

Transportation Committee Meeting

Conducted Remotely:
Via Web:<https://zoom.us/j/8605222217>
Or by phone:1-646-876-9923; **Meeting ID:** 860-522-2217

**Monday April 20th, 2020
12 Noon**

**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
Dan Pennington
Kirk Severance
Sandy Fry
Frank Dellaripa
Kevin Kelly
Derek Dilaj
Rob Trottier
John Bossi
Jim Sollmi
Tom Roy
Keith Hayden
Jeffrey Doolittle
Gerry Turbet
Heidi Samokar
David Smith
Duane Martin
Derrick Gregor
Adam Kessler
Jen Rodriguez
Jennifer Cassidy

Organization

Andover
Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
Coventry
East Hartford
Ellington
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Mansfield
New Britain
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Southington
South Windsor
Suffield
Tolland
Vernon
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor
Windsor Locks
GHTD

Guests

Jennifer Carrier
Mary Deppe

FHWA
GHTD

Mike Fisher
Chuck Harlow
Jeff Shea
Jonathan Thiesse
Grayson Wright

BL Companies
Fuss & O'Neill
Simsbury
Bloomfield
CTDOT

Staff

Frank Adarkwa	CRCOG
Robert Aloise	CRCOG
Mike Cipriano	CRCOG
Noah Greer	CRCOG-Intern
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Devon Lechtenberg	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Eric Snowden	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 12:09 pm by Jon Colman.
2. **Public Forum** – No one choose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 23rd, 2020** – A motion was made by Chris Edge from the Town of Berlin seconded by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton to adopt the meeting minutes from March 23rd, 2020. This motion was passed unanimously with four (4) abstentions made by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain, Gerry Turbet from the Town of Suffield, Keith Hayden from the Town of Southington, and Derek Dilaj from the Town of Mansfield.
4. **Staff Reports**
 - **State Legislative and Bonding Update for Transportation** – Mr. Robert Aloise gave a brief update on State legislative activity and bonding. Mr. Aloise mentioned that LOTCIP was fully funded and will carry CRCOG for the next two years and possible further, with approximately \$21 million in additional funding. Mr. Aloise also noted that the bonding package included funding for Hartford Line rail cars and the Windsor Locks rail station.
 - **CTDOT COVID-19 Update** – Mr. Roger Krahn gave a brief update on CTDOT operations related to COVID-19. Mr. Krahn mentioned that CTDOT is open, with about 90% of Headquarters employees telecommuting successfully. Mr. Krahn also mentioned that meetings are being held by teleconference, and video conference wherever possible. Mr. Krahn also noted that local bus operations have been adjusted to include rear-boarding, driver protective shields, and the use of face

masks by drivers and passengers. Mr. Krahn added that express bus and rail services are operating on reduced schedule in response to lower ridership levels.

- **CTDOT Standard Specifications, Form 818** – Mr. Roger Krahn noted that Form 818 has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in accordance with the CTDOT/FHWA Stewardship and Oversight Implementation Manual. A PDF document is posted on the Department’s Internet site “Doing Business With CTDOT, Standards and Specifications.” No hard copies will be available. Two online versions of this document will be available. CTDOT Projects with Final Design Plan (FDP) dates of **June 1, 2020** or later shall reference the Standard Specifications Form 818. Mr. Krahn also noted that Mr. Thomas Maziarz will be retiring as of May 1st but will be staying on temporarily to assist the Department during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **CTDOT granted \$2M for Autonomous Bus Pilot Program** – Ms. Cara Radzins shared that CTDOT received \$2 million from the FTA Integrated Mobility Innovation grant program. Ms. Radzins stated that this grant will test three electric-powered, 40-foot self-driving buses, which will be the first such autonomous public bus pilot in the nation. Ms. Radzins mentioned that during the pilot, drivers would still be onboard and would take control of the vehicles during the downtown Hartford loop. In addition, Ms. Radzins mentioned that GHTD received \$630,000 through this grant program develop a responsive, 24/7 transportation option for older adults and people with disabilities. GHTD’s effort will use technology and “smart” routing to improve response times and the traveler experience.
- **LOTICIP Quarterly Reporting** – Ms. Sotoria Montanari gave a brief update on the LOTICIP Quarter Report. Ms. Montanari stated that the highlights for Quarter three (3) included the following:

CTDOT issued Authorization to Advertise letters in the amount of **\$2,966,989** for two (2) projects (Windsor Deerfield Pavement Rehabilitation and Glastonbury Boulevard Pavement Rehabilitation. The total amount of project expenditure for FY20 is **\$10,091,123**. CRCOG’s projection for Quarter 4 expenditures are approximately \$7.5 million from five (5) projects, contingent on low bids. Ms. Montanari indicated that the towns were on track to accomplish this as two final designs have already been submitted.

Additionally, CRCOG received nine (9) design submissions and anticipates receipt of twelve (12) design submissions in Quarter 4. CTDOT is continuing to issue Commitment to Fund Letters (CTF) and has issued four (4) CTF Letters (Bloomfield Blue hills Avenue Completed Streets, Plainville Town Line Road Reconstruction, Avon Old Farms Road Improvement, Coventry South Road Phase I improvements)

Ms. Montanari reviewed project totals during the Sub-Committee meeting. She indicated that two of the Towns provided scheduling updates. Mr. Jon Colman indicated his appreciation of the Towns for advancing their projects during this challenging time.

- **PURA & Utility Double Pole Removals** – Mr. Mike Cipriano gave a brief update on Double Pole Removals. Mr. Cipriano stated that CRCOG received a letter from both Eversource and UI to PURA detailing their plan to reduce the number of double

poles in the state. Mr. Cipriano mentioned that consultants will be hired to remove the old poles; this is anticipated to take approximately three (3) years. He also mentioned that the attorney from UI wasn't sure when a contractor would be hired and work would begin, but didn't anticipate this happening before the end of the calendar year. Mr. Cipriano also mentioned that the electric companies are submitting a motion to PURA in mid-May. Staff will update the committee once we receive more information in the coming months.

- **Regional Bikeshare Update** – Mr. Tim Malone gave a brief update on Regional Bikeshare. Mr. Malone mentioned that while initial conversations have begun with potential tile sponsors for the regional bikeshare program, the effort is somewhat stalled as most bikeshare services have been halted due to COVID-19.
- **Regional Complete Streets Plan and Quick Build Guide** – Mr. Tim Malone briefed the Committee on the Regional Complete Streets plan and Quick Build Guide. Mr. Malone noted that in 2017, CRCOG began the process of developing a regional complete streets plan and policy. The policy was adopted earlier this year by the Policy Board, and a draft of the Regional Complete Streets Plan is available for public comment until April 30th, 2020. The draft plan, along with a Quick Build Guide can be found on the CRCOG website.
- **Capitol Region Purchasing Council Update-Bidding Season Assistance** – Mr. Robert Aloise provided a summary of Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) activities and purchasing opportunities for CRCOG towns, including program contact information. Mr. Aloise noted that each CRCOG town has a representative on the Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) and therefore can participate. Mr. Aloise reminded the Committee that all of the towns can review the bids on CRCOG's website at <https://crocog.org/capitol-region-purchasing-council/>.

5. TIP Amendments

CMAQ-Statewide Transportation Demand Management – Mr. Rob Aloise reviewed the TIP amendment and noted that the item related to funding for CT**rides**. Mr. Jon Colman asked what work CT**rides** is doing currently, as ridesharing is limited due to COVID-19. Ms. Cara Radzins responded that CT**rides** has been holding a series of webinars related to teleworking. Mr. Colman asked if these webinars were available publicly, and Ms. Radzins replied that she would look into that. A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton seconded by Rob Trottier from the City of New Britain to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously. Later in the meeting, Ms. Radzins shared in the chat pod that the webinars from CT**rides** are available online at <https://ctrides.com/employers-telework#resources>.

6. LOTCIP Project Scope Modification/Funding Increase Request

Coventry Swamp Road Intersection – Ms. Sotoria Montanari gave a brief update on the LOTCIP Project Funding Increase Requests. Ms. Montanari mentioned that the Town of Coventry is requesting a scope change modification and LOTCIP funding increase of \$753,800 from \$1,419,600 to \$2,173,400 (53.1% increase) based on the most recent engineering estimate. Ms. Montanari mentioned that a project review meeting was organized with CTDOT Local Roads, Traffic and District 1 Units to discuss issues pertaining to the design. Although the original design retained Northfields Intersection with Route 44, it restricted access to Right In/Right Out. Ms. Montanari

stated that the District stressed the elimination of the local access point to/from Route 44 was necessary.

As a result, Ms. Montanari noted that a modified design was agreed upon that realigned Northfield Road to provide access via a new intersection with the realigned Swamp Road. The new design's additional construction cost is estimated at \$211,000. Additional parcel acquisitions will also be necessary with additional Right-Of-Way (ROW) costs estimated at \$56,000. Additionally, Ms. Montanari indicated that CTDOT Traffic will require the installation of a new signal at a cost of \$500,000 instead of the originally assumed signal modification.

A motion was made by Patrice Carson from the Town of Bolton seconded by, Russ Arnold from the Town of Farmington to approve a scope change modification realignment of Northfield, adding new signalization and ROW costs, at an additional \$753,800 of LOTCIP funding for the Coventry (L032-0003) project, increasing the funding approval from \$1,419,600 to \$2,173,400. This motion was passed unanimously.

7. Presentation: Jessica Muirhead, CRCOG ezIQC Job Order Contracting Program

– Ms. Jessica Muirhead gave a brief presentation on CRCOG's ezIQC Contracting program. Ms. Muirhead mentioned that the ezIQC program is a competitively-bid, on-call service for construction projects. Ms. Muirhead reviewed the program, its process, and example projects. She noted that anyone with questions can contact her at jmuihead@crcog.org or visit CRCOG's website at <https://crcog.org/eiqc-program/>. A committee member asked if Ms. Muirhead's presentation would be made available, to which CRCOG staff replied that it would be. The presentation is now available on CRCOG's website at <https://crcog.org/event/transportation-committee-meeting-32/>.

8. Other Business – Mr. Robert Aloise conducted an additional roll call to identify anyone who had joined the meeting while it was in progress. Dr. Lyle Wray mentioned that CRCOG is working on developing a process for safely re-opening Towns in the wake of COVID-19. Dr. Wray noted that the process will likely include guidelines, training, and best practices. This effort will be discussed at the Policy Board meeting on Wednesday April 22nd, 2020.

9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 12:49 pm.