

Metro Hartford Future – Implementation Committee DRAFT Minutes

5/28/2020 at 9:00am

Via Zoom

Implementation Committee Members and Alternates in Attendance

David Griggs, MetroHartford Alliance (Co-Chair)
Jay Williams, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (Co-Chair)
Jackie Mandyck, iQuilt Partnership
Jim Boucher, Capital Workforce Partners
Mark Contreras, Connecticut Public
Patrick McMahon, Connecticut Main Street
Duncan Harris, Capital Community College
Jason Rojas, Trinity Univeristy
Jen Widness, CT Conference of Independent Colleges
Chip Beckett, Town of Glastonbury
Marcia Leclerc, Mayor, Town of East Hartford
Paula Gilberto, United Way

Additional Attendees

Lyle Wray, CRCOG
Tim Malone, CRCOG
Jevon Gibb, Metro Hartford Alliance
Richard Pearson, Capital Workforce Partners
Jack Antonich, member of the public
SB Chatterjee, member of the public

David Griggs called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

1) Public Comment

No members of the public in attendance provided any comments.

2) Introductions

Co-Chairs David Griggs and Jay Williams welcomed people to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

3) Status update on strategy implementation

Lyle Wray and Tim Malone gave an overview of implementation strategies that are already underway. Updates were given on:

- Economic Impact Study of Rail Improvements, including East-West rail service to Boston
- Retention of College Graduates, following the Campus Philly model
- Vacancy “Sensing” and Workforce Data Systems
- Summer Youth Employment

Members in attendance offered additional information and comments about college graduate retention:

- Campus Philly is a well-regarded model
- It would be instructive to look at programs in smaller communities
- The core program is replicable across the state.

Members in attendance offered additional information and comments about workforce data systems:

- While data is good, the sooner we can move beyond analysis the better.
- Colleges are also interested in looking at the data.
- Colleges are interested in analyses that will help determine which programs to offer.

4) COVID-19 Response

Lyle Wray discussed a memo regarding COVID-19 responses. The memo provided information on a grant application to the EDA that the COGs are putting together. The group discussed impacts of the pandemic and responses to the need for recovery more broadly, including:

- There may be an opportunity to attract companies from nearby states as people look for less crowded environments.
- Has there been any discussion about impacts to Bradley airport?
- Need a more surgical approach to business reopening. Having 25-50% capacity won't cut it for many businesses.
- Need a relatively inexpensive model for recovery activities.

5) Business Engagement

Lyle Wray discussed the need to engage business leaders in discussions around economic recovery.

6) Other Business

SB Chatterjee offered a comment regarding innovation efforts in the state. He stated that Innovation Places represents the third failure to build an innovation system in the state. He added that new governance models need to be looked at.

It was also noted that in general, the region needs to be more coordinated in its efforts. For example, using Riverfront Recapture as a vehicle for the Summer Youth Employment program. We need to remember that the region is not just Hartford.

7) Adjournment

The Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 AM