

CRCOG Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday, April 26, 2021
12 Noon
Meeting held remotely via Zoom.

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Eric Anderson	Andover
Larry Baril	Avon
Chris Edge	Berlin
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Patrice Carson	Bolton
Neil Pade	Canton
Todd Penney	Coventry
Doug Wilson	East Hartford
Timothy Webb	Ellington
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Frank Dellaripa	Hartford
Sandy Fry	Hartford
Kevin Kelly	Hebron
John Carrington	Mansfield
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Rob Trottier	New Britain
John Bossi	Plainville
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Tom Roy	Simsbury
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Annette Turnquist	Southington
Devin Cowperthwaite	Stafford
Karen Isherwood	Suffield
David Smith	Vernon
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Troy Sposato	Willington
Adam Kessler	Windsor
Mary Deppe	GHTD

<u>Guests</u>	
Mike Fisher	BL Companies
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Matt Blume	CTDOT
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Jennifer Carrier	FHWA
Mark Moriarty	New Britain
Joe Balskus	VHB
David Tomkins	Member of the Public

Andover / Avon / Berlin / Bloomfield / Bolton / Canton / Columbia / Coventry / East Granby / East Hartford / East Windsor / Ellington / Enfield / Farmington / Glastonbury / Granby / Hartford / Hebron / Manchester / Marlborough / Mansfield / New Britain / Newington / Plainville / Rocky Hill / Simsbury / Somers / South Windsor / Southington / Stafford / Suffield / Tolland / Vernon / West Hartford / Wethersfield / Willington / Windsor / Windsor Locks

Staff

Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	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 12:05 pm by the Chair, Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield.

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

3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2021** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2021 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.

4. **Staff Reports**

- **LOTICIP Quarterly Report** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari summarized the LOTICIP Quarterly Report for Quarter 3 of FY2021. Ms. Montanari mentioned that CTDOT issued an Authorization to Advertise Letter in the amount of \$1,020,000 for one (1) project (South Windsor Avery Street). The total amount of project expenditures (projected) for FY2021 is \$18,037,154. She also mentioned that CRCOG received three (3) final design submissions (Hartford Main Street/Boce Barlow, Coventry Swamp Road Intersection, and Suffield Mountain Road Multi-Use Trail) and eight (8) design submissions. CRCOG anticipates receipt of eleven (11) design submissions in Quarter 4 of FY2021. Forty (40) projects have been awarded or completed construction since program inception. Ms. Montanari also mentioned that CTDOT issued one (1) Commitment to Fund Letter (Marlborough Main Street Sidewalk Phase 3), and four (4) applications were submitted to CTDOT. CTDOT issued comments on two (2) projects; six (6) applications were submitted to municipalities with comments; and all 2020 applications (except incentive projects) were submitted to consultants for review. Ms. Montanari provided the following schedule updates: The Town of Bloomfield’s (Blue Hills Avenue) preliminary design submission was rescheduled, but it will be submitted by the end of the week. The Town of Newington’s (Robbins/Maple Avenue) final design submission was rescheduled and is waiting for the District sign off. The Town of Stafford’s (Leonard Road Bridge) final design submission has been received.
- **Municipal Grant Program Update** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg gave a brief update on the Municipal Grant Program. Mr. Lechtenberg mentioned that he sent out a reminder to the Towns on April 9th with links to the required maintenance forms for

program recipients. He mentioned that all forms should be submitted by May 3rd to rfaulkner@crcog.org and/or dlechtenbeg@crcog.org. He noted that once they are received, they will be sent to Amy Marques at CTDOT.

