

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

Monday August 17, 2020
12 Noon
Meeting held remotely via Zoom

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Larry Baril	Avon
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Patrice Carson	Bolton
Todd Penney	Coventry
Doug Wilson	East Hartford
Timothy Webb	Ellington
Donald Nunes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Sandy Fry	Hartford
Kevin Kelly	Hebron
Jeff LaMalva	Manchester
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Robert Trottier	New Britain
Gary Fuerstenberg	Newington
John Bossi	Plainville
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Tom Roy	Simsbury
Jim Grappone	Southington
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Devin Cowperthwaite	Stafford
Bill Hawkins	Suffield
David Smith	Vernon
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Troy Sposato	Willington
Adam Kessler	Windsor
Jen Rodriguez	Windsor Locks
Jennifer Cassidy	GHTD

<u>Guests</u>	
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Jennifer Carrier	FHWA
James Kulpa	VHB
Greg Sommer	West Hartford

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee**

Staff

Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG – Intern
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	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 the Chair, Jon Colman.

2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.

3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from June 22nd, 2020** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to approve the June 22nd, 2020 meeting minutes. This motion passed unanimously.

4. **Staff Reports**

- CRCOG Staff Reorganization – Mr. Robert Aloise and Dr. Lyle Wray gave an overview of CRCOG’s recent Staff Reorganization. Dr. Lyle Wray shared with the Committee that the idea of combining the Transportation and Policy & Planning departments has been considered for some time, but that timing has never worked out. Dr. Wray noted that Ms. Emily Hultquist’s departure from CRCOG presented the opportunity to develop a single Department of Planning. Dr. Lyle Wray also noted that as part of the reorganization, administrative and operations aspects of CRCOG were combined under a Chief Operating Officer. The reorganization was vetted through the Personnel and Finance Committee, and an internal hiring process was conducted. Dr. Wray explained that as a result, four (4) staff persons were placed in new positions: Mr. Robert Aloise, Director of Planning; Ms. Cara Radzins, Transportation Deputy; Mr. Tim Malone, Community Development Deputy; and Ms. Pauline Yoder, Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Lyle Wray also noted that organizational changed related to Finance may occur at a later date. Mr. Jon Colman added that the reorganization had unanimous support from the Personnel and Finance Committee as well as the Executive Committee. Mr. Colman noted that Ms. Radzins will be taking on a more active role in the Transportation Committee as Mr. Aloise’s responsibilities broaden.
- LOTCIP Quarterly Review (Quarter 4) Report Update – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTCIP Quarterly Reporting Meeting Memo. Ms. Montanari

mentioned that CTDOT issued Authorization to Award Letters in the amount of \$3,235,148 for two (2) projects (Windsor Deerfield Pavement Rehabilitation and Glastonbury Boulevard Pavement rehabilitation). Additionally, total project expenditures for FY2020 amounted to \$13,326.71, the highest LOTCIP total. Also, Ms. Montanari stated that CTDOT issued three (3) Authorization to Advertise Letters for three (3) projects in the amount of \$4,585,600 (Coventry Folly Lane Bridge, Marlborough South Main Street Phase 2, Windsor Archer Road pavement Rehab) and the projects are already slated to receive Authorization to Award letters. Because of the three projects receiving Authorization to Advertise letters in Quarter 4, Ms. Montanari stated expenditure projections for Quarter 1 FY2021 will be \$6,549,200. CRCOG received eight (8) design submissions and anticipates receipt of fifteen (15) design submissions in FY2021 Quarter 1. Ms. Montanari noted some municipalities have already submitted designs. Thirty-five (35) Projects have been awarded or completed construction since program inception and CTDOT issued two (2) Commitment to Fund Letters (New Britain Downtown 8, Manchester Bidwell/Hartford Avenue Trail).

Ms. Montanari also mentioned that two (2) towns needed to provide updates on their project design schedules. The Town of Bloomfield representative was not in attendance at the meeting, but Mr. Thiesse of Bloomfield indicated via an email correspondence that District 1 reviewed plans and provided feedback regarding necessary drainage improvements and how the road narrowing would be accomplished with respect to existing catch basins. Mr. Jeffrey Doolittle from the Town of South Windsor mentioned that he was in the process of coordinating with utilities, and approvals had been delayed due to the pandemic.

Mr. Jon Colman expressed his thanks to Ms. Montanari for her continued efforts in progressing projects. Mr. Colman also noted that there had been some concern expressed in emails related to project schedules lagging and that there was a desire for CRCOG to be allowed to take on more responsibility. Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough shared information about project delays he was experiencing and expressed that delays were potentially jeopardizing Towns' abilities to bid projects now when prices are low. Ms. Montanari noted that CTDOT recently added a new engineer to its LOTCIP team, so this should help projects to proceed faster. Mr. Rob Aloise shared that CRCOG has a LOTCIP meeting with CTDOT scheduled for September, and these issues will be addressed then. Mr. Colman added that CTDOT should be reminded that the MPOs released Federal funds in exchange for LOTCIP funds with the understanding that LOTCIP projects would be progressed expeditiously.

5. TIP Amendments

- CT*fastrak*-LONO Discretionary Program-Deployment of 3 Battery Electric Buses – Ms. Cara Radzins reviewed the TIP amendment, noting that the buses would be used for the CT*fastrak* autonomous vehicle pilot project. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill to approve the TIP amendment. This motion passed unanimously.

6. **2021-UPWP Revision** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CRCOG needed to update its Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FY2020 and FY2021 to reflect CRCOG's

staff reorganization; CTDOT's replacement of the I-84 Hartford Project with the Greater Hartford Mobility Study; the removal of CRCOG's Regional Transit Strategy Update, due to scope elements being incorporated into the Greater Hartford Mobility Study; and minor scope updates to the Routes 190 and 220 Corridor Study in Enfield. Ms. Radzins noted that the changes had been reviewed and approved by CTDOT, and that with approval from the Transportation Committee acting as the Policy Board, staff would forward the draft to FHWA and FTA for final approval. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill for Amendment of CRCOG's FY 2020 and 2021 Transportation Planning Program. This motion passed unanimously.

- 7. LOTCIP Project Funding Increase Requests: Kensington Road Bridge Over Mattabasset River Replacement Project** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari shared that the Town of Berlin requested a LOTCIP funding increase of \$1,078,200 from \$880,800 to \$1,959,000 (102% increase). This project was initially approved in July 2017 (Phase 1 LOTCIP Bridge Solicitation) by the Transportation Committee as a rehabilitation project. The bridge has since seen limited traffic due to the reduced load rating restricting heavy vehicles (maximum 8-ton) and its sufficiency rating of 40.1%. Ms. Montanari mentioned that the project originally was replacing one of the pipe culverts with a new pre-cast concrete box culvert and slip lining the remaining four culverts with new corrugated material. CTDOT Bridge Unity reviewed the proposed design and determined the integrity of the structure did not ensure a 75-year service life. The Town completed a Structure Type Study and determined that replacing the existing culverts with four (4) pre-cast concrete box culverts would ensure a 75-year service life. Ms. Montanari also stated that the additional funding provides \$375,000 for the pre-cast culverts, \$215,000 for the cofferdam, \$111,000 for the open bridge rail, \$50,000 for utilities, and \$100,000 for railroad protection because the railroad tracks run parallel to the bridge. These additional costs combined with increases to percentage-based estimating items (i.e. minor items, inflation, incidentals, contingencies, etc.) resulted in the total estimated cost increase of \$1,078,200. A question was posed regarding the reason for a 75-year service life. Mr. Rob Aloise explained that the LOTCIP guidelines reference AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications and the Department's Bridge Design Manual, which references a 75-year service life. Mr. Jon Colman asked whether CTDOT consulted Towns or MPOs regarding the requirement for a 75-year service life. Mr. Aloise noted that CTDOT had discussed this specific project with Berlin and CRCOG but that there had not been a broader discussion. Mr. Aloise added that CRCOG intends to request that CTDOT update its LOTCIP guidelines to more clearly articulate the need for bridges to have a 75-year service life. Additional discussion occurred regarding CTDEEP coordination, the potential use of alternative funding sources for this project, and the rationale for CTDOT changing this repair project into a replacement project. A question was raised regarding the potential impact of this increase on the LOTCIP program overall, as there may be more bridges that will be facing similarly substantial cost increases. Ms. Montanari indicated that there were not additional bridge projects that were anticipated to face a similar situation. Mr. Aloise added that while the percentage increase for this project was large, the overall impact to the program was minimal, especially given that many projects come in under budget. Mr. Aloise also noted that future bridge solicitations will clarify the service life requirements. A Committee member asked about a timeline for the next

