

CRCOG Transportation Meeting
Monday, January 25, 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
Timothy Webb
Donald Nunes
Russ Arnold
Daniel Pennington
Frank Dellaripa
Sandy Fry
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
John Carrington
Peter Hughes
Robert Trottier
Gary Fuerstenberg
John Bossi
Tom Roy
Todd Rolland
Jeffrey Doolittle
Annette Turnquist
Karen Isherwood
Duane Martin
Derrick Gregor
Troy Sposato
Adam Kessler
Jennifer Rodriguez
Jennifer Cassidy

Organization

Andover
Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Coventry
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
Newington
Plainville
Simsbury
Somers
South Windsor
Southington
Suffield
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Willington
Windsor
Windsor Locks
GHTD

Guests

Erik Jarboe
Jonathan Thiesse
Andy Fesenmeyer
Grayson Wright
John Lawlor

AI Engineers
Bloomfield
CTDOT
CTDOT
East Hartford

Laurie Whitten	Enfield
Jennifer Carrier	FHWA
Mary Deppe	GHTD
CJ Ganza	New Britain
Casey Hardin	TranSystems

Staff

Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Chris Henchey	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	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 12:02pm by the Chair, Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield.
- 2. Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
- 3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2020** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington, to approve the meeting minutes from the December 14, 2020 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with two (2) abstentions made by Todd Penney from the Town of Coventry and Karen Isherwood from the Town of Suffield.
- 4. Staff Reports**
 - **New CRCOG Staff: Welcome Ryan Faulkner and Chris Henchey** – Mr. Robert Aloise introduced Ryan Faulkner and Chris Henchey who were recently joined CRCOG’s staff as Transportation Planners. Mr. Jon Colman welcomed Mr. Faulkner and Mr. Henchey, saying he looks forward to working with them.
 - **LOTICIP Quarterly Report – Quarter 2** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari reviewed the highlights of the LOTICIP Quarterly Report for Quarter 2. She mentioned that CTDOT issued an Authorization to Award Letter in the amount of \$613,894 for Manchester Tolland Turnpike Sidewalks. The anticipated expenditures for the remainder of the fiscal year are projected to be \$20,604,320. Ms. Montanari stated that CRCOG received two (2) final design submissions from Southington for Plantsville Intersection Improvements and from South Windsor for Avery Street Rehabilitation. She indicated project expenditures for Quarter 3 are anticipated at \$4,115,747. CRCOG received seven (7) Quarter 2 design submissions and

anticipates receipt of nineteen (19) design submissions in Quarter 3. Ms. Montanari mentioned that forty (40) Projects have been awarded or completed construction since program inception and CTDOT issued four (4) Commitment to Fund Letters for the following projects during this quarter: Farmington Colt Highway Roundabout Installation, East Hartford Brewer Street Phase 4 Reconstruction, Berlin Kensington Bridge Replacement, and Rocky Hill Elm Street Sidewalk installation. Rocky Hill was the first Town to receive a Commitment to Fund letter from the 2020 Solicitations. Ms. Montanari provided an update on 2020 Solicitation application reviews and submittals. Ms. Montanari indicated six (6) municipalities provided design scheduling updates during the Cost Review Subcommittee meeting. She explained that the Town of Suffield, which was included in the memo ahead of the meeting, did not provide an update because the design was submitted for review.

