

## **Agenda Item Summary**

**To:** Policy Board

**From:** Elizabeth Sanderson, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Coordinator

**CC:** Matt Hart, Executive Director; Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation; Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning and Community Development

**Meeting Date:** January 24, 2024

**Subject:** Berlin Turnpike Transportation Study RAISE Grant

**Background:** CRCOG is collaborating with CTDOT and the Towns of Berlin, Newington, and Wethersfield on a Planning Grant application for USDOT FHWA Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. Applications for this third round of funding for Fiscal Year 2024 are due by February 28, 2024. CRCOG proposes to conduct a Transportation Study of the Berlin Turnpike to improve road safety and connectivity.

**Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:** The Regional Transportation Safety Plan (RTSP) identifies the Berlin Turnpike (US-5/CT-15) as a high crash corridor through the region, with several locations identified as high crash intersections. Member Towns and CRCOG will benefit from conducting a comprehensive study and customized designs to improve conditions along the corridor improving safety and connectivity for tens of thousands of people who travel the corridor in a variety of ways every day.

**Financial/Operational Impact:** The project's cost, estimated to be \$2 to \$2.5 million, will require a \$400,000 to \$500,000 (20%) non-Federal cost share (local match). The non-Federal match will be \$33,333 from each of the Towns of Berlin, Newington, and Wethersfield, and \$200,000 to \$300,000 from CTDOT and \$100,000 from CRCOG RSG or Regional Funds. CRCOG will serve as the grant's direct recipient and CRCOG management has determined that, if awarded, the grant project can be adequately staffed.

**Project Schedule:** RAISE grant awards are anticipated to be announced in June 2024, followed by a Federal audit. Full execution of the Grant Agreement would likely occur 4-6 months following award. If awarded, staff would likely work to procure a consultant in Winter 2024-2025, and initiate the Transportation Study thereafter. Following initiation, the study and concept or preliminary design work would take approximately 24 months to complete. U.S. Department of Transportation requires funds to be spent by September 30, 2033.

**Recommendation:** Staff recommend approval of the attached Resolution as written.

### **Attachments:**

- **Resolution** authorizing submittal of a Berlin Turnpike Transportation Study RAISE Grant Application with CRCOG acting as a direct recipient and contributing toward the local match.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A BERLIN  
TURNPIKE TRANSPORTATION STUDY RAISE GRANT  
APPLICATION WITH CRCOG ACTING AS A DIRECT RECIPIENT  
AND CONTRIBUTING TOWARD THE LOCAL MATCH**

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Transportation Safety Plan (RTSP) for the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) identifies the Berlin Turnpike as a regionally significant corridor with one of the highest number of crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, contributors to these safety issues are high vehicle speeds and the lack of sufficient bicycle, pedestrian, and transit accommodations within the corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has recently completed a project that provides pedestrian crossing accommodations at 15 traffic signals along the Berlin Turnpike from Selden Street in Berlin to Nott Street in Wethersfield, and recommends through its Greater Hartford Mobility Study the further studying of a new 6-mile shared use pathway along the Berlin Turnpike in Wethersfield, Newington, and Berlin; and

**WHEREAS**, a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Planning Grant would allow CRCOG to critically review and assess the benefits and impacts associated with implementing multiple safety countermeasures along the entirety of this high crash corridor, assessing the possibility of a corridor transit hub, and exploring transformative land use visions; and

**WHEREAS**, the current estimated study cost is \$2.5 million, and the current federal RAISE Grant Program solicitation requires a 20% non-federal match contribution; and

**WHEREAS**, town staff from Berlin, Newington, and Wethersfield are seeking to obtain commitments for \$100,000 collectively towards the study's non-federal match, and CTDOT has committed to expend up to \$300,000 toward the study's non-federal match if CRCOG commits to expend \$100,000 towards the match;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the agency's Executive Director, Matthew W. Hart, is authorized to act on behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments to submit a RAISE Grant application for a Berlin Turnpike Transportation Study, contribute up to \$100,000 from CRCOG's Regional Fund and/or CRCOG's Regional Service Grant funds towards the study's required local match, and commit CRCOG to act as the direct recipient for any related funding award.

**CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Capitol Region Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Capitol Region Council of Governments Policy Board, on January 24, 2024.

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