

CRCOG Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday, March 22nd, 2021
12 Noon
Meeting held remotely via Zoom.

**DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee.**

Name

Eric Anderson
Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Neil Pade
Todd Penney
Doug Wilson
Len Norton
Timothy Webb
Russ Arnold
Dan Pennington
Sandy Fry
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Rob Trottier
Gary Fuerstenberg
Jim Sollmi
Tom Roy
Todd Rolland
Jeffrey Doolittle
Annette Turnquist
Devin Cowperthwaite
Karen Isherwood
David Smith
Greg Sommer
Derrick Gregor
Troy Sposato
Adam Kessler
Mary Deppe

Organization

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

Guests

Grayson Wright
Mike Fisher
Jonathan Thiesse

CTDOT
BL Companies
Bloomfield

Staff

Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	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 February 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 meeting minutes from the February 22, 2021 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with one abstention made by Todd Penney from the Town of Coventry.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **DRAFT FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** – Ms. Cara Radzins updated the Committee on the progress of the FY2022-2023 UPWP and shared that a draft has been submitted to FTA, FHWA, and CTDOT for review. Ms. Radzins noted that Towns involved in the submitted studies had been coordinated with prior to submission. She also mentioned that if anyone has any comments on the draft to please submit them to her by April 29, 2021.
 - **Bike/Ped Sub-Committee Report** – Mr. Tim Malone gave a brief update on the Bike/Ped Sub-Committee that was held on March 9th. Mr. Malone noted that at that meeting Mr. Ryan Faulkner from CRCOG made a presentation to the Sub-Committee on a data access tool that will be used during future bike/ped counts. Mr. Malone stated that this presentation will be posted on the CRCOG website. A member of the Committee asked about the status of scooters coming to the region. Mr. Malone shared that Hartford will have a scooter share program underway soon. He mentioned the possibility of having Hartford give a a presentation/update to the Committee once their pilot is underway.
 - **CTDOT Local Roads Safety Programs** – Mr. Roger Krahn updated the Committee on available CTDOT Local Roads Safety Programs. Mr. Krahn mentioned that from 2016 to 2018, approximately 50 percent of fatal and serious crashes in Connecticut occurred on municipally owned and maintained roadways. Mr. Krahn stated that CTDOT is offering a series of programs at no cost to municipalities to help address these crashes. Mr. Krahn said that participating municipalities would be required to

own and maintain any traffic control devices installed on their roadways. Mr. Krahn mentioned that the programs were developed based on a data driven process under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) in three program areas: Pedestrian Safety; Intersection Safety; and Roadway Departure. Mr. Krahn noted that outreach to municipalities has begun, and he strongly encouraged participation in these programs. Associated projects must begin prior to the end of this Federal fiscal year (September 30, 2021). After projects are initiated, municipalities will be contacted for further input during the design and planning phases.

- **Other** – No additional staff reports were given.

5. TIP Amendments – Mr. Rob Aloise reviewed the TIP amendments with the Committee.

Mr. Aloise noted that several of the amendments were to move the obligation year of projects that were previously reviewed and approved. During the Committee's discussion of the proposed amendments, the City of New Britain expressed its concern regarding a lack of response by CTDOT to the City's requests for coordination on Item 10c (the construction portion of project #171-455). Mr. Grayson Wright from CTDOT suggested the matter could be resolved prior to the Policy Board meeting scheduled for March 24, 2021. The Committee supported New Britain's concerns and decided to approve the proposed TIP amendments with the condition that CTDOT would coordinate with New Britain on item 10c. If such coordination was not completed to New Britain's satisfaction before the Policy Board meeting on March 24, 2021, then approval of this amendment would be tabled to a future date. A motion to this effect was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill. This motion was passed unanimously.

- New Britain - Ped/Bike Trail Loop in Stanley Quarter & A.H. Stanley Parks
- Granby - Major Intersection Improvements at CT 20/189
- South Windsor - Ped Safety Improvements
- Berlin/Wethersfield - Installation of CTSS w/ CV Tech. (Phase 1)
- Windsor - Rehab/Replace Culvert @ Holcomb Hill Road
- Windsor - Traffic Signal Modernization at Various Intersections Day Hill Road
- Berlin/Wethersfield - Operational Improvement Breakout from 0007-250 - CTSS w/ CV Tech.
- Statewide - Mast Arm & Span Pole Inspections
- District 2 - Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations
- District 1 - Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations
- Southington - Construction of a portion of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail
- Mansfield - Downtown Pedestrian Loop Closure

6. Resolution – Bike Share Feasibility Study Update – Mr. Mike Cipriano gave a brief update on the Bike Share Feasibility Study, noting that CRCOG originally developed a bike share feasibility study in 2014. CRCOG then held an RFP for a Regional Bike Share program in 2019. Mr. Cipriano stated that due to COVID-19, the program was not fully implemented, and CRCOG towns have expressed interest in continuing to pursue a region wide bike share model. Mr. Cipriano explained that this resolution would

authorize \$50,000 of RSG funds for an updated feasibility study. There was a discussion about how this feasibility study would be different than the previous one. Mr. Rob Aloise noted that the new study would consider the implication of COVID-19 on bike share. Mr. Tim Malone added that the company that been selected under CRCOG's RFP went out of business and that the new study would consider what the new market is for bikeshare, and which models still work. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to authorize the commission of a bike share feasibility study, expending up to \$50,000 of agency funds. The motion also allowed for Dr. Lyle Wray to act on behalf of CRCOG in negotiating, executing, and amending all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments or Memorandum of Understandings associated with this study. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 7. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program – Project Rankings** – Mr. Pramod Pandey reviewed the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program project rankings. Mr. Pandey stated that five (5) municipalities submitted a project in response to this solicitation, which was released in December of 2020. The towns that submitted a project are: City of Hartford, Canton, West Hartford, East Hartford, and the City of New Britain. Mr. Pandey stated that CRCOG will be submitting all of these projects for consideration but noted that projects submitted to CTDOT must compete with all projects submitted statewide, with no guarantee that any project will receive funding. Mr. Pandey mentioned that to rank the projects, CRCOG staff used criteria like that which will be used by CTDOT: cost effectiveness, regional significance, and operations and maintenance. Mr. Pandey noted that he had had conversations with each of the municipalities about why their project the ranking that it did. Following endorsement by the Transportation Committee and Policy Board, CRCOG will be submitting the applications to CTDOT by April 7th. A motion was made by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to endorse the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program project rankings as presented. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 8. Transportation Planning Study Solicitation and Ranking Criteria** – Ms. Cara Radzins noted that on March 8, 2021 CRCOG released a solicitation for Transportation Planning Studies. Under this solicitation, CRCOG will submit two (2) studies to CTDOT for consideration. Ms. Radzins stated that to apply for a study, municipalities should complete the Planning Study application, which is available on the CRCOG website at <https://crocog.org/2021/03/planning-study-solicitation/> and submit a signed electronic copy to Mike Cipriano at mcipriano@crocog.org by 10:00am on April 26, 2021. Ms. Radzins stated that selected studies must have a minimum size of \$150,000 and will utilize STP-Urban Funding, which requires municipalities to provide a 20% non-federal match (CTDOT may split the match 10% state, 10% municipality for studies on state roadways or with a transit focus). Ms. Radzins also mentioned that CRCOG will provide a summary of the study applications along with a staff recommendation for prioritization at the Transportation Committee meeting on May 24, 2021. Following that meeting, CRCOG will forward the top-rated proposals to CTDOT for their review and approval. Selected studies will be assigned to CTDOT staff by Winter 2021/2022.

Ms. Radzins noted that CRCOG staff was seeking Committee feedback on the proposed ranking criteria that were provided in the meeting materials. The Committee discussed whether the criteria put smaller communities at a disadvantage, noting that while Environmental Justice and Multimodality are unlikely to get points for small towns, they remain important criteria from a regional perspective. Committee members discussed potential adjustments to the ranking criteria. Following these discussions, a motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Karen Isherwood from the Town of Suffield, to approve the ranking criteria with a modification to “Addresses Regional Performance Measures” from 10 to 20 points and a modification to “Economic Development” from 5 to 10 points, for a total of 55 potential points. This motion was passed unanimously.

9. Other Business – Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough asked if CTDOT was keeping up with quarterly LOTCIP meetings. Mr. Robert Aloise responded that these meetings are being held.

10. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:49pm via a motion by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin.