

## **Agenda Item Summary**

**To:** Policy Board, Transportation Committee

**From:** Cara Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning

**CC:** Matt Hart, Executive Director; Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning

**Meeting Date:** March 22, 2023 (Transportation Committee: March 20, 2023)

**Subject:** Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside – Confirmation of Priority Projects

**Background:** Under the Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside Program, funding is allocated by Transportation Management Area (TMA) and prioritized projects must therefore be submitted by TMA. The Hartford TMA includes CRCOG as well as towns from Northwest Hills COG, Naugatuck Valley COG, and Lower Connecticut River Valley COG. In 2019, these COGs coordinated on a project priority list. In 2022, this list was updated to remove projects that had since been initiated under the TA Set-Aside Program or funded under different programs. CTDOT has reviewed the remaining Hartford TMA projects and identified two as candidates for initiation – Thomaston’s Naugatuck River Greenway and Simsbury’s Tarriffville Connection. CTDOT also prepared cost estimates for these projects, and the Towns were instructed to either confirm the availability of additional matching funds or identify scope reductions to decrease costs. CTDOT further requested written confirmation from each Metropolitan Transportation Organization (MPO) Board as to whether the prioritization of projects would be impacted by any such changes. NVCOG is currently discussing potential paths forward with Thomaston, and Simsbury has provided a value engineering alternative for their project. CRCOG staff’s assessment is that the potential adjustments would not substantively change the purpose and benefit of the projects and that there is therefore no need to adjust prioritization.

**Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:** The TA Set-Aside Program offers federal funding for “non-traditional” transportation projects including bike/ped facilities, infrastructure for improving access to transit, multi-use trails, and safe routes to school.

**Financial/Operational Impact:** n/a – There is no financial impact to CRCOG.

**Project Schedule:** Confirmation of project prioritization must be submitted to CTDOT by March 31, 2023.

**Recommendation:** CRCOG staff recommends confirmation of the project priority list as previously submitted. The Transportation Committee will provide a recommendation at their meeting on March 20, 2023.

### **Attachments:**

- TA Set-Aside Program (FFY 2021-2025) – Transportation Management Area Project Priority Form, August 2022
- Resolution Confirming the Priority Projects for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program in FFY2021-2025

# Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program (FFY 2021 – FFY 2025)

## **TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA PROJECT PRIORITY FORM**

Prior to filling out this form, the MPO's within the Transportation Management Area (TMA) should meet together to discuss the projects submitted for TA funding and collectively formulate a process to evaluate and determine project priority rankings for the TMA. The concurrence of each MPO Executive Director to the process and the priority rank of each project must be indicated below.

### **1.0 Name of the TMA** (One form is submitted for each TMA with the project applications)

TMA name: **Hartford TMA and Springfield TMA**

### **2.0 TMA/Urbanized Area MPO's**

List MPO names: **Capitol Region Council of Governments, Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments, Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments**

### **3.0 Municipalities that are submitting projects as part of the solicitation**

List Municipalities: **New Britain, Mansfield, Thomaston, Simsbury (Contingency: Middletown)**

### **4.0 Project Priority Ranking**

The MPO's in the TMA **must** collectively determine the priority ranking for the TA projects being submitted for this 5-year period of solicitation (FFY 2021- FFY 2025). Please indicate Project #1 as the TMA's highest priority rank with the #2 and #3 projects to follow in descending priority order. Additional priority ranking beyond #3 can occur if funding allows. **Please be advised if this form is not completed and projects are not ranked, the applications will be deemed incomplete and returned to the TMA/MPO.**

Has the TMA/ MPOs met to priority rank the projects listed below? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project #1: **The Beeline Trail (Phase 1) – New Britain – Initiated**

Project #2: **Downtown Pedestrian Loop Closure – Mansfield – Initiated**

Project #3: **Naugatuck River Greenway – East Main to Route 109 – Thomaston**

Project #4: **Tarriffville Connection - Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to Curtiss Park – Simsbury**

***In the event that project #3 is unable to move forward, we offer the following contingency project:***

NVCOG/RiverCOG Contingency Project #1: **Newfield-North End Connector Trail – Middletown**

### **5.0 MPO concurrence with project priority rankings**

The undersigned agrees with the project priority ranking above.

MPO name: **Capitol Region Council of Governments**

Signature of the MPO's Executive Director 

Date: 08/29/2022

MPO name: **Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments**

Signature of the MPO's Executive Director 

Date: 08/24/2022

MPO name: **Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments**

Signature of the MPO's Executive Director 

Date: 08/25/2022

## RESOLUTION

### CONFIRMING THE PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM IN FFY2021-2025

**WHEREAS**, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Capitol Region; and

**WHEREAS**, MPOs must coordinate with the state Department of Transportation (DOT) to allocate funding under the Transportation Alternative (TA) Set-Aside Program; and

**WHEREAS**, TA Set-Aside Program funding is allocated by Transportation Management Area (TMA) and projects must therefore be identified by TMA; and

**WHEREAS**, CRCOG coordinated with other members of the Hartford TMA (Northwest Hills COG, Naugatuck Valley COG, Lower Connecticut River Valley COG) to prepare a list of prioritized TA Set-Aside projects in 2019 for potential TA Set-Aside Program funding in FFY2021-2025; and

**WHEREAS**, this list was updated in 2022 to remove projects that had since been initiated under the TA Set-Aside Program or funded with different sources; and

**WHEREAS**, CTDOT has identified two Hartford TMA projects as remaining candidates for initiation: Thomaston's Naugatuck River Greenway (East Main to Route 109), Simsbury's Tarriffville Connection (Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to Curtiss Park); and

**WHEREAS**, CTDOT has developed project cost estimates, and the Towns are identifying additional matching funds or scope reductions to decrease costs; and

**WHEREAS**, CRCOG staff's assessment is that the potential adjustments do not substantively change the purpose and benefit of the projects and that the project prioritization list therefore remains appropriate;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Capitol Region Council of Governments does hereby confirm the priority projects for the FFY2021-2025 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program as indicated on the Project Priority Form from August 2022.

#### CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Policy Board at its meeting held on March 22, 2023.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Bowsza, Secretary