



CAPITOL REGION
**EAST COAST
 GREENWAY STUDY**

SIMSBURY — BLOOMFIELD — HARTFORD — EAST HARTFORD

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #2 MINUTES

April 18, 2023 | 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Meeting Held In-Person

Keney Park Pond House

323 Edgewood Street, Hartford, CT, 06112

The presentation portion of this meeting was recorded.

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Attendance

Name	Organization
Michael Cipriano	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Parker Sorenson	FHI Studio
Laura Nagle	FHI Studio
Kevin Rivera	FHI Studio
Phil Goff	VHB
Owen Deutsch	City of Hartford
Grace Yi	City of Hartford
Eileen Buckheit	Town of East Hartford
Doug Wilson	Town of East Hartford
Tom Roy	Town of Simsbury
Adam Kessler	Town of Simsbury
Grayson Wright	CTDOT Policy and Planning
Ed Sabourin	CTDOT Project Development Unit
Andrew Correia	CTDOT Project Development Unit
Michael Disla-Suarez	CTDOT Traffic Operations
Jordan Vogt	CTDOT Traffic Operations
Martha Conneely	Riverfront Recapture Park Development Manager
Steph Stroud	National Park Service
Bruce Donald	East Coast Greenway Alliance / CT Greenways Council

The record below includes a brief description of each agenda item as well as the timestamp for the beginning of that discussion. The audio recording for this meeting is available at www.crcoq.org



1. Project Schedule (6:17)

Parker Sorenson presented the Project Schedule. The Study is currently in the first phase, existing conditions review and identify preliminary alignments. The remaining phases are: 1) screening analysis in the summer, 2) shortlist alternatives and refinement of preferred alignment in the fall, and 3) final reporting phase in the winter of 2023 and 2024.

2. Simsbury Update (7:01)

Phil Goff reviewed the status of the Study in Simsbury, which is operating on an accelerated schedule. The goal of Simsbury is to connect the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail to the intersection of Rte 189 and Main Street.

Phil presented slides from the Simsbury public workshop that occurred in March. Three alternatives were presented at the public workshop. “Alternative 2” is along a former rail line on the west side of the Farmington River. “Alternative 3” is along Rte 315 to the riverbank. “Alternative 3a” is along Rte 315 to Wood Duck Lane. Further investigation is needed to assess environmental impacts to the Farmington River, privacy concerns for the Governor’s Bridge condominium residents, and additional route options.

An advisory committee (AC) member asked if alternatives have already been eliminated from the screening process. Phil clarified that more options, in addition to the three presented at the public workshop, will be compared in the screening analysis. The screening analysis is being developed. Caitlin Palmer and Parker added the selection criteria and screening analysis for Simsbury will be finalized sooner than those for Bloomfield, East Hartford, and Hartford.

3. Public Outreach Update (18:35)

Kevin Rivera provided an update on the stakeholder outreach process. There are 101 people on the email list. There is a digital social media campaign ongoing through CRCOG’s accounts. The *Hartford Courant* and *The Hartford News* have published about the Study. Publications have also been submitted to *East Hartford Gazette* and *Bloomfield Messenger*.

Parker mentioned future engagement events include community pop-ups and 1-on-1 stakeholder meetings during the summer. These events are to seek input on the screening evaluation and additional detail of the top 2-3 alignments. AC members were asked if they know of specific events that CRECG should attend. Parker discussed the online engagement tools including the Study website and interactive mapping tool.

4. Initial Alignment Ideas Feedback (22:31)

Parker reviewed the initial alignments that have been identified thus far in East Hartford, Hartford, and Bloomfield. These ideas have been mapped for the public workshops so that the AC and public may provide feedback. The initial alignments are presented at two scales: 1) conceptual corridors and 2) alignment ideas in corridors. For initial consideration, the population within 1/2 mile, employment within 1/2 mile, and distance from the trail gap at each alignment have been analyzed. Parker showed images of existing trails to generate ideas and serve as a point of reference.

5. Screening Prioritization (29:42)

Parker gave an overview of the screening criteria that will be weighted based on public comment and Town input. The criteria include: 1) off-road, 2) traffic safety, 3) personal security, 4) connectivity, 5) equity, 6) right-of-way, 7) environment, 8) cost, and 9) economic opportunity.



Parker distributed a paper survey for AC members to rank the screening criteria. An online survey will be shared with AC members who could not attend in-person. The results of the survey will be compiled to help guide the criteria weighting.

6. Next Meetings (41:05)

Parker noted the dates for the next two AC meetings and their main agenda items.

7. Public Comment (43:51)

No one chose to speak.

8. Break out to Discussion at Maps (44:18)

AC members formed breakout groups and reviewed maps with the initial alignments for Bloomfield, East Hartford, and Hartford. AC members provided comments through discussion, drawings, and post-it notes.

Meeting ended 44:18