

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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

Tuesday, April 4, 2019, 8:30 a.m.

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Name	Organization/Town
David Kooris	RPA
Chris Edge	Berlin
Randal Davis	CTDOT
John Bernick	CTDOT
Tim Brennan	PVPC
Jon Cabral	CHFA
Matt Pafford	OPM
Chris Kervick	Windsor Locks
Michael Freda	North Haven
Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Emily Hultquist	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Lynne Pike-DiSanto	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Diana Deng	CIL
Doug Hausladen	New Haven
Gerry Amodio	New Britain
Steve Schiller	New Britain
Craig Minor	Newington
Eric Runowitz	CTDOT
Patrick McMahon	CT Main Street Center
Erin Howard	Hartford
Nelson Tereso	Enfield

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;**

Gerry Amodio made a motion to accept the meeting notes of April 18, 2018 as presented. Chris Edge seconded the motion and it carried.

3. **Update on CTfastrak Service;**

Randal Davis provided a brief update on CTfastrak service.

4. **Update on CTrail - Hartford Line ridership and operational issues, John Bernick, CTDOT;**

John Bernick provided a brief update on CTrail Hartford Line service and operations. CTDOT staff indicated that they would provide ridership numbers shortly.

5. **Update on Worcester Rail Study – Tim Brennan, PVCC;**

Tim Brennan gave an update on the East West Rail Line. A report was released in June 2016 (the NNEIRI) which proposed 8 routes a day between Boston and New Haven. The state of Massachusetts completed a state-wide rail plan, which was done last year and only contemplates going east/west and not down in CT at all. As a result of that plan, a \$1 million planning period to look at 6 alternatives has begun - one of which includes a high speed rail alternative which would be difficult to achieve due to the proposed route – and the creation of a new committee. You can go online to the MassDOT website to review: <https://www.mass.gov/east-west-passenger-rail-study>. (Info on the NNEIRI study can be found: <https://trainsinthevalley.org/nneiri-study/>).

6. **Presentation:** Next Steps in Engaging Anchor Institutions and Neighborhoods in Transit-Oriented Development, Presentation of final Report and Work Products – Emily Hultquist, CRCOG Director of Policy & Planning/Community Development

Ms. Hultquist gave a presentation that summarized the work of the Next Steps in Engaging Anchor Institutions work. Ms. Hultquist explained that the agency received an extension to work further on this project to hold several culminating events to test an interactive app prototype developed as part of a design sprint process. These events would also allow more conversation with assets and anchor institutions identified throughout the project in several station areas along the transit corridors.

7. **Transit-Oriented Development:**

a. **Municipal Economic Development Assistance/Corridor Marketing**

CRCOG is exploring ways to assist communities with economic development efforts around station areas and assistance with marketing sites in the corridor.

b. **Advanced Scenario Planning**

CRCOG is working to determine the best way forward to purchase software and start up scenario planning efforts. Exploring growth in the transit corridors is a logical candidate for a future scenario planning effort.

c. **Economic Development Heat Mapping**

CRCOG is exploring ways to visualize current projects and developments in the pipeline and compare to existing programs such as opportunity zones. Ms. Hultquist showed a preliminary map and said that staff would like to work with towns to get updates on developments in their station areas.

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

Lyle Wray gave an update on the Regional Bikeshare RFP Process. CRCOG convened a committee to draft a Regional RFP for the CRCOG region. The committee met for the first time at the end of March and is looking to meet one or two more times before releasing the RFP to select a vendor for a regional no-cost bikeshare service.

9. **Municipal Updates on Projects**

New Britain- The Beehive Bridge is set to be completed early this summer and several TOD housing developments are beginning all located within a half mile of the Main Street terminal with a mixture of market, mixed-use, and workforce components.

Berlin – The newest development next to the Berlin station is moving through approval processes. The vision is to develop a mixed-use complex with medical office, residential, commercial and restaurant.

Enfield – Having just passed TOD regulations for its Thompsonville area, Enfield is interested in ways to accelerate the creation of the train platform and stop at this station on the Hartford Line.

Newington – Continuing to work on determining the appropriate location along the Hartford Line and a location off Cedar Street has been proposed which is better location.

New Haven –The Spinnaker project of 500 units at the station is still in the works as well as a new hotel that is less than two blocks from the station.

Windsor Locks –The Mill development (160 units, 50% affordable,40% market, 10% workforce) is continuing to progress. Town is also looking toward redevelopment of other nearby parcel near the old train station building.

North Haven –The Amazon Facility Center expansion continues.

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

Ideas for future agenda items:

- Scenario planning
- Look at funding options for unfunded train stations
- Opportunity Zones

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.

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