- **Section 5310 Update** – Mr. Devon Lechtenberg gave an update on the Section 5310 Program *Enhanced Mobility for Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities* competition for FFY 2019. He explained that the competition opened in late April 2020 with applications due by June 26, 2020. There were twenty-three (23) applications total for traditional (capital for vehicle purchases), non-traditional capital (for qualifying expenses), and non-traditional operating (operating expenses). CRCOG staff assisted CTDOT staff in scoring and ranking applications throughout the summer and fall until a consensus list emerged in November 2020. CTDOT staff notified applicants of their outcomes in mid-December 2020. Mr. Lechtenberg informed the Committee that there were eleven (11) recipients of traditional capital funding for vehicle purchases and three (3) for non-traditional operating funding from the Capitol Region. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield asked for more details regarding the list of awardees. Because selected towns and non-profits still need to complete additional processes and requirements prior to final approval by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Mr. Lechtenberg declined to publicly name the selected recipients. However, CRCOG staff will be able to update the Committee with the recipients list as well as award amounts following final FTA approval in the coming months.
- **FFY2020 Obligated Projects List** – Ms. Cara Radzins stated that the FFY2020 Obligated Project List was included in the meeting materials and is posted on the CRCOG website. Ms. Radzins noted that it is federally required that CRCOG make this list of federally funded projects publicly available each year. Ms. Radzins stated that the total funding amount shown on the list is \$246.5 million, and that there were no surprises on the list, as these projects had all been included on the TIP.
- **Transit Equity Day** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that a Transit Equity Day event in honor of Ms. Rosa Parks’s birthday will be held virtually on February 2, 2021 from 11:45am to 1:00pm. Ms. Radzins noted that speakers at the event will include State Rep. Roland Lemar (Transportation Committee Co-Chair), State Rep. Geraldo Reyes (Transportation Committee member and 2021 Chair of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus), as well as representatives from the Thank You Rosa Parks Legacy, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), and the Kennedy Center. A registration link for the event can be found on the flyer that was included in the meeting materials.
- **2021 CTDOT Corridor Study Solicitation** – Ms. Cara Radzins noted that at last month’s Transportation Committee meeting she had shared generally that CTDOT would be releasing a solicitation for corridor studies in 2021. Since then, CRCOG

staff has learned that CTDOT intends to release this solicitation in the first quarter of the year. Ms. Radzins will bring more details to the Committee when they are available, but she wanted to make members aware that this solicitation would be upcoming sooner than later.

- **2021 CRCOG Legislative Agenda** – Mr. Robert Aloise shared that CRCOG’s Policy Board recently finalized a legislative agenda for 2021. Mr. Aloise stated that the agenda is a much shorter agenda than previous years, with a Transportation focus on funding the Special Transportation Fund (STF). He stated that it was very important to secure the revenue sources to make the STF solvent. Mr. Aloise was hopeful that the new administration and congress will pass a new Transportation bill to replace the continuing resolution that is currently in place for the previous legislation. Dr. Lyle Wray added that the Governor is not in favor of cost increases across the board. Dr. Wray also mentioned that there was \$4.3 billion dollars of bonds for Transportation approved but not yet issued. Dr. Wray and Mr. Aloise will keep the Committee updated.
- **2021 OPM Legislative Agenda – Transportation** – Mr. Roger Krahn highlighted the following transportation related legislative proposals that were included by CTDOT in the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management’s Transportation Agency Legislative Proposals for 2021:
 - A Pedestrian and Bike Safety proposal 1) to enable municipalities to change speed limits on municipal -owned roads, 2) to allow municipalities or CTDOT to create pedestrian safety zones, 3) to require motorists to grant the right of way to pedestrians standing at the curb intending to cross the road in a crosswalk, 4) to clarify that vehicles must not be parked within 25 feet of a marked crosswalk, and 5) to require people in a parked vehicle to open their door with caution for moving vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
 - A proposal to revise existing public-private partnerships (P3) statutes in a manner consistent with other state DOTs.
 - A proposal to authorize CTDOT or the CT State Police to use automated speed control technology in highway work zones.
 - A proposal to 1) require all passengers in motor vehicles to wear seatbelts (including rear seats) 2) prohibit open alcohol beverage containers in passenger compartments of motor vehicles, 3) require all motorcycle operators and passengers to wear protective headgear, and 4) to reduce the maximum blood alcohol content level to 0.05% .
 - A proposal to update the current statute to better align automated vehicle statutes with national best practices.
- **Other** – Dr. Lyle Wray noted that the RFP for a joint lobbyist with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been released. He will update the Committee as more information is available.

