



CAPITOL REGION EAST COAST GREENWAY STUDY

SIMSBURY — BLOOMFIELD — HARTFORD — EAST HARTFORD

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #6 MINUTES

December 13, 2023 | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting - This meeting was recorded.

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Attendance

Name	Organization
Michael Cipriano	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Parker Sorenson	FHI Studio
Rory Jacobson	FHI Studio
Laura Nagle	FHI Studio
Phil Goff	VHB
Owen Deutsch	City of Hartford
Kevin Gough	Town of Bloomfield
Jonathan Thiesse	Town of Bloomfield
Doug Wilson	Town of East Hartford
Sean Dwyer	Town of East Hartford
Steve Hnatuk	Town of East Hartford
Adam Kessler	Town of Simsbury
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Andrew Correia	CTDOT
Jordan Vogt	CTDOT
Scott Bushee	CTDOT
Michael Disla-Suarez	CTDOT
Kimberly Bradley	CT DEEP
Bruce Donald	East Coast Greenway Alliance / CT Greenways Council
Mike Zaleski	Riverfront Recapture
Martha Coneely	Riverfront Recapture

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.crcog.org



1. Project Updates (1:18)

Parker Sorenson opened the meeting and reviewed the project schedule. East Hartford and Bloomfield preferred alignments are being prepared for final reporting. Public meetings are anticipated in February and March 2024.

2. Public Outreach (2:05)

Parker provided an overview of public outreach events, email list signups, and public comments received so far. Three more pop-ups will be scheduled, as well as final public meetings, a final newsletter, and town council meetings/approval. Parker invited recommendations for additional 1-on-1 stakeholder meetings from the Advisory Committee.

3. Simsbury Update (3:47)

The Town of Simsbury Recommendations Report draft is posted and available on the CRCOG website for review. The public comment period is open through January 15, 2024. The report will be finalized after the public comment period concludes. Then, the report will be reviewed by CRCOG Approvals at the end of January. Adam Kessler said the Town of Simsbury will post about the report on social media. Parker reviewed Alternative #2 as the preferred alignment and presented visualizations.

4. Griffin Line Update (11:48)

A site visit occurred on November 21, 2023 with CTDOT, City of Hartford, iQuilt, and FHI Studio along the Griffin line from Garden St to Albany Ave. The consultant team and CRCOG are developing the *Griffin Line Feasibility Assessment Technical Memorandum* for review in January.

Parker reviewed the key takeaways and presented images from the site visit. Private property easements are likely required within the narrow right-of-way near Garden Street. Generally, the north side has several adjacent buildings that would require building demolition, significant site changes, or rail realignment if a trail were to be routed on this side. Rail-with-trail on the south side has fewer obstructions. The trail underneath the Sigourney Street Bridge could be routed between the bridge pier and abutment. At the Woodland Street Bridge, the trail would need to be routed to the Woodland Drive signal or through a new culvert, or the bridge would need to be replaced with a wider structure. A new culvert or rail realignment would also be needed at the Albany Avenue Bridge.

Kevin Gough asked what the estimated cost for the Griffin Line alignment would be and if it matches the estimate from iQuilt's study. Parker responded that cost estimates are being completed and will be included in the final report. iQuilt is completing a separate study.

Jonathan Thiesse asked how the City of Hartford, iQuilt, and CRCOG are coordinating their separate studies and funding. Owen Deutsch responded that iQuilt plans to continue their conceptual designs, and the City of Hartford will apply their grant funding to final design documents. The City of Hartford is focusing from downtown Hartford to the Capaco area. The CRECG Study in Bloomfield from Bloomfield Center to Capaco may provide the connection to Hartford.

Bruce Donald commented that examples of rail-with-trails in New Jersey have been very costly per mile. Alternatives to the Griffin Line may be less expensive and faster.

Parker discussed that the CRECG shortlist will be the best Griffin Line option and the next best alternative. Caitlin Palmer explained that community input during the decision-making process will help determine the final preferred alignment.



5. Next Steps (41:03)

Parker noted the next two Advisory Committee meetings are scheduled on January 31, 2024. The March meeting date is to be determined.

6. Public Comment (41:39)

No one chose to speak.

Meeting ended at 41:58