

CRCOG Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday February 22, 2021
12 Noon
Meeting held remotely via Zoom

DRAFT until
Endorsed
by the
Committee

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Organization</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Eric Anderson | Andover |
| Larry Baril | Avon |
| Chris Edge | Berlin |
| Jon Colman | Bloomfield |
| Patrice Carson | Bolton |
| Doug Wilson | East Hartford |
| Len Norton | East Windsor |
| Donald Nunes | Enfield |
| Russ Arnold | Farmington |
| Daniel Pennington | Glastonbury |
| Kirk Severance | Granby |
| Frank Dellaripa | Hartford |
| Sandy Fry | Hartford |
| Kevin Kelly | Hebron |
| John Carrington | Mansfield |
| Peter Hughes | Marlborough |
| Rob Trottier | New Britain |
| Gary Fuerstenberg | Newington |
| Jim Sollmi | Rocky Hill |
| Tom Roy | Simsbury |
| Todd Rolland | Somers |
| Jeffrey Doolittle | South Windsor |
| Annette Turnquist | Southington |
| Devin Cowperthwaite | Stafford |
| Karen Isherwood | Suffield |
| David Smith | Vernon |
| Greg Sommer | West Hartford |
| Derrick Gregor | Wethersfield |
| Troy Sposato | Willington |
| Adam Kessler | Windsor |
| Jennifer Rodriguez | Windsor Locks |
| Mary Deppe | GHTD |

| <u>Guests</u> | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Fisher | BL Companies |
| Jonathan Thiesse | Bloomfield |
| Jennifer Carrier | FHWA |
| Theresa Schwartz | UConn T2 Center |
| Joseph Balskus | VHB |
| James Kulpa | VHB |

Staff

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Robert Aloise | CRCOG |
| Mike Cipriano | CRCOG |
| Chris Henchey | CRCOG |
| Roger Krahn | CRCOG |
| Ryan Faulkner | CRCOG |
| Tim Malone | CRCOG |
| Aaliyah Miller | CRCOG |
| Sotoria Montanari | CRCOG |
| Cara Radzins | CRCOG |
| Karen Stewartson | CRCOG |
| Terri Thompson | 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 Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2021** – A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Eric Anderson from the Town of Andover, to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously with three (3) abstentions made by David Smith from the Town of Vernon, Len Norton from the Town of East Windsor, and Devin Cowperthwaite from the Town of Stafford.
4. **Staff Reports**
 -) **CT Safety Academy Workshop: Roundabouts** – Mr. Roger Krahn shared that there will be a CT Safety Academy virtual workshop held on March 16, 2021 from 9:00am-12 Noon. He stated that this three-hour virtual course will review basic design principles for modern roundabouts, their operation and safety benefits, and their effect on economic development. Registration for the workshop can be located at www.cti.uconn.edu/cti/T2Workshopschedule.asp.
 -) **CRCOG Testimony Supporting Bill 5429-Pedestrian Safety** – Mr. Roger Krahn updated the Committee on the CRCOG Testimony Supporting Bill 5429-Pedestrian Safety. Mr. Krahn mentioned this bill was discussed at the last Transportation Committee meeting, and that the Policy Board voted to support the bill with a written testimony from Dr. Lyle Wray, except for Section 6 (b) which involves parking restrictions and includes special exemptions for the City of New Haven. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield asked if there was any update on Section 6. Mr. Krahn noted that he did not see additional action except for a long list of supporting testimonies and one that was against it.
 -) **CTrides Quarterly Report** – Mr. Ryan Faulkner gave a brief update of the CT **rides** quarterly report for October through December of 2020. During this quarter, CT **rides** launched a new website with additional links and images to liven up website and make it more user friendly. Mr. Faulkner also shared that CT **rides** launched a virtual meeting room to reach the public more effectively during COVID-19. The first meeting with this room was held in December with 70 attendees. Mr.

Faulkner noted that the *Along the Lines* podcast continues to offer new episodes each quarter and that **CTrides** will also be launching a new webinar series – Connecticut in Motion – in March. **CTrides** also created a streamlined calendar system of all 15 social media accounts to make social media coordination easier. **CTrides** also created and marketed new videos to help explain their programs and services during COVID-19. Mr. Faulkner noted that over the quarter, the **CTrides** Outreach Team held 163 virtual meetings and events, and the total employer, stakeholder, and community participants working with **CTrides** is now 314. Mr. Faulkner also shared that **CTrides** had updated its trip planner software so users can now compare travel modes based on cost, time, and environmental impact. They have also reintroduced monthly drawings of two gift cards for those using Trip Planner to promote tracking trips.

) **FY2022-2023 UPWP-Schedule and Approach** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CRCOG staff is in the process of developing a Unified Planning Work Program for FY2022-2023. She gave a brief overview of the anticipated development process, noting that Tasks 1-5 will remain largely the same, with adjustments as appropriate. Ms. Radzins mentioned that following studies have been completed or are anticipated for completion by the end of FY2021, so their Tasks will be removed:

- Transportation Safety and improvement Study, Farmington and Hartford
- Route 5 Corridor Study, East Windsor
- Silver Lane (SR 502) Corridor Study, East Hartford

Ms. Radzins also mentioned that the following studies were initiated under the current UPWP and will continue into FY2022-2023, so their tasks will remain:

- Roundabout Safety and Feasibility Screening
- Transit Priority Corridor Implement Strategy
- Routes 190 and 220 Corridor Study (Enfield)
- Farmington Area Connectivity Study
- TOD roles, Visioning, Viability, and Tools Analysis

Finally, the following studies are anticipated for initiation during FY2022-2023, so tasks will be added:

- East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study (Hartford, East Hartford, Bloomfield)
- Route 20 Corridor Study (Windsor Locks)

Ms. Radzins also said that CTDOT will soon be releasing a corridor studies solicitation, so it is anticipated that one more study will be added. More information about that solicitation will be provided at the March Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield had some concerns about the review times between the Committee and CTDOT. Mr. Colman mentioned that there was not much discussion or emphasis on the Hartford/Springfield/Boston connection. He also noted some concerns about deferring the Regional Transit Strategy to the Greater Hartford Mobility Study, as he wants to ensure that the region's priorities are given adequate consideration. Mr. Colman stated that we need to be alert as we continue to be participants in that study. Ms. Radzins acknowledges Mr. Colman's concerns and noted that Mr. Robert Aloise has been working closely with the Greater Hartford Mobility Study team. Ms. Radzins also

noted that CRCOG recently got underway on the Transit Priority Corridors Implementation Strategy, which will focus on the transit needs of the region.

- J) **Governor’s 2022/2023 Biennial Budget Proposal & STF Impacts** – Mr. Rob Aloise gave a brief update on the Governor’s 2022-2023 Biennial Budget proposal. Mr. Aloise mentioned that the budget has not been finalized but that he wanted to outline the transportation section for the Committee. He stated that LOTCIP was shown to continue to have level funding, but since there is no Federal transportation bill yet, this may change. Mr. Aloise stated that the solvency of the Special Transportation Fund (STF) is based on several assumptions: COVID-19 relief funding, the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI), and truck usage fees. Mr. Aloise noted that the latter two items required legislative approval and are likely to see pushback, so while the budget is shown to be balanced, there are some uncertainties within the assumptions. Mr. Aloise also note that the budget showed a decrease in transit subsidies and cuts to express bus service. Mr. Jon Colman from the Town of Bloomfield
- J) **Other** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CT**rides** and the Hartford Business Journal will be presenting the first webinar in the Connecticut in Motion series on March 2, 2021 at noon. The topic is Transit and COVID-19. The webinar will be moderated by Dennis House from Channel 8, and the panel includes Rich Andreski, Sam Schwartz, and Dr. Ulysses Wu. This webinar is free, and registration is available at: www.newhavenbiz.com/new-haven-biz-events/CTinMotion

5. TIP Amendments – There were no TIP amendments for consideration.

6. Capitol Region Roundabout Screening – Authorizing Resolution – Mr. Roger Krahn noted that staff had completed a qualifications-based selection and identified VHB as the highest rated consultant to complete the Capitol Region Roundabout Screening. Mr. Krahn noted that staff is in the process of developing a negotiated scope and fee with the consultant, and he was requesting Committee action to allow Dr. Lyle Wray to sign contracting documents related to the study. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Jeffrey Doolittle from the Town of South Windsor, to authorize Dr. Lyle Wray to sign contracting documents related to the Capitol Region Roundabout Screening. This motion was passed unanimously.

7. FY2020-2021UPWP Revision adding Task 14: TOD Roles, Visioning, Viability, and Tools Analysis – Resolution – Mr. Tim Malone noted that staff had amended the current UPWP to include a study looking at the TOD corridors around CT**fastrak** and the Hartford Line. Mr. Malone shared that the effort would include visioning for sites, considering financial viability, and identifying the roles of various stakeholders. Mr. Malone noted that staff had met with the impact towns, and they were very supportive of this effort. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Sandy Fry to approve the FY2020-2021 UPWP Revision adding Task 14: TOD Roles, Visioning, Viability and Tools Analysis. This motion was passed unanimously.

8. Presentation: New Signal Technician Certificate Program – Theresa Schwartz, PE, PTOE: UConn T2 Traffic Engineer – Ms. Theresa Schwartz gave a brief presentation on the UConn T2 Center’s activities during COVID-19. The T2 Center continues to offer

technical assistance through the Safety Circuit Rider and Traffic Signal Circuit Rider programs. Ms. Schwartz also noted that the T2 Center is offering a Coffee and Conversation webinar series, along with workshops in all of its programs over the course of 2021. Some workshops will be held online, and others will be offered in person with all necessary safety protocols. A new Traffic Signal Technician Program is also being offered. Ms. Schwartz noted that this program includes two levels with four workshops each. The program can be completed within a year, and each workshop costs \$100. Level 1 will be beginning in April. More information can be found on the T2 Center's website at https://www.cti.uconn.edu/cti/T2Center_Home.asp.

- 9. Other Business** – Mr. Rob Aloise added some comments regarding the concerns voiced regarding the FY2022-2023 UPWP. Mr. Aloise noted that with regards to Boston-Hartford-Springfield rail, CRCOG is in the process of finalizing an economic impact analysis of this enhanced service. CRCOG is coordinating with PVPC on a rollout plan for the findings through a press release from politicians in the two regions. Mr. Aloise also noted that while CRCOG is not pursuing a Regional Transit Strategy, there is an opportunity to identify regional transit priorities within the Metropolitan Transportation Plan update, which is anticipated to begin in early 2022.
- 10. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 via a motion by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton, seconded by Larry Baril from the Town of Avon.