

CRCOG Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2021
12:00 PM
Meeting held remotely via Zoom

Name

Eric Anderson
Larry Baril
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Patrice Carson
Neil Pade
Todd Penney
Gary Haynes
Doug Wilson
Len Norton
Tim Webb
Russell Arnold
Daniel Pennington
Kirk Severance
Kevin Kelly
Jeff LaMalva
Derek Dilaj
Peter Hughes
Gary Fuerstenberg
John Bossi
Steve Sopolak
Tom Roy
Todd Rolland
Jeffrey Doolittle
Annette Turnquist
Devin Cowperthwaite
Karen Isherwood
David Corcoran
David Smith
Greg Sommer
Derrick Gregor
Troy Sposato
Adam Kessler
Jennifer Rodriguez
Martha Kelly
Paul McNamara

Guests

Jonathan Thiesse
Grayson Wright
Jennifer Carrier
Chuck Harlow
Kristin Solloway

Organization

Andover
Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Coventry
East Granby
East Hartford
East Windsor
Ellington
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hebron
Manchester
Mansfield
Marlborough
Newington
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Somers
South Windsor
Southington
Stafford
Suffield
Tolland
Vernon
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Willington
Windsor
Windsor Locks
CCEEJ
GHTD

DRAFT until
Endorsed by
the
Committee

Mary Deppe	GHTD
Dale Abbot	VHB
Joseph Balskus	VHB
Will Britnell	VHB
James Kulpa	VHB
Eric Tang	VHB
James Brennan	West Hartford
Jay Stange	West Hartford Resident
Chris Kervick	Windsor Locks

Staff

Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Ryan Faulkner	CRCOG
Norell Ferguson	CRCOG/Intern
Maureen Goulet	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Tim Malone	CRCOG
Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Terri Thompson	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG/Emeritus

- 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** – Mr. Jay Stange, a resident from the Town of West Hartford mentioned to the Committee that on Friday, November 19th Committee members are invited to attend a Multimodal meet-up hosted by Bike Walk CT, BiCiCo, and Bike West Hartford. The event will feature an informal conversation on how to improve active transportation routes between Harford and West Hartford. He stated this even would be held at WeHa Brewing & Roasting. Mr. Stange mentioned that if anyone is interested, they can contact him at jstange@gmail.com. He also shared the [event link](#).
- 3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes from October 25, 2021** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, to accept the minutes from the Transportation Committee meeting on October 25, 2021. This motion was passed unanimously with two (2) abstentions by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington and Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington.
- 4. Staff Report**
 - CTDOT 2022 Safety Targets** – Mr. Roger Krahn explained his November 5th memo regarding CTDOT’s request for CRCOG’s support of its calendar year 2022 Safety Performance Targets. FHWA requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations to either support the statewide targets or develop their own. CTDOT’s technical memo explaining their process of selecting the targets was attached to Mr. Krahn’s

memo, as well as a draft resolution of support. CRCOG staff will request action by the Transportation Committee at the December meeting. Mr. Jon Colman noted that the targets are not as aggressive as he liked but that previous discussions had suggested that CRCOG does not have the capacity to track its own targets.

- **LOTICIP Quarterly Report** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari provided highlights of the LOTICIP Quarterly Report for Quarter 1 of FY2022. She mentioned CTDOT issued one (1) Authorization to Award Letter in the amount of \$1,043,400 for the Plainville Town Line Road Project (L109-0003). Ms. Montanari reported that five (5) projects received Authorization to Advertise Letters in the amount of \$11,157,904: Suffield Route 168 Mountain Road Multi-Use Trail, Stafford Leonard Road Bridge Replacement, Coventry Swamp Road Intersection, Hartford Boce Barlow/Main Street, and Vernon Dart Hill Road Bridge. She mentioned CRCOG received nine (9) design submissions and anticipates receipt of seventeen (17) design submissions in Quarter 2: four (4) preliminary design, five (5) 90% design, and eight (8) final design. She said forty-two (42) projects have been awarded or completed construction since program inception. Additionally, she reported that CTDOT issued four (4) Commitment to Fund Letters for Glastonbury Main Street Improvements, Hebron Matin Road Reconstruction, Glastonbury Gateway Corporate Pedestrian Improvements, and Farmington Brickyard Road Phase 2 Rehabilitation. Four (4) applications were submitted to CTDOT. Municipal representatives from Manchester and Bloomfield provided scheduling updates on their projects, and Ms. Montanari noted that she would follow-up with the Town of Berlin to get their scheduling update.
- **Commuter Parking Lot Utilization** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that in October CRCOG staff conducted its biannual survey of commuter parking lot utilization. Ms. Radzins also mentioned that there was a 3% increase in utilization compared to Spring 2021. While the overall utilization rate of 9.3% was the highest since the start of the pandemic, it still lagged behind the pre-COVID average rate of 31.9%. Ms. Radzins noted that it was encouraging to see some increase and that staff would conduct another count in the Spring.
- **Other: Boston Rail Webinar** – Mr. Tim Malone shared with the Committee that on Thursday, November 18th, CRCOG and UConn’s Department of Public Policy will be hosting a webinar entitled *Investing Infrastructure to Accelerate Economic Growth, Economic Impact of Hartford Springfield Boston Rail Service*. Mr. Malone mentioned that this webinar will discuss the findings of the study that CRCOG and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission recently commissioned to look at the economic impact restoring regular passenger rail service from Hartford to Springfield to Boston. The moderator of the webinar will be James Redeker of FHI Studio and a former CTDOT Commissioners. Presenters will be Steve Gazillo and his team from AECOM, authors of economic impact study and Dan Hodge, Executive Vice President of Cambridge Econometrics, Inc. Panelists include Mayor Luke Bronin of the City of Hartford and Kim Robinson, Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.
- **Other: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** – Mr. Rob Aloise noted that it is anticipated that President Biden will sign the new transportation infrastructure bill – the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*– into law today. Under IIJA, \$1 trillion would be distributed over the next five (5) years. Mr. Aloise mentioned that the bulk of the money is for Transportation but also includes funding for infrastructure related to energy, power, and broadband as well as smaller amounts for natural disaster prevention, wastewater, and cyber security.

