

CRCOG Cost Review Subcommittee Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2021
11:00 AM
Meeting held remotely via Zoom

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Tim Webb	Ellington
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Kirk Severance	Granby
Jeff LaMalva	Manchester
Derek Dilaj	Mansfield
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Tom Roy	Simsbury
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Karen Isherwood	Suffield
David Smith	Vernon
Greg Sommer	West Hartford
Derrick Gregor	Wethersfield
Adam Kessler	Windsor
Chris Kervick	Windsor Locks

<u>Guests</u>	
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Kristin Solloway	Fuss & O'Neill
James Brennan	West Hartford

<u>Staff</u>	
Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
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 11:01 am by the Chair, Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield.
- 2. Public Forum** – No one chose to speak.
- 3. Adoption of Minutes from Cost Review Sub-Committee Meeting on September 20, 2021** – A motion was made by Jeffrey Doolittle from the Town of South Windsor, seconded by Dave Smith from the Town of Vernon, to approve the minutes from the Cost Review Sub-Committee meeting held on September 20, 2021. This motion was passed unanimously.

4. LOTCIP Funding Increase Requests:

- **Simsbury Hopmeadow Stand-Alone Sidewalk Project** – Ms. Sotora Montanari reviewed the LOTCIP funding increase request for Simsbury Hopmeadow Street Connectivity Project (128-0002). She stated that the project was originally approved as a 4,000-ft Stand-Alone Sidewalk Project for \$809,600 in the 2020 Solicitation. Ms. Montanari indicated the project has progressed to the 90% design phase, and the Town of Simsbury is requesting a funding increase of \$445,979 from \$809,600 to \$1,255,579 (55% increase).

Based on CTDOT's feedback the Town is proposing to add a retaining wall made of pre-cast concrete blocks in the amount of \$123,125 to mitigate a direct impact to the wetlands at the Saxton Brook culvert. Ms. Montanari stated that if the headwall is replaced, then the culvert would also need to be replaced according to CTDOT. The Town deemed the culvert replacement cost prohibitive and outside the scope of the proposed project and opted for a precast concrete block wall treatment. Additionally, Ms. Montanari noted that during the public information meeting business owners in the project area listed the need for street lighting along the proposed sidewalk along the west side of Hopmeadow Street. She said the Town is requesting the addition of pedestrian level lighting for \$208,000 to enhance pedestrian safety and the lights will match the existing downtown area lighting just south of the proposed project.

Mr. Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury explained the Town's decision in not replacing the culvert and subsequently adding the retaining wall of pre-cast concrete blocks. Mr. Dave Smith from the Town of Vernon asked if the culvert will need to be replaced by CTDOT in the near future and disrupt the completed sidewalk project. Mr. Roy said there are no indications of poor condition of the existing culvert.

A motion was made by Adam Kessler from the Town of Windsor, seconded by Kirk Severance from the Town of Granby, to approve an additional \$445,979 of LOTCIP funding for the Simsbury Hopmeadow Street (State Route 10/202) Connectivity Project (L128-0002), increasing the funding approval from \$809,600 to \$1,255,579. This motion was passed unanimously.

- **West Hartford Trout Brook Multi-Use Trail** – Ms. Sotora Montanari discussed the LOTCIP funding increase request for the West Hartford Trout Brook Phase 6 Multi-Use Trail Project (L155-0001). Ms. Montanari stated this project was originally approved for \$355,200 in the 2014 Solicitation, with a subsequent funding increase in 2017, making the total project cost estimate \$512,400. She stated that the project has progressed through the final design phase. She indicated the Town of West Hartford is requesting a LOTCIP funding increase of \$370,800 from \$512,400 to \$883,200 (72% increase).

Ms. Montanari stated the Multi-Use Trail is proposed on property owned by DEEP, so the Town has also been working with DDEP since 2019 towards an easement and maintenance agreement. During the 2019 permit review, DEEP and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) determined that the existing and proposed retaining walls were in an obstruction to the floodway. Therefore, the Town modified them to alleviate these concerns. Ms. Montanari stated the design change increased the project cost by \$102,000. She indicated the easement and maintenance agreement with DEEP was recently approved, which will allow the town to proceed to bidding and construction of the trail. Due to delays in obtaining an easement and maintenance agreement, and considerable price increases across the board due to industry supply chain and labor shortages, the cost of the project

unit prices has increased overall to \$883,200. Additionally, the Town has recently received bids on an adjoining trail project to substantiate the increase.

Mr. Greg Sommer of West Hartford explained that the Town is eager to construct this project and has already started construction of Phase 5. He said it was a complex project having to resolve maintenance and easement issues. He indicated the Town is comfortable with the estimate they provided. Mr. Dave Smith of Vernon asked when the Town will bid the project. Mr. Sommer indicated they will be bid the project this winter, and he anticipates that the estimate will be sufficient.

A motion was made by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury, seconded by Dave Smith from the Town of Vernon, to approve an additional \$370,800 of LOTCIP funding for the West Hartford Trout Brook Phase 6 Multi-Use Trail Project (L155-0001), increasing the funding approval from \$512,400 to \$888,200. This motion was passed unanimously.

- **Windsor Locks Downtown Complete Streets Phase 1** – Ms. Sotora Montanari discussed the LOTCIP funding increase request for Windsor Locks Downtown Complete Streets Improvements Phase 1 Project (L165-0002). She stated that this project was originally approved for \$2,907,600 in the 2015 Solicitation, with a Commitment to Fund letter issued in June 2018. The project has progressed through the semi-final (60%) design phase. Ms. Montanari stated the Town of Windsor Locks is requesting a LOTCIP funding increase of \$2,393,400 from \$2,907,600 to \$5,300,000 (82.2% increase). She explained that to mitigate the funding increase, the Town has agreed to opt out of the 2022 Solicitation pending the Committee approval, and the Town did not pursue a 2020 LOTCIP Solicitation project in anticipation of this funding increase request.

Ms. Montanari said during the review process CTDOT staff and the Town's consultant made several design revisions that require a partial acquisition of a commercial building. A significant portion of the funding increase is the result of the pending right-of-way (ROW) acquisition, necessary for the project construction, with an additional estimated \$705,000 of costs, including building demolition. Additionally, Ms. Montanari said the State has made significant investments in the Windsor Locks Train Station and transit-oriented development (TOD) in the vicinity of this project, envisioning increased bus shuttle service from the train station to the regional airport.

First Selectman Chris Kervick from the Town of Windsor Locks explained the evolution of the project and its cost estimate increases. He stated that the roundabout is the core element of the new rail station re-design and identified it as a major traffic calming element in the Town's Complete Street Study. He said CTDOT has been involved throughout the project's design phases, and the Town has addressed their concerns. Unfortunately, because of the re-design, a partial building acquisition was necessary, which has driven up the costs. Mr. Kervick further stated the Town opted out of both the 2020 and 2022 Solicitation because of the high costs.

Mr. Jon Colman addressed the Sub-Committee and indicated that he believed the presented solution was excellent given the circumstances and much deliberation. He said that the design change resulted in a substantial acquisition not foreseen in the original application. Mr. Colman applauded the Town, CTDOT, and CRCOG for identifying a solution that aligns with the Town's vision. He also reiterated that the Town had graciously opted out of both 2020 and 2022 LOTCIP Solicitations to compensate for this funding increase. Mr. Dave Smith from the Town of Vernon asked if the project will be capped at the \$5.3M, and the response was affirmative.

A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by Adam Kessler from the Town of Windsor, to approve an additional \$2,392,400 of LOTCIP funding for the Windsor Locks Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Phase 1 Project (L165-0002), increasing the funding approval from \$2,907,600 to \$5,300,000, capping the funding at \$5,300,000 with the Town agreeing to opt out of the 2022 LOTCIP Solicitation. This motion was passed unanimously.

5. LOTCIP (Draft) 2022 Solicitation Selection Policy – Mr. Robert Aloise discussed the LOTCIP (Draft) 2022 Solicitation Selection Policy, which updates the policy that had been previously approved. Mr. Aloise indicated that in conversations with CTDOT, inefficiencies were identified and CTDOT indicated that there would be revisions to their LOTCIP guidelines, specifically related to pavement. The proposed changes to CRCOG’s selection policy mirrored the CTDOT revisions. Mr. Aloise highlighted the proposed changes, including that CTDOT now identified four (4) pavement categories instead of the current two (2). He indicated there are categories that have not previously used, such as pavement preservation. Mr. Aloise explained that minor rehabilitation includes pavement preservation and mill and pave projects. Major rehabilitation projects are for reclamation and peel and pave projects or minor reconstruction projects. The major rehabilitation projects would not count against the 15% allocation for rehabilitation projects. Mr. Aloise also discussed the amount of test pits required to identify the existing sub-base. He mentioned that CTDOT is allowing CRCOG consultants to review pavement categories and design analysis to better identify pavement treatments before applications are submitted.

Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough asked if the consultants will potentially analyze the cores after the application process. Mr. Aloise said they will review the pavement design and identify its treatment appropriateness. He also asked if CTDOT has provided their full updated guideline document. Mr. Aloise indicated it has not yet been made available, but CRCOG has had meetings with various units at CTDOT. Mr. Jeff Doolittle from the Town of South Windsor asked for clarification regarding how many and when cores will be completed. Mr. Aloise indicated that Mr. Doolittle’s reading of the guidelines appeared to be correct. Mr. Jon Colman asked if it would be premature to approve the updated policy given the potential of additional changes to CTDOT’s guidelines. Mr. Aloise noted that it was important to pass the Project Selection Policy for Towns who are applying under this solicitation. Mr. Aloise also stated that based on the numerous conversations that CRCOG has had with CTDOT, additional changes are not anticipated.

A motion was made by Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough, seconded by Adam Kessler from Windsor, to approve the updated LOTCIP Project Selection Policy. This motion was passed unanimously.

6. Other Business – Mr. Robert Aloise asked everyone who attended the Cost Review Sub-Committee Meeting to also attend the Transportation Committee meeting to help ensure a quorum.

- The next Cost Review Sub-Committee meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2021 at 11:30 am.

7. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am via a motion by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury, seconded by Dave Smith from the Town of Vernon.