

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274

**Corridor Advisory Committee
Of Chief Elected Officials for
CTfastrak and CTrail-Hartford Line**
CRCOG Boardroom, 241 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Call to Order

Michael Freda and Chris Kervick called the meeting to order.

1. **Welcome and Introductions: Co-Chairs Michael J. Freda, First Selectman, North Haven, and J. Christopher Kervick, First Selectman, Town of Windsor Locks;**

Michael J. Freda asked attendees to introduce themselves.

2. **Acceptance of April 4, 2019 Meeting Notes;**

Due to a clerical error, this item was not recorded.

3. **Update on CTfastrak Service – CTDOT Staff;**

Lisa Rivers gave an update on CTfastrak. She noted that ridership on the system remains strong. She also shared that CTDOT is in the process of developing parking facilities at Spencer Street in Manchester and in Farmington near UConn.

4. **Update on CTrail Service – CTDOT Staff;**

John Bernick gave an update on CTrail Hartford Line service. The Hartford Line saw its one millionth rider around Thanksgiving. Mini high platforms, which are ADA compliant, have been installed in Windsor. The Windsor Locks station is moving to design. This station will include a full platform with a bus connection to Bradley. The station is designed to accommodate additional construction to serve a second track in the future.

Lisa Rivers noted that an app offering e-tickets will be available soon.

There was a brief discussion about the need to fund double-tracking.

5. **Update on Springfield - Worcester Rail Study;**

Lyle Wray shared that MassDOT's study does not include a discussion about Connecticut ridership. CRCOG is monitoring this study and will be conducting its own economic impact analysis study in coordination with PVPC.

6. **Presentation:** Update on TOD in Windsor Locks – Innovative Strategies for Moving Forward

Chris Kervick gave a presentation on TOD efforts in Windsor Locks for the soon-to-be relocated Windsor Locks Station. There was a discussion regarding public-private partnerships, and the fact that they are driven by the market. John Bernick said that CTDOT is open to listening to proposals for the station area and added that improvements could occur in phases (for example: a surface parking lot could later be considered for a development). There was a discussion about the relationship between service frequency and development viability, with a general consensus that 30-minute headways would be ideal. John Bernick noted that a lot of the \$65 million cost for the Windsor Locks Station is related to track work. This work will lay the groundwork for future double-tracking, which is critical to achieving 30-minute headways.

7. **Transit-Oriented Development:**

Emily Hultquist gave an update on a potential RPIP grant for municipal economic development assistance, a working group of rail station towns, the newly formed TOD Collaborative, and an overview of CRCOG's scenario planning efforts.

8. **Regional Bike Share RFP Lyle Wray, CRCOG Executive Director;**

CRCOG staff gave an update on the Regional Bikeshare RFP Process.

9. **Municipal Updates on Projects**

Windsor

- 3 new restaurants in center in 2019
- Potential 45 unit development within ½ mile of station
- Rte 159 Road diet
- 95% occupancy at Windsor Apartments
- Continuing conversation regarding shared parking
- How can we improve transit service (going to have mini high platforms) but need double tracking
- Meeting about Quiet Zones that went well and pursuing additional work, going to be a 3-4 year process

Newington

- Adopted form-based code for new train station area
- RPIP application for design guidelines
- Affordable housing right across from station area with 90 units

Berlin

- Mixed-use development approved
- Depot Crossing going to change hands
- Move tree lighting to station
- Brewery opening in Spring is on track

Enfield

- Interested in a temporary, inexpensive station to initiate service
- Station would need to be redone with double-tracking due to grade issues
- Town is open to contributing to a station

New Britain

- Within ¼ mile of station 400+ units
- 80-120 new units with ground floor retail right on Main Street
- Met with TIF zone group; \$657K in fund -> plan for 3 programs: 1) loans for code compliance, 2) commercial rebate program, 3) revolving loan fund
- Grand list did not grow this year
- Energy Innovation Park, potential \$1M project

Windsor Locks

- Montgomery Mills – mostly leased
- \$5M LOTCIP project in final engineering; out to bid in Spring
- Working on parcel consolidation
- TIF district funds useable this year and using funds for micro-loan program (\$20K loans)

West Hartford

- Grant to rebuild streetscape on New Park Ave.
- 616 New Park – 100% leased and site plan approval for 540 New Park for additional 52 units to be mixed-use and mixed-income
- POCD update
- Looking at zoning to promote TOD

New Haven

- 2,000 units in construction, 250 affordable; 1,600 around State Street station
- New parking tax
- Move New Haven Study wrapped up
- Union Station retail study wrapped up and will go out to bid (3.7 million passengers)
- Bike share on hiatus to swap out technology; revenue source is coming from ads but not working well
- New Mayor very focused on transit and bikes
- Downtown Crossing in construction and pave way for easier access to Union Station;
- \$1B project approved for New Haven Health Neuroscience program
- New zoning: density bonus if build near transit and parking maximums

North Haven

- 1.2 million sf Amazon facility; looking to improve transit access for ~3,000 workers
- Looking at 7% increase to grand list
- 20% affordable component with housing
- Nature of retail plazas are changing

10. Possible Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date: Committee Suggestions; and

Ideas for future agenda items:

- **CTrail** – parking coordination/payment
- **CTrail** app update
- Budget – Transportation funding debrief

Other suggestions can be sent to Lyle Wray and Emily Hultquist.

The next meeting will be at the Call of the Chair.

11. Other Business and Announcements.

The Chair thanks the CRCOG staff for their efforts. It was also noted that Windsor will be holding a meeting with FRA to discuss a quiet zone.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, the meeting came to close.