

To: CRCOG Transportation Committee
From: Timothy Malone, Community Development Deputy
c: Lyle Wray, Executive Director
Rob Aloise, Planning Director
Date: June 28, 2021
Subject: Resolution Authorizing Extension of an Economic Impact Study of Rail Link to Boston

The resolution included in your packet authorizes CRCOG to spend up to an additional \$7,000 in agency funds to extend the contract with AECOM to develop an economic impact study of reestablishing a commuter rail link between the Hartford Line and Boston. Previously, up to \$50,000 was approved for this study so we are seeking a revised total authorization of \$57,000.

The funds are being sought so that a series of meetings and webinars can be held. The study has now been completed and has generated a considerable amount of interest. CRCOG staff foresee the need to retain AECOM's services to present the results of the study at future meetings with agency staff, lawmakers, and other stakeholders. Staff would negotiate a cost per presentation with the consultants and develop a contract amendment based on those costs.

The contract amendment would also extend the term of the contract, which currently ends June 30, 2021.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CRCOG TO EXTEND THE CONTRACT
WITH AECOM FOR A STUDY OF THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC
IMPACTS OF ESTABLISHING RAIL SERVICE TO BOSTON**

WHEREAS, the State of Massachusetts conducted a study of the feasibility of reestablishing commuter rail service between Pittsfield, Springfield, and Worcester; and

WHEREAS, if completed, the new service would provide a connection between the existing Hartford Line and existing MTA service between Worcester and Boston; and

WHEREAS, reestablishing rail service to Boston is a strategic economic priority of CRCOG's and could potentially spur greater transit-oriented development; and

WHEREAS, the CRCOG Policy Board previously authorized expending up to \$50,000 of agency funds to hire AECOM to conduct an economic impact study of the proposed rail improvements; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG staff believe it would be beneficial to extend AECOM's contract to allow for additional presentations about the study;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Agency's Executive Director Lyle D. Wray, is authorized to commission an economic impact study of reestablishing rail service between Hartford and Boston, expending up to an additional \$7,000 of agency funds, and to act on behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments in negotiating, executing, and amending all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments or Memoranda of Understandings.

CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board, at its meeting held on June 28, 2021.

BY: _____ DATE: _____
Lori Spielman, Secretary