

Agenda Item Summary

To: Policy Board, Transportation Committee

From: Cara Radzins, Transportation Deputy

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director; Rob Aloise, Director of Planning

Meeting Date: September 28, 2022 (Transportation Committee: September 26, 2022)

Subject: Resolution for Endorsement of the Transit Priority Corridors Study

Background: CRCOG staff is seeking Policy Board endorsement of CRCOG's Transit Priority Corridors Study known as Metro Hartford Rapid Routes. The study began in December 2020 and was aimed at developing transit priority measures to improve the speed, reliability, and overall quality of transit in six major corridors, five in Hartford and one in East Hartford. Recommendations include implementing transit signal priority throughout the corridors, adding bus lanes, improving amenities at bus stops, and optimizing bus stop locations to improve service speed and reliability.

The City of Hartford and Town of East Hartford have endorsed the Study's recommendations. Staff is seeking endorsement of the Study by the Policy Board so that its recommendations may be incorporated into CRCOG's planning documents.

Additional information is provided in the attached memo.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: Implementation of the recommendations of the Transit Priority Corridors Study would provide improved transit service on six corridors that serve as the backbone of CTtransit's Hartford Division. Endorsement of the Study will allow CRCOG staff to continue working towards implementation.

Financial/Operational Impact: N/A

Project Schedule: To be determined. Following Policy Board approval, Staff will work towards implementation of the Study's recommendations in partnership with CTDOT, CTtransit, the City of Hartford, and the Town of East Hartford.

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval. The Transportation Committee will provide a recommendation at their meeting on September 26, 2022.

Attachments:

- Memo: Transit Priority Corridors Study
- Resolution for Endorsement of the Transit Priority Corridors Study

To: CRCOG Transportation Committee; CRCOG Policy Board
From: Cara Radzins, CRCOG Transportation Deputy
CC: Matt Hart, CRCOG Executive Director
Rob Aloise, CRCOG Director of Planning
Date: September 16, 2022
Subject: Transit Priority Corridors Study

As shared at the May meetings of the Transportation Committee and Policy Board, the Transit Priority Corridors Study known as Metro Hartford Rapid Routes is nearing completion. The study began in December 2020 and was aimed at developing transit priority measures to improve the speed, reliability, and overall quality of transit services in major Metro Hartford corridors.

The study included an analysis of existing bus routes and ridership, a transit demand analysis, a significant outreach program to stakeholders and the public in person and virtually, and the development of service and capital improvement recommendations. Recommendations include implementing transit signal priority throughout the corridors, adding bus lanes, improving amenities at bus stops, and optimizing bus stop locations to improve service speed and reliability.

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) previously shared the *DRAFT Recommendations and Implementation Strategy* and *Executive Summary* for this effort with Transportation Committee and Policy Board members. These documents are available at: <https://www.metrohartfordrapidroutes.com>. The recommendations within these documents have been endorsed by the City of Hartford and the Town of East Hartford, and staff will be making some edits to language in the final version of the documents to clarify the implementation process related to bus stop locations and maintenance agreements.

We will be looking for the endorsement of the Transit Priority Corridors Study and its recommendations by the Transportation Committee and Policy Board on September 26 and September 28, respectively. Once endorsed, study documents will be finalized and dated September 2022, and study recommendations may be incorporated into CRCOG's planning documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Cara Radzins at cradzins@crcog.org.

RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF THE TRANSIT PRORITY CORRIDORS STUDY

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments worked with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to undertake a Transit Priority Corridors Study, also known as Metro Hartford Rapid Routes, related to improving the speed, reliability, and overall quality of transit along major corridors in the metro Hartford area; and

WHEREAS, a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of representatives of CTDOT, CTrides, CTtransit, Transport Hartford, municipalities, and other regional stakeholders met throughout the study effort to provide input; and

WHEREAS, the public had numerous opportunities to offer input via a survey, a study website, online informational meetings, and in-person outreach at bus stops; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed and accepted the recommendations of this study; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hartford and Town of East Hartford have reviewed and accepted the recommendations of this study; and

WHEREAS, the CRCOG Transportation Committee has reviewed the study, has found its recommendations to be reasonable, and has endorsed the effort;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Capitol Region Council of Governments does hereby endorse the Metro Hartford Rapid Routes Transit Priority Corridors Study inclusive of the *Recommendations and Implementation Strategy* and *Executive Summary* dated May 2022. Furthermore, these study documents may be marked Final and dated September 2022, and study recommendations may henceforth be incorporated into CRCOG's planning documents.

CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Policy Board at its meeting held on September 28, 2022.

BY: _____ DATE: _____
Jason Bowsza, Secretary