



**Corridor Advisory Committee Of Chief Elected Officials for
CTfastrak and CTraill-Hartford Line
Zoom Video Call**

Thursday, February 24, 2022, 8:30 AM

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Attendees	
Michael Freda	Chris Edge
Dana Roscoe	James Rode
Nat Gale	Yure Kuljis
Renata Bertotti	Jonathan Cabral
Lisa Rivers	Pam Sucato
Patrick McMahon	Lyle Wray
Cara Radzins	Rob Aloise
Tim Malone	

Call to Order

Michael Freda called the meeting to order.

1. **Welcome and Introductions: Co-Chair Michael J. Freda, First Selectman, North Haven**

2. **Acceptance of April 6, 2021 Meeting Notes.**

Chris Edge moved approval of the meeting notes from April 6, 2021 as presented. Michael Freda seconded the motion. Passed unanimously by a voice vote.

3. **Introduction of those present.**

Michael Freda called on each participant to introduce themselves.

4. **CTDOT Commissioner Remarks.**

The Commissioner was not in attendance.

5. **New Co-Chair Appointment Discussion**

Lyle Wray noted that Chris Kervick from Windsor Locks had been the previous Co-Chair of the committee, but that he was no longer with the town. Chris Edge offered to co-chair the committee. There was a question about whether or not the co-chair should be a chief elected official or town manager. Michael Freda stated that Lyle and Tim from CRCOG would come up with a recommendation.

6. **Update CTfastrak Service. CTDOT Staff.**

Lisa Rivers gave an update on the service. Ridership is back up to 70% of where it was before COVID. Parking lots are full again. CTDOT is working on updates to the information technology systems on the guideway that include the installation of fiber optic cable. Similar upgrades are happening on the Berlin Turnpike. Lyle Wray asked for an update on the automated bus project on the guideway. Lisa described the service and noted that it would be a level 4 automated bus. She described some of the automated features, which includes navigating intersections with connected vehicle technology, pulling up to platforms, and platooning buses. The latter could allow for more efficient use of buses and allow for additional capacity.

Nate Gale asked if it would be possible to coordinate fiber installation between the City and CTDOT. Lisa suggested that a coordination with highway operations would be in order.

Renata Bertotti asked about the schedule for the Berlin Turnpike project. Lisa offered to find out from the people managing the project.

7. **Update CTrail Service. CTDOT Staff.**

Yure Kuljis gave a presentation on the Hartford Line. The presentation has been posted to the CRCOG website.

Renata asked for information on how it was determined which stations would move to design. Yure offered to connect offline.

Tim Malone asked what it meant that West Hartford is “returning to design”. Yure answered that it means that design has restarted for the station.

Patrick McMahon asked about the status of double tracking to the Mass border. Yure responded that it is in design and is part of phase 3B.

8. **Hartford to Boston Rail Update.**

Lyle Wray discussed the analysis that was performed by AECOM for CRCOG on the economic impacts of the East-West rail. He noted that it would have a 10 to 1 payback.

He also explained that two major advancements have occurred. There is a new agreement between CSX and Amtrak related to passenger service on the line. The second piece is that Congressman Neal and Governor Baker agreed to step up the Springfield to Worcester rail process. They are now pushing for federal money to get the process underway.

9. **TOD Update**

Tim Malone gave an update on a study being conducted by CRCOG. The study will select a site in each of the CRCOG towns that host a CTfastrak or CTrail station and do a granular analysis of financial feasibility of developing those sites. The study is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2022.

Lyle Wray also noted that momentum behind TOD in the corridor is increasing. Renata mentioned that Newington has approved 346 units in the Cedar Street TOD district.

Lyle Wray noted that New Britain has had a tremendous acceleration of development in the downtown area.

Patrick McMahon gave an update on Windsor. They have four town center sites they are actively working on.

10. **Federal Infrastructure Update**

Lyle Wray explained that over the next five years there will be a major infusion of federal funding. There will be a major challenge for towns, COGs, and the state to absorb this money. Rob Aloise noted that there was recently another continuing resolution which means we are still waiting for the increased funding levels to take effect. Michael Freda noted that COGs will play a huge role in allocating funding.

Patrick McMahon noted that quiet zones are an increasing issue in some communities. Windsor has done its own study regarding costs of putting in the technology to allow for quiet zones. The costs are quite steep and should be addressed at a regional or state level. Renata noted that Meriden had done something similar.

11. **Remarks from Representative Haskell**

Representative Haskell was not able to be in attendance. It was noted that staff will reach out to him for the next meeting.

12. **Possible Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date.**

Chris Edge gave an update on mixed use developments near the Berlin train station. Newport Realty should be breaking ground on buildings 2 and 3 soon.

Lyle Wray suggested updating on the same subjects for a future meeting, especially the federal infrastructure bill.

Chris Edge asked if it makes sense to have someone from Massachusetts at a future meeting. Dana Roscoe from the Pioneer Planning Commission noted that Governor Baker's position on East-West rail has changed. The Governor had previously not been supportive of the project. He also noted that Senator Lesser, a big supporter of East-West rail, is running for lieutenant governor. Lyle Wray noted that no other projects in the pipeline have as potentially large of an impact as East-West rail.

Renata suggested having a list of priority projects for the region and then reviewing that list in terms of the infrastructure needed.

Lyle added that this was done in Colorado. It could be used to help advance a broader view of how future infrastructure money could be used.

Tim Malone noted that CRCOG had previously done station area reports for the corridor. He suggested that this is something that could be resurrected.

Nat Gale suggested it could also include a list of city infrastructure projects.

Lyle suggested that Rob and Cara could look at the issues.

13. Other Business and Announcements

No other business came before the committee.

Chris Edge moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Renata Bertotti. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:35.