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. The Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps has been extremely active during the pandemic as well as many of our CERT teams.

We are utilizing our Regional Distribution Site Standard Operating Guide. Our Regional Distribution Center in West Hartford was opened on March 25th and ended operations on August 26th. It will now open on an as needed basis and last week we worked with DEMHS to distribute masks to school systems.

CRCOG submitted our FY 20 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 18 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.

f. Transportation Committee

LOTICIP - CRCOG staff is developing additional program tracking metrics to assess the efficiency of LOTICIP project delivery. Staff plans to present the metrics and results at

CRCOG's November Transportation Subcommittee meeting, and then further coordinate with municipalities and CTDOT to integrate additional efficiencies to the program. Strategies for improvements, ranging from simple process tweaks to legislative changes, are anticipated to be explored.

Roundabout Screening Study RFQ - Consultant RFQ proposals were due to CRCOG 10/27 for a CRCOG Roundabout Screening Study. The study aims to identify locations regionwide that would benefit most - safety and capacity wise - from installation of a single lane roundabout. Roundabouts have proven to be an extremely effective safety mitigation measure, reducing serious injuries and fatalities at intersections by around 80%.

g. Capital Workforce Partners – No update was provided.

6. PRESENTATION/UPDATES

- **Connecticut Voices for Children 2020-2022 Issue Briefing Book**

Sana Shah and Erin Sheehan presented to the board. Discussion followed. To view the presentation, please [click here](#).

At this time, Mayor Leclerc addressed the action items on the agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. Action: Legislative Committee-Volunteer Solicitation

Dr. Wray requested that anyone interested in serving on the 2021 CRCOG Legislative Committee please contact Kim Bona or himself. He suggested keeping the agenda short this year. Several items likely to be on the agenda include the Special Transportation Fund (STF), and Crumbling Foundations. John Elsesser and Matthew Hart volunteered to serve on committee.

8. Action: Approval of 2021 DRAFT Policy Board and Executive Committee Meeting Schedules

Lori Spielman made a motion to approve the 2021 Policy Board and Executive Committee meeting schedules as presented. Jon Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

9. Action: Resolution Authorizing CRCOG Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Application

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing CRCOG Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Application as presented. John Elsesser seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Metropolitan Planning Organization

10. Action: TIP Amendments

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the TIP Amendments as presented. Dr. Chip Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

11. Action: Resolution FY 2021-2024 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FY 2021-2024 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution FY 2021-2024 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FY 2021-2024 Draft State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Dr. Chip Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

12. Action: Resolution FY 2021-2024 Air Quality Conformity

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution FY 2021-2024 Air Quality Conformity as presented. Dr. Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

13. Action: Resolution Annual Urban Planning Certificate

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution Annual Urban Planning Certificate as presented. Dr. Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

14. Action: Resolution Route 4 Farmington Transportation and Improvements Study

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution Route 4 Farmington Transportation and Improvements Study as presented. Dr. Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Matthew Hart asked if there were any bicycling improvements to the plan? Rob Aloise stated they were recommended but he does not believe they were implemented. However, there were pedestrian improvements made to the plan.

INFORMATION/OPPORTUNITY/RESOURCE ITEMS

14. Legislative update

Kathie Lutz stated there is nothing happening at this time with the legislature due to upcoming elections. No concrete plans as to how the session will be handled in 2021 yet, however, the belief is that the capital will not be opened publicly and may operate by appointment only. Matthew Riter is expected to be the next speaker and is urging for

committee leadership to minimize number of bills they will be reviewing, as a change in how they do business going forward with this being a legislative election year.

John Elsesser expressed great disappointment in the state's response to the Community Block Action Grant issuance. He explained that Coventry submitted their application back in April and have still received no word on whether they have been awarded the grant. He expressed equal frustration with respect to STEAP grant applications. Discussion followed. CRCOG will compose a letter to the state inquiring about the delay and lack of response in awarding grant funding. COST and RSL will assist with this letter.

15. COST Update, Betsy Gara

Mark Walter asked for guidance regarding whether the Governor will extend the executive order in place due to COVID, as budget season is quickly approaching. Betsy Gara explained that CCM has been working with governor's office and stated he has extended the Public Health Emergency and Executive orders until November 8th. She anticipates that things will be reevaluated at that point, and potentially extended further.

At this time, Mayor Leclerc addressed the second presentation on the agenda.

6. PRESENTATIONS (continued)

- **MetroHartford Alliance Effective Tax Rate Study, Gene Goddard, MHA**

Gene Goddard provided a brief presentation on the MHA Effective Tax Rate Study. Discussion followed. To view the presentation, please [click here](#). Dr. Wray will speak with Gene Goddard regarding this study and send additional information to the board.

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

17. Adjournment

With no further discussion items, Chairperson Mayor Leclerc requested a motion to adjourn.

Dr. Beckett moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:33pm. Lori Spielman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.