bridge solicitation. Mr. Aloise responded that CRCOG will be having a discussion with CTDOT regarding how much over-programming is acceptable and will then determine a plan for a bridge solicitation based on the amount of funding available.

A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by David Smith from the Town of Vernon to recommend committee approval of an additional \$1,078,200 of LOTCIP funding for the Berlin (L007-0001) project, increasing the funding approval from \$880,800 to \$1,959,000). This motion passed unanimously.

8. Draft Staff Recommended LOTCIP Solicitation Rankings – Mr. Jon Colman shared that he found the recommended 2020 LOTCIP Solicitation Staff Ratings and Draft Selections to be equitable, with a broad distribution of projects across town size and location. He thanked Ms. Sotoria Montanari and the CRCOG staff for their efforts in reviewing and ranking the projects. Ms. Montanari stated that the project selection policy reserved **\$35.5 million** for the solicitation, with the following funding splits:

- Traditional Reconstruction Projects: **\$24.7 million**
- Pavement Rehab/Stand Alone Sidewalk Projects: **\$5.5 million**
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects: **\$1.8 million**
- Rural Set Aside Projects: **\$3.6 million**

Ms. Montanari stated that CRCOG received 34 projects from 26 municipalities for \$52M: \$37M for reconstruction, \$12M for pavement rehabilitation/stand-alone sidewalk, and \$3.2M for bicycle/pedestrian improvement projects. Ms. Montanari explained that after an extensive review, rating, and ranking process, Table 1 listed projects that ranked highest and were recommended for immediate advancement and funding. Ms. Montanari noted that this includes nine (9) reconstruction projects for \$24.8M, seven (7) pavement rehabilitation/stand-alone projects for \$5.7M, two (2) bicycle/pedestrian projects for \$1.7M, and \$3.9M for rural set-aside projects. Also, included in Table 1 were three (3) conditional “incentive project” selections representing \$3.9+ million. The awarding of “incentive projects” is in keeping with CRCOG’s historic practice of conditionally awarding high ranking projects to municipalities that already have multiple LOTCIP projects in the design phase. The advancement of these “incentive projects” would be contingent on that municipality completing design of one of their other LOTCIP projects. Ms. Montanari said additional projects were selected in each category to ensure CRCOG met the \$35.5M goal. Also, she mentioned that Tables 2,3, and 4 projects rating worksheets were delineated by a “heavy line”, above which are the projects selected within the funding splits. In addition, per CRCOG selection policies, the top ranked “rural project” from below each delineation line was also recommended for funding.

Ms. Montanari stated that every project was substantially reviewed, rated, and ranked, and following a competitive and difficult process unfortunately every project could not be selected. She thanked each municipality for their effort and submission. A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton to accept the 2020 LOTCIP Solicitation Staff Ratings and Draft Selections. This motion was passed unanimously.

9. Other Business – There was no other business discussed

10. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm.