

## Agenda Item Summary

**To:** Policy Board; Transportation Committee  
**From:** Roger Krahn, Principal Transportation Engineer  
**CC:** Matthew Hart, Executive Director  
**Meeting Date:** July 22, 2024 (Transportation Committee acting as Policy Board)  
**Subject:** Farmington Area Connectivity Study

**Background:** The Capitol Region Council of Governments, in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and the Town of Farmington, completed the Farmington Area Connectivity Study. This Study built upon decades of planning for a new north-south bridge across the Farmington River in Farmington. The study examined the local and regional traffic impacts associated with a proposed new bridge to connect Monteith Drive from Route 4, north of the Farmington River, to New Britain Avenue on the south side of the river. The new bridge would provide a more direct connection for vehicular traffic, bicycles, and pedestrians between the Town Hall, Town Library, and High School on the north side of the river to the Police Station, Community Center, Senior Citizen Center, and Public Works facility on the south side.

The study included an extensive public and stakeholder engagement, including meetings with Town of Farmington Officials, Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee, Farmington River Watershed Association, National Park Service, CTtransit, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, FHWA CT Division Office, CTDOT, and US Environmental Protection Agency.

A presentation was made to the Farmington Town Council on September 13, 2022, and a Public Information Meeting was conducted on November 29, 2023. The Town of Farmington supports the findings of the study as described in the June 14, 2024 letter from Kathleen A. Blonski, Town Manger.

The DRAFT Final Report was completed in June 2024 and is posted on the CRCOG website at <https://crcog.org/farmington-connectivity-study-2/>.

**Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:** The traffic analysis findings can be incorporated into future planning and design activities needed to advance the project and obtain funding.

**Financial/Operational Impact:** This report did not address construction costs.

**Project Schedule:** Additional funding is needed to advance the project.

**Recommendation:** CRCOG staff recommends endorsement of the Final Report of the Farmington Area Connectivity Study. Once adopted, the report documents will be considered final, and the findings can be incorporated into future updates of CRCOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan and other planning documents.

**Attachment:**

- Resolution for Endorsement of the Farmington Area Connectivity Study
- Letter of Support from the Town of Farmington

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**RESOLUTION  
FOR ENDORSEMENT OF THE  
FARMINGTON AREA CONNECTIVITY STUDY**

**WHEREAS**, the Capitol Region Council of Governments worked with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and the Town of Farmington to undertake the Farmington Area Connectivity Study; and

**WHEREAS**, the study was initiated by CRCOG and the Town of Farmington build upon decades of planning to assess the traffic impacts of another north-south bridge across the Farmington River in Farmington, Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS**, the study analyzed existing operations at 30 study intersections, and future traffic operations at those same intersections, resulting from a proposed new bridge to connect Monteith Drive from Route 4 (Farmington Avenue) north of the Farmington River to New Britain Avenue south of the Farmington River; and

**WHEREAS**, a proposed new bridge would provide a critical link between the Farmington Town Complex (Town Hall, Town Library, and High School) to the Police Station, Community Center, Senior Citizen Center, and Public Works Facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary purpose of the new bridge is to enhance multimodal connectivity (including vehicular traffic, pedestrians, and bicycles), which would lead to better distribution of traffic and shorter travel times; and

**WHEREAS**, a proposed new bridge will enhance resilience of the existing transportation system by providing an alternative to the CT Route 177 steel truss bridge over the Farmington River in Unionville; and

**WHEREAS**, the CRCOG Transportation Committee has reviewed the study, has found its finding to be reasonable, and has endorsed the effort;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Capitol Region Council of Governments does hereby endorse the findings of the Farmington Area Connectivity Study described in the Final Report dated June 13, 2024.

**CERTIFICATE**

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board, at its meeting held on July 22, 2024.

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



June 14, 2024

Mr. Roger Krahn. P.E.  
 Principal Transportation Engineer  
 Capitol Region Council of Governments  
 350 Church Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
 Hartford, CT 06103

**RE: Farmington Area Connectivity Study**

Dear Mr. Krahn:

The Town of Farmington is pleased to support the findings of the Farmington Area Connectivity Study. The Report, completed by the SLR International Corporation on the 16th of January 2024 is a comprehensive analysis of the impacts and benefits of a proposed new bridge across the Farmington River, connecting Monteith Drive from Route 4 (north of the Farmington River) to New Britain Ave (south side of the river). This new bridge is cited in CRCOG's approved Unified Planning Work Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2023-2050, adopted by CRCOG Policy Board on April 26, 2023. The new bridge is also included in CT DOT's air quality conformity analysis to ensure it is compatible for future State Transportation Improvement Programs.

This study data driven evidence that the Monteith Drive Extension would improve transportation connectivity, ease traffic congestion, and enhance system resilience by adding a new bridge over the Farmington River. The new river crossing would address limited north-south connections, benefiting key locations on both sides of the river and improving emergency response times in Farmington. The new bridge will offer a route for various modes of transport while helping reduce congestion at existing intersections. The new bridge will be designed to withstand higher flood levels will enhance system resilience during major flooding events.

The recent planning activities funded by the CTDOT and/or CRCOG have supported the Town of Farmington's efforts over many years to provide a much-needed additional river crossing. The recent traffic analysis and outreach to various federal, state, and local stakeholder groups completed under CRCOG's Farmington Area Connectivity Study, have shown continued support to move this new river crossing project forward.





If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact Russ Arnold, Director of Public Works/Town Engineer by email at [arnoldr@farmington-ct.org](mailto:arnoldr@farmington-ct.org) or by telephone at 860-675-2305.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Blonski  
Town Manager

CC: Russ Arnold, DPW/Town Engineer  
Dylan Reilly, Civil Engineer  
File

