

Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, May 24, 2021

12 Noon

Meeting held remotely via Zoom

DRAFT until

Endorsed

by the

Committee

Name

Eric Anderson
 Larry Baril
 Chris Edge
 Jon Colman
 Patrice Carson
 Neil Pade
 Todd Penney
 Doug Wilson
 Len Norton
 Timothy Webb
 Russ Arnold
 Daniel Pennington
 Kirk Severance
 Frank Dellaripa
 Sandy Fry
 Jeff LaMalva
 John Carrington
 Peter Hughes
 Rob Trottier
 Gary Fuerstenberg
 Jim Sollmi
 Todd Rolland
 Jeffrey Doolittle
 Devin Cowperthwaite
 Bill Hawkins
 David Smith
 Duane Martin
 Derrick Gregor
 Adam Kessler
 Jennifer Rodriguez
 LaShaunda Drake

Organization

Andover
 Avon
 Berlin
 Bloomfield
 Bolton
 Canton
 Coventry
 East Hartford
 East Windsor
 Ellington
 Farmington
 Glastonbury
 Granby
 Hartford
 Hartford
 Manchester
 Mansfield
 Marlborough
 New Britain
 Newington
 Rocky Hill
 Somers
 South Windsor
 Stafford
 Suffield
 Vernon
 West Hartford
 Wethersfield
 Windsor
 Windsor Locks
 GHTD

Guests

Michael Ahern	Berlin
Mike Fisher	BL Companies
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
John Lawlor	East Hartford
Jennifer Carrier	FHWA
Joshua Aldrich	Fuss & O'Neill

John Guzze
James Kulpa

Fuss & O'Neill
VHB

Staff

Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Stephanie Camp	CRCOG – Intern
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Anirea Ortiz	CRCOG – Intern
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Alphabetically by Member Municipality, then others. The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm by the Chair, Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield.
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Minutes** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to approve the Transportation Committee meeting minutes from April 26, 2021. This motion passed unanimously.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **Commuter Parking Lot Utilization** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CRCOG staff conducted park and ride lot counts in April and that the rate of utilization of the lots remains low. Ms. Radzins noted that in the early peak of COVID the rate of utilization was 4.8% and went up to 7.4% in Fall 2020 before falling to 6.4% this April, as compared to an average of 32% utilization pre-COVID. Ms. Radzins noted that the decrease in usage may be due to people’s reluctance to use shared transportation services such as express bus or carpooling. She mentioned that they will go back out in the Fall to see the trend of the lots moving forward.
 - **CTrides Quarterly Report** – Mr. Ryan Faulkner gave highlights from the **CTrides** quarterly report for the first quarter of 2021. Mr. Faulkner mentioned that as of March 31, the total number of **CTrides** employer participants, stakeholders, and community participants is 314 and the **CTrides** Outreach Team held 183 events and meetings. He also mentioned that **CTrides** notified its 2021 Transportation Leader (TL) members of their achievement, delivered digital seals, and invited TL members to a recognition event. **CTrides** also continued strategic planning of activities with partners, continued emphasis on virtual events for partners and stakeholders, and completed content development for new targeted outreach initiatives to engage employers based on workforce needs (telecommuting vs. essential employees commuting to worksites). **CTrides** also developed outreach

initiatives aimed at streamlining the TL Program, expanded use of its virtual event room, and engaged more employers to work on their return to work plans.

- **2022 LOTCIP Project Solicitation: DRAFT Schedule & Funding Allocations** – Ms. Sotoria shared that during the Cost Review Sub-Committee, DRAFT Schedule and Funding Allocations for a 2022 LOTCIP Project Solicitation were discussed. Ms. Montanari stated that \$38 million of LOTCIP projects were proposed to be selected, which correlates with the State budget over the next two (2) years. Ms. Montanari said that a revised Solicitation Selection Policy will be presented to the TC for review and discussion in June, with approval anticipated in July. A solicitation letter will then be issued to municipalities in September or October.
- **Metro Hartford-Springfield Passenger Rail Economic Impact Study** – Mr. Tim Malone gave a brief update on the findings of the Metro Hartford-Springfield Passenger Rail Economic Impact Study. Mr. Malone noted that the results of this study were shared at a press event in Springfield by Congressmen John Larson and Richard Neal. He mentioned that the rail improvements would cost an estimated \$6 to \$9 billion to build. Mr. Malone stated that these improvements would result in \$47 to \$84 billion in new regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) over the next 30 years. He also mentioned that 20,000 to 40,000 jobs are missing from the Metro Hartford-Springfield region due to lack of regional and intercity rail connectivity. Mr. Malone mentioned that an executive summary and the full final report are now available on the CRCOG website.
- **Other: LOTCIP Guidelines and Policy Discussions** – Mr. Robert Aloise stated that CTDOT will be updating its LOTCIP guidelines in June. CRCOG staff requested an advance copy to review. CRCOG received some of the proposed guidelines for review, and CRCOG staff will be meeting with CTDOT on May 27 to discuss the revisions and potential concerns. Mr. Aloise noted that topics for the meeting include bridge repair and pavement service life standards, CTDOT reviews on municipal roadways, and the need for coordination on state roadways reviews. Mr. Aloise requested any input from the committee, and Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield opened the discussion to the Committee. Mr. Peter Hughes from the Town of Marlborough mentioned that a letter should be sent to the Commissioner stating that the revisions should be sent to all COGs for comment before issuance. There was additional discussion about CTDOT's pavement rehab policies and standards and the need to clarify expectations. Mr. Colman mentioned that these concerns are taking away from the intent of the program, adding costs, and not advancing projects efficiently. Mr. Aloise noted that upcoming retirements at CTDOT will result in more limited staff availability for reviews and that the original intent of LOTCIP was to address lack of CTDOT staff and to implement a more streamlined design review process. Mr. Aloise will give an update after the meeting.
- **Other: Digital Speed Feedback Signs** – Mr. Roger Krahn shared that Ms. Melissa Evans from the UConn T2 Center will have digital speed feedback signs available for pick-up for qualifying Towns (Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Canton, East Granby, Granby, Simsbury, Southington, and Willington) in Simsbury on June 2. Towns who are able to collect their signs that day will get them more quickly. Otherwise, Ms. Evans will reach out to each Town individually to arrange for delivery. There was a question about the funding source for these signs, and Mr. Krahn noted that it was

safety funding. After the meeting, he clarified that the funding was specifically for qualifying non-urban communities.

5. **TIP Amendments** – Mr. Robert Aloise reviewed the TIP Amendments. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jim Sollmi from the Town of Rocky Hill, to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.
 - CTTTransit Systemwide Admin Capital/Misc. Support FY 21
 - Statewide TDM (Greater CT Moderate)
 - Replace Retaining Wall at the South End of Bridge 01765
6. **LOTICIP Funding Increase Request: Berlin Various Roadways Structure Improvements Project** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the LOTICIP Funding Increase Request for the Town of Berlin. As discussed at the Cost Review Sub-Committee Meeting, based on reviews by the Town consultant and CTDOT, the construction cost of the project has increased from \$2,972,400 to \$4,265,481 (43.4% increase). To incorporate consultant and Town recommendations to account for payment design revisions, and in acknowledgement of the Town's pledge of \$365,481 towards the project, a motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Robert Trottier from the City of New Britain, to approve the additional \$927,600 of LOTICIP funding for the Berlin Various Roadways Structure Improvement Project (L007-0002), increasing the funding approval from \$2,972,400 to \$3,900,00. This motion was passed unanimously.
7. **FY2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CRCOG had received minor comments from CTDOT, FHWA, and FTA on the previously shared Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Ms. Radzins noted that the comments have been incorporated into the version of the document that was before the Committee for action. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to accept the FY2022-2023 UPWP. This motion was passed unanimously.
8. **FY2022-2023 CTDOT Planning Agreement Resolution** – Ms. Cara Radzins noted that CRCOG will enter into a new Planning Agreement with CTDOT for the work in the new UPWP. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to accept the Authorizing Resolution for Execution of Agreement with CTDOT for CRCOG's FY2022-2023 Transportation Planning Program. This motion was passed unanimously.
9. **Annual Urban Planning Certification Resolution** – Ms. Radzins explained that CRCOG annually self-certifies that its transportation planning program is compliant with federal regulations. The certification is updated to include the FFY2021-2024 TIP and FY2022-2023 UPWP. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to accept the Resolution for the Annual Urban Planning Certification. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 10. Transportation Planning Study Application Rankings** – Mr. Michael Cipriano noted that CRCOG released a Transportation Planning Study solicitation in March and received five (5) applications. Mr. Cipriano noted that he, Cara Radzins, and Tim Malone had each reviewed and rated these applications. The two highest scores were received by received five (5) study applications. The two (2) studies with the highest average scores were New Britain/Newington: Cedar Street – East Street – CCSU Connectivity Study and Canton: Route 44 Canton Design Village Districts and Farmington River Trail Extension. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Neil Pade from the Town of Canton, to recommend approval of the ranking and submission of the top two (2) studies to CTDOT for consideration. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 11. FTA Transit Safety Performance Measure Targets** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg gave a brief update on the need for CRCOG to adopt Transit Safety Performance Targets, details of which were previously shared with the Committee at the April meeting. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to recommend endorsement of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan Safety Management System Performance Targets set by CTDOT and the GHTD. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 12. Resolution Authorizing Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board** – Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield noted that Policy Board does not convene over the summer, and during that time Transportation Committee traditionally takes on that role. A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Devin Cowperthwaite from the Town of Stafford, to authorize a Resolution for the CRCOG Transportation Committee to Approve Action Items on Behalf of The CRCOG Policy Board. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 13. Other Business** – Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield asked if CRCOG staff had any information regarding in person meetings. Mr. Robert Aloise said there was some discussion regarding a hybrid approach and CROCG was testing some equipment to make such meetings feasible. He also noted that there is still a six-foot distance policy in place, which limits the number of people who can fit in the Board Room. Mr. Colman noted that meeting by Zoom was working well.
- 14. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm via a motion by Devin Cowperthwaite from the Town of Stafford, seconded by Todd Rolland from the Town of Somers.