Mr. Aloise noted that IIJA is a huge ramp-up from previous funding levels. He also mentioned that CTDOT anticipated a 50% increase in federal funding, which would equate to a 30% increase in overall capital improvement programs. Mr. Aloise stated that CTDOT will be looking to hire an additional 400 persons to handle this work and compensate for retirements. He also mentioned that the bill has changes to MPO requirements, which will include more responsibilities. Mr. Aloise said CROG staff is watching intently and will react accordingly.

Mr. Eric Anderson of the Town of Andover asked if any of the funding will be allocated to municipalities. Mr. Aloise said funding programs like Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) would see more funding under IIJA, and this funding would get allocated to local projects. Mr. Aloise also noted that STP-Urban funding increased. Mr. Anderson asked if more funding would be allocated to the Town Aid Road program, and Mr. Aloise noted that he did not believe so. Mr. Jon Colman noted that the increase in STP-Urban funding should translate to an increase in LOTCIP funding. Mr. Aloise stated that there are still a lot of details to figure out.

5. TIP Amendments – Mr. Rob Aloise revised the TIP Amendments. A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin, seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, to approve the TIP Amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

- I-91/ I-84 – Replace Highway Signs on Ramps
- US 6 / I-384 -Replace Highway Signs & Supports
- I-84 - Replace Highway Signs & Supports

6. LOTCIP Funding Increase/Scope Modification Requests – Ms. Sotora Montanari reviewed the three (3) LOTCIP funding increased that were recommended for approval by the Cost Review Sub-Committee. A motion was made by Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington, seconded by Devin Cowperthwaite from the Town of Stafford, to approve LOTCIP funding increases for the projects. This motion was passed unanimously.

- Simsbury Hopmeadow Stand-Alone Sidewalk Project: funding increase of \$445,979 from \$809,600 to \$1,255,579 (55% increase)
- West Hartford Trout Brook Multi-Use Trail: funding increase of \$370,800 from \$512,400 to \$883,200 (72% increase)
- Windsor Locks Downtown Complete Streets Phase 1: funding increase of \$2,393,400 from \$2,907,600 to \$5,300,000 (82% increase – capped) and Windsor Locks will not submit a project under the 2022 LOTCIP Solicitation

7. LOTCIP (Draft) 2022 Solicitation Selection Policy – Mr. Rob Aloise reviewed the updated 2022 LOTCIP Solicitation Selection Policy. After some discussion at the preceding meeting, the Cost Review Sub-Committee recommended approval of the changes to the Selection Policy to align with the anticipated changes that will be included in the updated CTDOT LOTCIP guidelines. Mr. Aloise noted that CROG staff have had numerous meetings with CTDOT to coordinate on LOTCIP guidelines. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Tom Roy from the Town of Simsbury, to accept the changes made to the LOTCIP 2022 Solicitation Selection Policy. This motion was passed unanimously.

- 8. Resolution: East Windsor Route 5 Study Final Report** – Mr. Pramod Pandey mentioned requested endorsement of the East Windsor Route 5 Study Final Report, noting that the recommendations had been endorsed by the East Windsor Town Council. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Tim Webb from the Town of Ellington, to endorse the East Windsor Route 5 Study Final Report. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 9. Regional Roundabout Screening Introduction and Discussion** – Mr. Roger Krahn explained that CRCOG’s Unified Work Program includes a screening study to identify intersections in the region that would result in significant crash reductions and traffic operational improvement if converted to a single lane roundabout. CRCOG staff completed CTDOT’s consultant selection process and selected VHB to assist with this study. VHB presented an outline of the study and explained their GIS tool that will be used to solicit feedback on potential intersection locations from Transportation Committee members. The study is targeted for completion in June 2022. The GIS tool will be available for use by Transportation Committee members this week, and feedback is requested to be submitted no later than December 15, 2021. Questions about this study can be sent to Roger Krahn at rkrahn@crcog.org and Joe Balskus at jbalskus@vhb.com.
- 10. Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.
- 11. Adjourn** – Mr. Jon Colman wished the Committee a Happy Thanksgiving. The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm via a motion by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Chris Edge form the Town of Berlin.