

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

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Policy Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

This meeting was Virtual

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Jim Rupert
Mark Walter
Jason Bowsza
Lori Spielman
Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Larry Niland
Randall Davis
Erin Stewart
David Nagel
Mike Paulhus
Lisa Marotta
Ray Carpentino
Wendy Makstutis
Robert Schmidt
Colin Moll
Steve Jones
Erika Wiecenski
Peter Souza
Fred Presly
Rick Ledwith

Town/Organization

Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Columbia
East Windsor
Ellington
Enfield
Glastonbury
Hartford
New Britain
Newington
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Somers
Suffield
Tolland
Willington
Windsor
Wethersfield
West Hartford

Staff

Aaliyah Miller
Aiden Caron
Cara Radzins
Caitlin Palmer
Cheryl Assis
Devon Lechtenberg
Elizabeth Sanderson
Kim Bona
Jill Swenson
Kyle Shiel
Laura Rosenbluth
Maureen Goulet
Matt Hart

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Pauline Yoder
Roger Krahn
Robyn Nichols
Rob Aloise
Tracey Malenfant

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Guests

Lisa Esposito
Bruce Wittchen
David Murphy
Mary Buchanan
Nicole Govert
Sam Carmody
Mackenzie Smillie
Jonathan Ferrigno
Mark Abraham
Kelly Davila
Brock Weber
Kathie Lutz
Supriyo SB Chatterjee

Avangrid
CT OPM
CIRCA
CIRCA
CIRCA
Carmody Associates
Eversource
Eversource
DataHaven
DataHaven
New Britain
Rome, Smith and Lutz
West Hartford

1. Call to Order:

Chair Erin Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm

2. Public Comment:

Liz Esposito introduced herself as a new member leader from Avangrid, working with towns served by CT Natural Gas for community and government relations. She is available for customer service.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2023

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 24, 2023, Policy Board Meeting. Lori Spielman seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Motion

Mayor Stewart proposed a motion to revise the agenda by moving the MPO and Action items to the beginning of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jon Colman. The motion carried unanimously.

4. MONTHLY REPORTS

- a. **Chair and Executive Director** - Mr. Hart provided an overview of his report. Mr. Hart's full report can be found [HERE](#)
- b. BIL/IIJA Update
- c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council
- d. Planning - Transportation
- e. Public Safety Homeland Security
- f. Planning - Community Development
 - **CIRCA Update**
David Murphy introduced himself as the region's natural disaster mitigation plan coordinator. The team is updating the

region's hazard mitigation plans and is currently meeting with member towns over the next few weeks. The Policy Board will have further updates as they become available.

5. Legislative Update

Kathie Lutz provided an update on the legislative session, stating that there are only two weeks left. The budget is close to being passed as a bipartisan agreement. The Vision Zero bill has been sent to the House, while the open container section and helmet law have been removed. Municipalities will now have the option to issue a citation for the Red Light Program. The EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) bill for tires was brought up in the house along with some new amendments.

6. DataHaven Presentation

Mark Abraham and Kelly Davila from Data Haven presented the key points from their report titled "Indicators of well-being, equity, and quality of life in Greater Hartford neighborhoods." The report sheds light on the current state of well-being, equity, and quality of life in various neighborhoods in Greater Hartford. The findings from the report will be useful for policymakers, community leaders, and organizations working towards improving the lives of residents in the area. The full report can be found: [HERE](#)

ACTION ITEMS

7. 2023 LOTCIP Solicitation – Recommended Project Selections

Jon Colman moved for approval of the 2023 LOTCIP Solicitation; Lori Spielman seconded. The item consisted of 18 proposed projects with a total funding of 36M dollars. These projects have already been reviewed and approved by the Transportation Committee. During the discussion, Peter Souza inquired about the timeline for incentive projects. Robert Aloise clarified that incentive projects cannot be released to the DOT until prior projects are completed. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Resolution Authorizing Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board

Jon Colman made a motion to authorize the Transportation Committee to act as the Policy Board during the summer months while the Policy Board has their recess. Peter Souza seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

9. Approval of FY 2023-2024 Budget

Matt Hart presented the CRCOG Annual Budget for approval to the Policy Board, and Pauline Yoder provided a detailed explanation of specific dedicated funding. The Budget presentation can be found: [HERE](#)

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the proposed budget and Chris Edge seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ITEMS

10. Action: TIP Amendments:

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the TIP Amendments. The amendments were already passed by the Transportation Committee unanimously. Robert Aloise detailed the projects. Further details of the projects can be found: [HERE](#)

Lori Spielman seconded; and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Action: FY2024 and FY2025 Unified Planning Work Program

Jon Colman presented the annual Unified Planning Work Program report which contained various studies and funding for significant activities that would benefit the region. Jason Bowsza seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

12. Action: FY2024 and FY2025 CTDOT Planning Agreement

Jon Colman proposed the approval of the CTDOT Planning Agreement for the fiscal years 2024 and 2025, which would be carried out with funding from both federal and state sources. Peter Souza seconded the motion, and it was approved.

13. Annual Urban Planning Certification Resolution

During the meeting, Jon Colman proposed the Annual Urban Planning Certification Resolution. The Transportation Committee approved the motion and suggested that the Policy Board should act as the MPO. Chris Edge seconded the motion, and it was passed successfully.

14. Correspondence/ Handouts

Matt Hart highlighted the announcements of CRCOG's upcoming meetings and the latest edition of *The CRCOG Connection*.

15. Other Business

No other business was noted.

16. Adjournment

Jon Colman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Jones seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.