

Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
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Policy Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 24, 2021
12:00 pm

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

**Meeting access was remote only, consistent with provisions specified in
CT Governor Executive Order No. 7B. This meeting was recorded.**

Audio may be found here: <https://crcog.org/event/policy-board-27/>

Members and Alternates

Eric Anderson
Brandon Robertson
Chris Edge
Sandra Pierog
Mark Walter
John Elsesser
Jason Bowsza
C.J. Thomas
Chip Beckett
John Ward
Luke Bronin
Randal P. Davis
Andrew Tierney
Brock Weber
Robert E. Lee
John Mehr
Maria Capriola
Mark Sciota
Michael Rosen
Erika Wiczenski
Chris Kervick
Vicki Shotland (MPO Member)

Town/Organization

Andover
Avon
Berlin
Bolton
Columbia
Coventry
East Windsor
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
New Britain
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Southington
Tolland
Willington
Windsor Locks
GHTD

Staff

Rob Aloise
Cheryl Assis
Roger Krahn
Tracey Malenfant
Tim Malone
Aaliyah Miller
Lynne Pike DiSanto
Laura Quintiliani
Pauline Yoder

CRCOG
CRCOG
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CRCOG

Guests

Courtney Hendricson
Grayson Wright
Olivia Francoline

AdvanceCT
CTDOT
Intern, Town of Coventry

Jonathan Ferrigno
Mark Massaro
TJ Magnoli
Gene Goddard
Matt Pafford
Kathie Lutz
Pete Smith
Ellen Graham
Britt Foulds

Eversource
Eversource
Eversource
MetroHartford Alliance
OPM
Rome Smith Lutz
Rome Smith Lutz
Office of Senator Blumenthal
Office of Senator Murphy

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

In the absence of Chairperson Mayor Marcia Leclerc, Second Vice Chairperson Chris Kervick called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

2. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2021:

Second Vice Chairperson Chris Kervick requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

Robert Lee made a motion to approve the Policy Board Meeting minutes from January 27, 2021. John Elsesser seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Correspondence/Handouts

1. Finance & Personnel Sub-Committee 01.27.21 Meeting Minutes

The Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee meeting was held on January 27, 2021. The committee met with our auditors and was informed that the audit was approved.

2. Support for County Equivalency Letter

In front of the Federal Register currently is a proposal to consider Councils of Governments as county equivalents for statistical purposes. The sending of this letter of support was discussed and voted on during the January 27, 2021 Policy Board meeting and has also been something CRCOG has supported in the past.

3. Letter to OPM

CRCOG was asked by the Office of Policy and Management Secretary, Ms. Melissa McCaw, to submit a report on the plans for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) consolidation, regionalization of municipal assessment, and CRCOG's priorities. The report was submitted by CRCOG last week.

5. MONTHLY REPORTS:

a. Chair and [Executive Director](#)

Dr. Lyle Wray was unavoidably detained from attending the meeting. Pauline Yoder reported on his behalf. Ms. Yoder stated that the EDA COVID-19 Recovery Grant application has been submitted and we hope to hear from them in April.

Federal liaison has been engaged by Pioneer Valley and CRCOG will execute a Memorandum of Understanding.

Additionally, the Governor's budget is balanced, but CRCOG notes that the section on transportation heavily relies on questionable revenue sources, such as a truck wheelage charge, TCI gas tax, etc.

b. Opportunities and Resources

c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council

d. Policy and Planning

e. Public Safety and Homeland Security

f. Transportation Committee

g. MetroHartford Alliance (Tentative)

Gene Goddard from MetroHartford Alliance (MHA) provided a brief report. He noted that MHA received a grant from DCD to support the insurance/financial services sector and that they are moving forward on that project. On Wednesday, February 24, MHA held their annual "Get Hired" event. The event was held virtually for the first time which allowed MHA to not only reach folks outside of the state of Connecticut, but also allowed them reach out to students at colleges that have been unable to participate in the past.

Mr. Goddard also stated that MHA is working with two site selection firms, Hinkley Global (out of New York) and Global Site Location Industries (GSLI), LLC (based in Dallas), to assist in lead generation activities. GSLI is providing MHA with manufacturing and warehouse distribution projects, whereas Hinkley Global will be leading MHA moving forward on the insurance/financial services sector projects.

As of August, MetroHartford Alliance will resume attendance to a limited number of in-person events at which they will be marketing the area and identifying companies that can grow and expand within our region.

Mr. Goddard noted the State Legislature recently heard Bill #6488, supporting the development of a data center incentive in the state of Connecticut. This Bill is critical for MHA to further build out their telecommunications and data infrastructure within the state as well as industries in the health and insurance/financial services sectors. This incentive will make MHA more competitive and attractive to businesses in those industries within both the state of Connecticut and the region.

Discussion followed Mr. Goddard's update.

h. Capital Workforce Partners (Tentative)

No report was offered.

6. PRESENTATION/UPDATES

There were no presentations.

ACTION ITEMS:

7. Action: Memorandum Regarding Proposed Distribution of Local Match Balance in CCRPA/CCMPO Accounts

Robert Lee made a motion to approve the Memorandum Regarding Proposed Distribution of Local Match Balance in CCRPA/CCMPO Accounts. Dr. Chip Beckett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

8. Action: Resolution Authorizing Environmental Services Contract for MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program

Lynne Pike DiSanto explained that CRCOG was recently awarded a \$300,000 grant from EPA to conduct an environmental assessment on suspected Brownfields sites. In order to conduct the assessments, it is necessary to hire a licensed environmental professional. CRCOG issued an RFP and received thirteen (13) proposals. Following an interview and evaluation process, Fuss & O'Neil was selected to perform the assessment(s). The proposed resolution would authorize Dr. Wray to enter into a contract with Fuss & O'Neil for work performed over the next two and a half years.

Chris Edge made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Environmental Services Contract for MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program. Robert Lee seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

9. Action: TIP Amendments (tentative)

There were no TIP Amendments.

10. Action: Resolution for Amendment of CRCOG's FY 2020 And 2021 Transportation Planning Program

Dr. Chip Beckett made a motion to approve the Resolution for Amendment of CRCOG's FY 2020 And 2021 Transportation Planning Program. Chris Edge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

11. Action: Resolution for Execution of an Agreement with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) for the Development of a Capitol Region Roundabout Screening

Dr. Chip Beckett made a motion to approve the Resolution for Execution of an Agreement with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) for the Development of a Capitol Region Roundabout Screening. Randal Davis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

INFORMATION/OPPORTUNITY/RESOURCES

11. Legislative Update

Kathie Lutz provided a brief update and discussion followed regarding the proposed emergency legislation for Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and that it looks to be a negotiating tool with the governor's office in light of new leadership at the legislature.

12. Other Business

No other business.

13. Adjournment

With no further discussion items, Second Vice Chairperson Chris Kervick requested a motion to adjourn.

Dr. Chip Beckett moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:36. Robert Lee seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.