5. TIP Amendments – They were no TIP amendments for action this month.

6. CMAQ Program – Project Rating Criteria – Mr. Pramod Pandey gave an update on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. Mr. Pandey reported that CRCOG staff has developed recommend rating criteria for this Program. He stated that the criteria mirrors that of CTDOT so that selected projects can compete well against

projects from other regions. Mr. Pandey reviewed the rating criteria that were outlined in the meeting materials and reminded the group that the deadline for submission is February 19, 2021, with recommended selections being brought to the Committee for discussion and endorsement at the March 22, 2021 meeting. Mr. Pandey noted that the Cost Review Subcommittee had reviewed and accepted the criteria at their meeting early in the day. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington, to accept the CMAQ Program Project Rating Criteria as presented. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 7. LOTCIP Funding Increase Request** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari stated that the Town of Newington is requesting a scope modification and LOTCIP funding increase of \$645,000 from \$2,031,000 to \$2,676,00 (31.7% increase) for the Newington Complete Streets Project (L093-0001). Ms. Montanari stated the project incorporates complete streets improvements along two (2) miles of Robbins Avenue, was approved under the 2018 Solicitation, and has progressed through the 90% design phase. The requested scope modifications and funding increase are to address feedback from CTDOT District and Traffic Unit reviews, which included intersection and drainage improvements, mainly at Robbins Avenue intersection with Main Street (SR176). These improvements address public safety concerns, traffic flow, drainage, and bike and pedestrian connectivity. Ms. Montanari also mentioned that improving the right-turning radius will better accommodate larger vehicles. Further improvements include modifying the pedestrian signals and extending bike lanes 350 feet and extending sidewalk 350 feet from Main Street to Walsh Avenue, completing a sidewalk gap. The total intersection improvements amount to a \$250,000. The drainage improvements consist of removing 1,500 feet of corrugated, corroded metal pipe and replacing it with new HDPE pipe. Total drainage improvements amount to \$280,000. Because of the proposed improvements, more funding will need to be allocated for maintenance and protection of traffic during construction at a cost of \$115,000. Ms. Montanari stated that the Subcommittee approved the increase and recommended it for approval. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Neil Pade from the Town of Canton, to approve the described scope modification, resulting in an additional \$645,000 of LOTCIP funding for the Newington project (L093-0001), increasing the funding approval from \$2,031,000 to \$2,676,000. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 8. Enfield Traffic Impact Study for Routes 190 and 220: Authorizing Resolution** – Ms. Caitlin Palmer gave a brief overview of the Enfield Traffic Impact Study for Routes 190 and 220. Ms. Palmer noted that CRCOG had undertaken a qualifications-based selection process and identified CDM Smith as the top-rated consultant. Ms. Palmer explained that CRCOG has already received an updated Project Authorization Letter (PAL) from CTDOT and that this authorizing resolution, once approved by the Policy Board, would allow Dr. Lyle Wray to sign a contract with that consultant. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Eric Anderson from the Town of Andover, to endorse the Authorizing Resolution for the Enfield Traffic Impact Study for Routes 190 and 220. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 9. Presentation – Greater Hartford Mobility Study: Kevin Burnham DOT and Casey Hardin, TranSystems** – Mr. Kevin Burnham was unable to attend, so Mr. Andy

Fesenmeyer and Mr. Casey Hardin gave a brief presentation on the Greater Hartford Mobility Study. Mr. Hardin presented a three-minute video that summarizes the study and will be used as a cornerstone of the effort's public outreach website. The study is a holistic approach to identify multimodal mobility improvements in the Hartford Region. Mr. Hardin noted that public outreach for this effort will primarily be a virtual experience, with both static and "live" question and answer events. More information about the study can be found at <https://www.hartfordmobility.com/>. Dr. Lyle Wray noted that this is an important study and that CRCOG is supportive of it. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield asked whether the study would be factoring in the changing travel demands from COVID-19 as well as updated technologies like autonomous vehicles. Mr. Hardin replied that the study team will be working with stakeholders to understand changes in travel demand, and the study team will also be using scenario planning. Mr. Colman noted that he is looking forward to the process and outcome of this study. Mr. Hardin stated that he looked forward to continuing to work with CRCOG on this effort.

10. **Other Business** – Dr. Lyle Wray mentioned that the Economic Impact Study for improved rail between Hartford and Boston is close to being ready for release. Dr. Wray stated that CRCOG staff will share the study's outcomes more fully with the Committee soon, but he summarized that improved rail service along this corridor would have a significant return on investment over 30 to 40 years.
11. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:59pm via a motion by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin.