

Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
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Policy Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
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-22/>

Members and Alternates

Brandon Robertson
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Sandra Pierog
Mark Walter
John Elsesser
Jim Hayden
Marcia Leclerc
Lori Spielman
Chip Beckett
Randall P. Davis
Scott Shanley
Antonia Moran
Brock Weber
Robert Lee
John Mehr
Maria Capriola
Mark Sciota
Bill Hawkins
Michael Rosen
Matt Hart
Erika Wiczenski
Peter Souza
Chris Kervick

Town/Organization

Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Columbia
Coventry
East Granby
East Hartford
Ellington
Glastonbury
Hartford
Manchester
Mansfield
New Britain
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Southington
Suffield
Tolland
West Hartford
Willington
Windsor
Windsor Locks

Staff

Rob Aloise
Cheryl Assis
Kimberly Bona
Roger Krahn
Aaliyah Miller
Caitlin Palmer
Laura Quintiliani
Lyle Wray
Pauline Yoder

CRCOG
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Guests

Courtney Hendricson
Alex Johnson

AdvanceCT
Capital Workforce Partners

Maureen Lawrence
Grayson Wright
Bruce Donald
Jonathan Ferrigno
Vicki Shotland
Matt Pafford
Kathie Lutz
Britt Foulds
Melissa Kaplan-Macey

CTDOT
CTDOT
ECGA
Eversource
GHTD
OPM
Rome Smith Lutz
Office of Senator Murphy
Regional Plan Association

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairperson Mayor Marcia Leclerc called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

2. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2020:

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

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

4. Correspondence/Handouts

There were none.

At this time Mayor Leclerc entertained a motion to discuss the recently introduced Traffic Safety Bill 5429 with the purpose of reaching a consensus on whether CRCOG should support this in upcoming public hearings.

Jon Colman made a motion to discuss the Traffic Safety Bill. Dr. Chip Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Jon Colman explained the Traffic Safety Bill 5429 and stated that the Statement of Purpose is fairly inclusive of what the full bill contains, noting additional updates on pedestrian crosswalks. These updates include allowing a 25-foot minimum distance from a crosswalk and/or intersection for parking and vehicles yielding to pedestrians on the curb who are indicating their intention to cross as opposed to actually being in the crosswalk before a car yields the right of way to pedestrians.

Of particular interest to municipalities, the Bill would also allow local traffic authorities to establish speed limits and pedestrian safety zones. The helmet safety requirement was removed from an earlier version of the bill.

After some discussion, the Board consensus was to move forward with support of the bill subject to amended language that the subject of pedestrian crosswalks and/or intersections be permissive rather than mandatory.

5. MONTHLY REPORTS:

a. Chair and [Executive Director](#)

Dr. Wray welcomed Aaliyah Miller, Senior Communications Manager to CRCOG. Aaliyah said she is excited to be with CRCOG and looking forward to working with everyone. He also noted the addition of two full time Planners, Ryan Faulkner and Chris Henchey. CRCOG is now fully staffed with no vacant positions.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments has entered into a shared Federal Lobbyist agreement with Chris Giglio of Capital Edge; Chris will also be working with Pioneer Valley and the Knowledge Corridor and will be focusing on transportation and workforce issues.

The Boston Rail Economic Impact study is nearing completion and there will be a presentation for the Policy Board once that is finalized.

Dr. Wray reported that Tim Malone is working with the State Department of Economic and Community Development on a second version of a COVID Recovery Economic Development Administration grant. The grant would provide \$400,000 to regions that did not receive earlier non-competitive grants from US EDA. CRCOG has scheduled several phone calls with various foundations to secure a match for those funds and will keep the Policy Board apprised of progress.

Lastly, the tentative scheduled date for the CRCOG Annual Meeting is Wednesday, June 2, 2021. It is likely that this will be a virtual meeting. We are currently soliciting ideas for a speaker. Please send all suggestions to Lyle or Pauline at lwray@crcog.org or pyoder@crcog.org.

b. Opportunities and Resources

[c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council](#)

[d. Policy and Planning](#)

[e. Public Safety and Homeland Security](#)

[f. Transportation Committee](#)

g. MetroHartford Alliance (Tentative)

No report was offered.

h. Capital Workforce Partners (Tentative)

No report was offered.

6. PRESENTATION/UPDATES

East Coast Greenway Trail Updates, Bruce Donald

Bruce Donald, Tri-State Coordinator for the East Coast Greenway Alliance and Chair of the Connecticut Greenways Council, provided a Connecticut Greenway Update for CRCOG.

[To view the PowerPoint presentation, please click here.](#)

For questions, please reach out to Mr. Donald at bruce@greenway.org or 860-707-2888.

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

ACTION ITEMS:

7. Action: Authorizing Support for County Equivalency

Pauline Yoder explained that this action item supports the proposal to have COGS considered county equivalencies regarding census data. CRCOG would submit a letter of support. Ms. Yoder noted that it is something CRCOG has supported earlier.

John Elsesser made a motion to approve Authorizing Support for County Equivalency. Jon Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Action: Resolution Authorizing Agreement with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NAACHO)

Cheryl Assis explained this is a routine resolution presented to the Policy Board each year with the intention of allowing Dr. Wray to enter into agreement with NAACHO to accept grant funds in the amount of \$10,000 and help the Medical Reserve Corps.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Agreement with NAACHO. Lori Spielman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

9. Action: TIP Amendments (tentative)

There were no TIP Amendments.

10. Action: Resolution Authorizing Enfield Traffic Impact Study for Routes 190 and 220

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Enfield Traffic Impact Study for Routes 190 and 220. Dr. Chip Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

At this time, Mayor Leclerc resumed the order of the agenda and addressed the remaining presentation.

6. PRESENTATION/UPDATES

CT Affordable Housing Toolkit, Melissa Kaplan-Macey

Melissa Kaplan-Macey, Vice President of State Programs and the Connecticut Director of the Regional Plan Association (RPA), presented on the CT Affordable Housing Toolkit.

[To view Ms. Kaplan-Macey's PowerPoint presentation, please click here.](#)

For questions, Ms. Kaplan-Macey can be reached at melissa@rpa.org. Dr. Wray mentioned developments related to the CRCOG legislative agenda in crumbing foundations, Council of Government funding and statutes, and transportation funding.

INFORMATION/OPPORTUNITY/RESOURCES

11. Legislative Update

Kathie Lutz provided a brief update to the board.

12. Other Business

No other business.

13. Adjournment

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

Jon Colman moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:05. Scott Shanley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.