- **Work Zone Safety Awareness Week** – Mr. Roger Krahn noted that it is currently National Work Zone Awareness Week, and he shared some highlights from the Fact Sheet that was posted with the meeting materials. Mr. Krahn noted that the trend for 2018-2019 total work zone fatalities went into the wrong direction, with an increase of 31% in work zone fatalities, from 757 in 2018 to 842 in 2019. Mr. Krahn added that speeding tended to be a contributing factor in the fatal crashes.
- **RAISE Discretionary Grants** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that the former TIGER and BUILD funding programs have been revamped as the RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) discretionary grant program. Ms. Radzins mentioned that \$1 billion in funding is available, and the program is highly competitive. She also noted that projects for RAISE funding will be evaluated based on merit criteria that include safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, innovation, and partnership. Within these criteria, USDOT will prioritize projects that improve racial equity, reduce impacts of climate change, and create good paying jobs. Ms. Radzins noted that a series of informational webinars will be held, and additional information is available at www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach. The deadline to apply is July 12, 2021 by 5pm.
- **Other – Transportation Planning Study Solicitation** – Ms. Cara Radzins mentioned to the Committee that CRCOG received five (5) applications in response to the Transportation Planning Study solicitation. She noted that the CRCOG staff will be reviewing and ranking the applications and will have a recommended ranking for review at the May Transportation Committee meeting, with the intention of identifying two studies for submission to CTDOT.

5. **TIP Amendments** – Mr. Robert Aloise reviewed the TIP Amendments. A motion was made by Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington, seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

- New Britain – Beeline Trail Phase 1
- District 4 – Traffic Signal LED Re-Lamping
- District 1 – Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations (deferred from March Transportation Committee Meeting)
- Newington – EV Chargers at State Agencies

6. **FTA Transit Safety Performances Targets** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg shared that MPOs must endorse transit safety performance targets by July 20, 2021. Mr. Lechtenberg noted that there are seven (7) transit safety targets: two for fatalities, two for injuries, two for safety events, and one for mechanical failures. For those areas with two targets, the first target is the number of incidents and the second is a rate of incidents per hundred thousand or one million vehicle revenue miles (VRM). Within the Capitol Region, CTDOT prepared Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTSAP) and targets for CT *transit* Hartford Division, Arrow Line Acquisitions, Collins Bus Service, DATTCO, and New Britain Transit. Mr. Lechtenberg also noted that the Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD) prepared its own targets, including several

beyond the required seven targets. While PTSAP targets must be updated annually by the responsible provider agencies, MPOs are only required to adopt targets alongside an updated Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). CROCG staff recommends that the Transportation Committee review the transit safety targets and plan on acting on them at the May meeting. Full PTASP reports for each agency can be found on the CROCG website at: <https://crocog.org/transportation/performanceasures>.

7. LOTCIP Funding Increase/Scope Modification Requests – Ms. Sotoria Montanari summarized the following LOTCIP funding increase and scope modification requests:

- *Plainville – Town Line Road Reconstruction (L109-0003)*
- *Suffield – Mountain Road Multi-Use Trail (L139-0002)*
- *Wethersfield – Wolcott/Franklin Roadway Reconstruction (L159-0002)*
- *Windsor – International Drive Roadway Improvements (L164-0007)*

Ms. Montanari shared that prior to the Transportation Committee meeting, there were several discussions during the Cost Review Sub-Committee meeting, and each request was recommended for approval. Mr. Jon Colman noted that the Sub-Committee also recommend that Windsor’s International Drive Phase 1 (NB) Roadway Improvements project be recategorized from Pavement Rehabilitation to Reconstruction. Mr. Colman also shared that the Sub-Committee had some concerns about CTDOT’s assertiveness in scope modifications and use of Google Earth instead of in-person reviews. A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to accept the funding increases/modification requests for the above listed projects and recategorize Windsor’s International Drive Phase 1 (NB) Roadway Improvements project as Reconstruction. This motion was passed unanimously.

8. Presentation – Matt Blume, CTDOT: Berlin Turnpike Signals Project – Mr. Matt Blume gave an overview of the Traffic Signal Technology Pilot Project along the Berlin Turnpike (Route 15). He stated that the purpose of this project is to improve vehicle, transit, and pedestrian mobility; increase efficiency of traffic signals; reduce congestion during incidents; improve safety; improve traffic signal reliability; maintain traffic signal assets in a state of good repair; and implement technology to manage traffic flow. Mr. Blume mentioned that the project was initiated in 2019, and construction should begin in late 2021 or early 2022. The approximate construction cost is \$10 million, 80% federal and 20% state. Mr. Blume noted that inquiries about signal plans or signal impacts on state roadways can be submitted to DOT.TrafficEngineering@ct.gov. Questions about the Berlin Turnpike project can be sent to Matthew.Blume@ct.gov.

9. Other Business – None was discussed.

10. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:53pm via a motion by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton.