

CRCOG Transportation Committee Meeting

Acting on Behalf of the Policy Board

Monday, June 28, 2021

12:00pm

Meeting held remotely via Zoom

**DRAFT until
Endorsed by
the
Committee**

Name

Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Todd Penney
Doug Wilson
Len Norton
Timothy Webb
Russ Arnold
Daniel Pennington
Kirk Severance
Frank Dellaripa
Sandy Fry
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
Peter Hughes
Rob Trottier
Jim Sollmi
Jeff Shea
Todd Rolland
Jeffrey Doolittle
Karen Isherwood
Duane Martin
Derrick Gregor
Troy Sposato
Adam Kessler
Mary Deppe

Organization

Bloomfield
Bolton
Coventry
East Hartford
East Windsor
Ellington
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Marlborough
New Britain
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Somers
South Windsor
Suffield
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Willington
Windsor
GHTD

Guests

Jonathan Thiesse
Grayson Wright
Lori Spielman
Jennifer Carrier
Mark Moriarty
Steve Sopelak

Bloomfield
CTDOT
Ellington
FHWA
New Britain
Rocky Hill

Staff

Robert Aloise
Stephanie Camp
Mike Cipriano
Ryan Faulkner

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Anirea Ortiz	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Dr. Lyle Wray	CRCOG

- 1. Roll Call** – Alphabetically by Member Municipality, then others. The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm by the Chair, Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield.

Mr. Colman recognized Committee members who are retiring: Ms. Sandy Fry from the City of Hartford and Mr. Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill. Mr. Colman praised both retirees for their exceptional service not only to CRCOG but also to the Region. Dr. Lyle Wray echoed these sentiments. The Committee wished them both well.

- 2. Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.

- 3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2021** – A motion was made by Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington, seconded by Patrice Carson from the town of Bolton, to approve the minutes from the Transportation Committee meeting on May 24, 2021. This motion was passed unanimously with two (2) abstentions made by Kevin Kelly from the Town of Hebron and Karen Isherwood from the Town of Suffield.

4. Staff Reports

- **60 Seconds of Safety** – Mr. Roger Krahn shared that a safety item will be regularly added to Transportation Committee agendas. Mr. Krahn noted that there is a goal to reduce transportation crashes, fatalities, and injuries, but trends have been moving in the wrong direction. A short FHWA video on rumble strips was shared with the Committee.
- **Public Act No. 21-28** – Mr. Roger Krahn gave an overview of the Public Act No.21-28 concerning Pedestrian Safety, the Vision Zero Council, Speed Limits in Municipalities, fines and charges for certain violations, and the Greenways Commemorative Account. Mr. Krahn noted that the item that may be of most interest to Committee members is that local road speed limits can now be set as low as 25mph without OSTA approval. Mr. Krahn stated that the T2 Center is looking into holding an informational session with OSTA about these changes, and more information will be shared when available.
- **CTDOT LOTCIP Guidelines and Policy Discussion** – Mr. Rob Aloise shared that CTDOT is in the process of preparing new LOTCIP guidelines and that CRCOG staff recent met with CTDOT to discuss. He stated that an additional meeting with the Pavement Unit is upcoming. Mr. Aloise recounted issues discussed at the CTDOT meeting and suggestions made about making the review process more efficient and less restrictive.

Mr. Aloise shared that during the Sub-Committee meeting, it was suggested that the CRCOG staff meet with Dr. Lyle Wray to come up with a strategy on how to advance the LOTCIP program and keep it municipally centered. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield voiced his concerns and frustrations with how CTDOT is handling the advancement of LOTCIP projects, noting that none of his frustration is aimed at CRCOG staff. Mr. Colman mentioned that a serious conversation needs to be held at the senior level at CTDOT and with other Municipal officials to bring the program back to its intention of streamlined advancement of projects.

Ms. Sotoria Montanari gave a brief update on the updated CRDOT Rights of Way Process. Ms. Montanari mentioned that historically CTDOT did not require the same level of documentation to be submitted to the ROW Unit for temporary easements as they had for permanent easements, but CTDOT is now requiring the same standards for temporary easements as they would for permanent easements. Several Committee members voiced their concern about this change and noted that it seemed unnecessary since CRCOG projects had not had issues with ROW acquisition. Mr. Colman suggested that the Rights of Way Process should be added to the list of concerns that needed to be discussed with CTDOT.

- **2022 LOTCIP Project Solicitation: DRAFT Project Selection Policy** – Ms. Montanari mentioned that the DRAFT Project Selection Policy was shared during the Sub-Committee meeting and that no additional revisions had been requested. She reiterated that CRCOG staff would be holding a strategy meeting to determine how to address concerns with CTDOT, specifically regarding conflicting service life requirements and review delays.
- **Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Newsletter** – Ms. Terri Thompson shared the most recent quarterly TIM Newsletter with the Committee. Ms. Thompson noted that the TIM Coalition is made up of emergency response representatives as well as other COGs.
- **Section 5310 Solicitation** – Mr. Ryan Faulkner shared that the Section 5310 program provides Federal funding for capital and operating expenses to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. He also stated that the current solicitation will fund selected traditional vehicle projects at 100% federal share, with no local match requirement. CTDOT will also attempt to fund selected nontraditional projects at 100% federal share as funding permits. Mr. Faulker noted that notice of this solicitation has been sent to representatives of non-profits and municipalities. Applications are due by Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 4:00pm.
- **Other** – Dr. Lyle Wray briefly mentioned that he is continuing to monitor federal transportation and infrastructure funding discussions.

5. **TIP Amendments** – Ms. Cara Radzins reviewed the TIP amendments, noting that they were all new projects. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain, to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Stafford-Culvert Replacement under East Street
- District 4-Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations
- West Hartford-intersection Modifications & Signal

- 6. Resolution: Farmington Area Connectivity Study** – Mr. Roger Krahn shared that the Farmington Area Connectivity Study is included in CRCOG’s UPWP and that CRCOG staff and conducted a qualifications-based selection process to identify SLR International Corporation as the most qualified firm to complete the study. Mr. Krahn noted that a resolution was needed to allow Dr. Lyle Wray to sign contracting documents for this study. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Timothy Webb from the Town of Ellington, to authorize execution of an agreement with SLR International Corporation for the Farmington Area Connectivity Study. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 7. Resolution: Extension of an Economic Impact Study of Rail Link to Boston** – Mr. Tim Malone shared that AECOM has completed an Economic Impact Study of Rail Link to Boston and that CRCOG has received requests for presentations of the findings. Mr. Malone presented a resolution that would allocate an additional \$7,000 of agency funds to extend AECOM’s contract for this purpose. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Doug Wilson from the Town of East Hartford, to authorize CRCOG to extend the contract with AECOM for a study of the Potential Economic Impacts of Establishing Rail Service to Boston. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 8. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.

- 9. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 pm via a motion by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain.