

**CRCOG Cost Review Subcommittee Meeting**  
**Monday May 24, 2021**  
**11:30 AM**  
*Meeting held remotely via Zoom*

**DRAFT until**  
**Endorsed**  
**by the**  
**Committee**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Larry Baril	Avon
Chris Edge	Berlin
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Patrice Carson	Bolton
Todd Penney	Coventry
Doug Wilson	East Hartford
Len Norton	East Windsor
Tim Webb	Ellington
Kirk Severance	Granby
Frank Dellaripa	Hartford
Sandy Fry	Hartford
Jeff LaMalva	Manchester
John Carrington	Mansfield
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Rob Trottier	New Britain
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Devin Cowperthwaite	Stafford
David Smith	Vernon
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Adam Kessler	Windsor
Jen Rodriguez	Windsor Locks

<u>Guests</u>	
Michael Ahern	Berlin
Joshua Aldrich	Fuss & O'Neill
John Guzze	Fuss & O'Neill

<u>Staff</u>	
Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriana	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Anirea Ortiz	CRCOG – Intern
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Alphabetically by Member Municipality, then others. The meeting was called to order at 11:31 am by the Chair, Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield.
2. **Public Forum** – No one chose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by David Smith from the Town of Vernon, to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 26, 2021. This motion was passed unanimously with one (1) abstention made by Devin Cowperthwaite from the Town of Stafford.
4. **LOTICIP Funding increase Request: Berlin Various Roadways Structure improvements Project** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari explained that the Town of Berlin is requesting a LOTICIP funding increase of \$927,600 from \$2,972,400 to \$3,900,000 (31.2% increase). Although the construction cost of the project increased from \$2,972,400 to \$4,265,481 (43.4% increase), Ms. Montanari stated that the Town of Berlin is proposing to cover \$365,481 of the increase via a town share. Ms. Montanari added that the project was approved as a Reconstruction project under the 2018 Solicitation and is currently in the preliminary design phase. The funding increase is to address feedback resulting from additional geotechnical analysis completed by Fuss & O'Neill, the town's consultant. Ms. Montanari also said the project application was reviewed by CTDOT, and the review process resulted in some scope changes. The cost estimate, however, remained within the 20% funding increase threshold.

Ms. Montanari explained that during the design process, the town's consultant conducted additional borings to ensure an adequate pavement treatment was proposed for the heavily industrial area. The project encompasses three roadways spanning 2.57 miles. Because the original project pavement treatment did not account for the heavy truck traffic and updated traffic volumes, the town's consultant recommended a Cold-In-Place Recycling (CIP) treatment. The alternative method amounted to an additional \$550,000, but it was the least costly alternative pavement treatment for the roadways. This treatment is a rehabilitation technique in which existing pavement materials are re-used in place, with benefits that will potentially offset and mitigate additional pavement overages. CTDOT's Pavement Unit has indicated it will review this as a viable treatment method.

Mr. Michael Ahern, Director of Public Works from the Town of Berlin, explained what the town has done to mitigate the expenses. Initially, the town project included five (5) roadways spanning 3.3 miles, but the town reduced the scope to three roadways since the additional cost increases became evident during the design process. Mr. Ahern indicated they consulted with Fuss & O'Neill regarding two intersections (Deming Intersection and Porter Pass Intersection) the town wanted to improve. The consultant evaluated costs, with the town ultimately deciding on CIP for the roadway treatment.

Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield inquired regarding CTDOT's stance on this type of treatment. Mr. Josh Aldridge from Fuss & O'Neill responded that the consultant team had reached out to CTDOT with an informal request to evaluate CIP

as a viable treatment. CTDOT indicated that it will consider this pavement treatment on the same level as any other treatment.

Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough asked what the cost implication would be if CTDOT did not approve the pavement treatment and whether the town would return to the Committee to request additional funds. Mr. Aldridge indicated that he is confident that CTDOT is going to approve the approach. Mr. Rob Aloise indicated the town was made aware that the project is approaching maximum funding levels, and this is why Berlin is contributing funds to offset the funding increase. If additional costs were to be identified, CRCOG would request the town mitigate its costs by reducing the scope of the project.

A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton to approve an additional \$927,600 of LOTCIP funding for the Berlin Various Roadways Structure Improvement Project (L007-0002) project, increasing the funding approval from \$2,972,400 to \$3,900,000, with a town share of \$365,481. This motion was passed unanimously.

**5. 2022 LOTCIP Project Solicitation: DRAFT Schedule and Funding Allocations –**

Ms. Sotoria Montanari provided an overview of the draft schedule and funding allocations for the potential 2022 LOTCIP Project Solicitation. Ms. Montanari stated the 2020 Selection Policy was included in the packet for committee review. Staff is proposing revisions to the Selection Policy and will be presenting them to the Committee in June for approval in July. Ms. Montanari highlighted some of the potential revisions. Staff is proposing selecting approximately \$38,000,000 in LOTCIP projects which approximates the amount of the anticipated state budget allocation for the CRCOG Region over the next two (2) years. Ms. Montanari reviewed the draft schedule for the project selection as follows:

- May 24, 2021 – CRCOG Subcommittee & TC Meeting Review Draft Schedule and Funding Allocations
- June/July 2021 – CRCOG Subcommittee & TC Meeting Review and Approval of 2022 Project Selection Policy
- October 2021 – Letter to municipalities issued for 2022 LOTCIP Solicitation.
- February 2022 – Municipal Project Application Proposals Due to CRCOG
- April 2022 CRCOG – Subcommittee Meeting Review of draft project ranking
- May 2022 – CRCOG TC & policy Board Mtgs: Endorse project rankings.
- After June 2022 – CRCOG works with municipalities to submit final applications to CTDOT

Ms. Montanari stated the revisions to the 2022 Project Selection Policy will include the following funding amounts per category with increases ranging from 4% to 7%:

- Reconstruction Projects – \$25,800,00 (2022) / \$24,700,00 (2021)
- Pavement Rehabilitation/Stand-Alone Sidewalk Projects – \$5,700,000 (2022) / \$5,400,000 (2021)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects – \$2,500,000 (2022) / \$1,800,00 (2021)
- Projects in Rural Communities – \$4,000,000 (2022) / \$3,600,000 (2021)

Ms. Montanari indicated the schedule is not set and could potentially be pushed a month earlier to a September issuance. Ms. Montanari also mentioned that each municipality may submit no more than two (2) project proposals. She stated that projects must have a minimum construction cost of \$300,000 per CTDOT guidelines, and CRCOG limits individual project construction costs to \$3,200,000 at the initial application phase and the total funding limit for each municipality is \$3,200,000. This project cap is intended only to apply at initial selection/approval, with flexibility going forward subject to further Transportation Committee approvals in accordance with our cost increase policies. Ms. Montanari also briefly reviewed the potential numeric rating criteria changes, noting that these would be discussed in more detail during the June meeting. There were no changes to the Pavement Rehabilitation project, more of an emphasis on Reconstruction Project and more detail to the pedestrian improvement/sidewalk project category.

Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough suggested eliminating the complete streets rating criteria because it is a current policy requirement. Mr. Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain was not in favor of eliminating complete streets from the rating criteria, noting that just because an application included some complete streets elements to be compliant, it would not necessarily be a substantial enough improvement to get all the potential points. Mr. Rob Aloise indicated more discussion regarding specifics of the selection policy will take place next month.

There was discussion regarding the draft schedule, noting that it generally aligns well with municipal budget cycles. It was suggested that issuing the solicitation in September instead of October could be favorable in terms of having more time to conduct field reviews before winter and potentially aligning even more conveniently with budget schedules. Ms. Montanari said there was some flexibility in adjusting the schedule to an issuance to September. Mr. Rob Aloise indicated CRCOG is waiting for the State budget approval to confirm funding amounts.

**6. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.

- The next Cost Review Sub-Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2021 at 11:30 am.

**7. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am via a motion by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Devin Cowperthwaite from the Town of Stafford.