

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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POLICY BOARD REGULAR MEETING CRRA Trash Museum September 28, 2011 Noon

Attendance

Mary Glassman
Brandon Robertson
Richard Hines
Jon Colman
Joyce Stille
Dick Barlow
Dave Kilbon
Marcia LeClerc
Scott Kaupin
CJ Thomas
Chip Beckett
John Adams
Jim Boucher
Bob Painter
Pedro Segarra
Scott Shanley
Lou Spadaccini
Barbara Gilbert
Matt Galligan
Richard Shuck
Steve Werbner
Ron Van Winkle
Jeff Bridges
Steve Wawruck

Guests

Tom Maziarz
Grayson Wright
Katie Blint
Bill Quinlan
Walt Szymanski
Sherri Winslow
John Shemo
Dan Moore

Town/Organization

Simsbury
Avon
Avon
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
East Granby
East Hartford
Enfield
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Hartford
Manchester
Manchester
Rocky Hill
South Windsor
Stafford
Tolland
West Hartford
Wethersfield
Windsor Locks

ConnDOT
ConnDOT
CL&P
CL&P
CL&P
CL&P
MetroHartford Alliance
NU

Kathie Lutz
Tom Gavaghan

Rome Smith Lutz
State DESPP

Staff

Cheryl Assis	CRCOG
Winsome Barnaby	CRCOG
Maureen Barton	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Jen March-Wackers	CRCOG
Erik Snowden	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

Roll Call

Chairman Glassman called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. noting there was a quorum.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Colman made a motion, seconded by Mr. Kilbon, to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2011 regular meeting as submitted. All voted in favor of the motion.

Reports

Executive Director and Chairman

CRCOG had a new staff member in the Finance Department, Cathy Rubera, which gives Tracy Malenfant the opportunity to move up to Grants & Contract Administration. CRCOG is waiting to hear the specifics of OPM's next round of Regional Performance Incentive Grant requirements, as well as specific information on the large equipment cost sharing program. Mr. Shanley has been communicating with Chairman DiFronzo of DAS regarding granting municipalities access to the broadband program that has been introduced for public safety responders. Regional Online Permitting is now up to fifteen members, with the addition of New Britain. Information on an upcoming meeting on the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor was introduced. Mr. Wray reported that he spent his vacation in Istanbul, where he gathered information about their Bus Rapid Transit system, which features 2-3 segmented articulated busses manufactured by Mercedes, that move 800,000 riders a day and has cut a 2 hour crossing down to 20 minutes. Mr. Wray shared good news on premiums for CRCOG's healthcare, which have only increased by 2%. Included in the packet were letters drafted by Transportation to the DOT regarding bus route cuts and fare increases, as well as funding for local bridge repair. Ms. Stille mentioned that at the COST meeting, she discovered that some towns have no idea that broadband is going to be put into fire departments in their town, and asked that CRCOG continue to pursue this.

MetroHartford Alliance

John Shemo reported that MHA has received ten competitive proposals to their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy RFP, which is in conjunction with the HUD Sustainable Knowledge Corridor program at CRCOG. MHA is also taking potential investors on tours of the region, showing them available properties, and also looking at international development in the region, with Israel at the top of the list. There is a Technology Summit on October 4 with the Massachusetts Office of Business Development. MHA's Graduate CT program has now re-enrolled 100 adult students, and held a fair with nine area colleges recently. MHA also participated in a "start-up weekend" at the Hartford Public Library, with seventy-five individuals who got together to figure out how to start up a business, mostly mobile and web-based, and the group included experts and college students. MHA is also participating in a contest called the Talent Dividend Prize offered through CEO's for Cities, which will give a million dollars to the region that has the highest percentage increase in college graduates. MHA has a new Chair of Regional Economic Development, Courtney Henderson.

Policy and Planning Department

Mary Ellen Kowalewski reported on the Policy and Planning Department. The Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Consortium has a meeting on October 4, and the agenda is in the packet. The Policy and Planning Department has been engaged in several activities, including issuing RFPs to find consultants to complete tasks that are part of the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor project, and there are three resolutions that the Board will take action on later in the meeting. The department is going to be reaching out to towns as they update existing plans. Brownfields funding will be available again, with 1.2 million over two years to conduct assessments. The Policy and Planning Department is still determining whether they will apply for the grant, or apply for revolving loan funds. Last week was the National Bike and Pedestrian Documentation project, volunteers counted cyclists and pedestrians at forty locations in seventeen communities. The data gathered will help guide planning for regional and local bike and pedestrian transportation.

Municipal Services/Purchasing Council

Mr. Wray reported on the survey that has been distributed to members to gather feedback to determine how members would like CRCOG to pursue additional service sharing opportunities. A copy of the responses thus far is included in the packet, and a reminder will be sent out tomorrow, so everyone has a chance to be heard.

Public Safety/Homeland Security

Ms. Gilbert reported for Public Safety. Chief Austin's testimony for the legislative hearing on Tropical Storm Irene was included in the packet, which detailed the regional response to the storm. The Regional Coordination Center was activated and the most significant event during the storm was when Johnson Memorial Hospital lost power and requested regional emergency support. In the aftermath of the storm, CRCOG also assisted with distribution of commodities.

DEMHS just scheduled their Irene After Action Sessions for our Region which will also include an overview of the new agency. You and your EMD's should have received this

notice. They will Thursday, September 29, 2:00PM to 4:00PM and Monday, October 17, 6:00PM to 8:00PM both at the East Hartford Public Safety Complex,. CRCOG is in the process of planning a law enforcement tabletop exercise on October 28. Policy Board members are welcome to observe this exercise. Comments about Tropical Storm Irene were offered. Some municipalities were more affected than others, and Mayor Segarra said it was frustrating that they had two generators to offer but no communication to determine where they would be useful. Communication needs to be improved, both during the emergency event and afterwards. Mr. Gavaghan, from the State of Connecticut stated that they are putting together a Recovery Group, and suggested that Policy Board members might want to participate to help develop ways to recover after an event. He will keep Cheryl Assis informed regarding the formation of this group. Mr. Beckett said that responses that rely on cell service are not sufficient, since Glastonbury lost cell service, phone and power. Mr. Colman said we already have an example to model a recovery team off of, the mutual aid program. Mr. Shanley suggested that municipalities should also offer education for their residents for how to prepare for a weather event so they are not reliant upon the town. Ms. Assis spoke about the UASI funded website for citizen preparedness, which will launch in March. There will be a presentation of this website for the Policy Board. Chief Austin will also be holding an information session about using Twitter and/or Everbridge to communicate during a storm event prior to an upcoming Executive Committee or Policy Board meeting. Mr. Van Winkle said West Hartford has a radio frequency to inform residents during an event.

Transportation Committee

Mr. Colman reported that there was an interesting presentation at this week's Transportation Committee meeting regarding pre-cast concrete bridges, which can shave 75% off of project time and is cost competitive. There are two action items for Transportation on today's agenda. Ms. Carrier reported that \$5 million dollars have been added to the Putnam Bridge rehabilitation project for a pedestrian sidewalk. It was added that the towns of Glastonbury, and Wethersfield in partnership with East Hartford and Goodwin college will be looking to advance an access study, identifying alternatives to access the future sidewalk on the Putnam Bridge.

Approval of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates, Inc. For the Regional Sustainable Communities Planning Project's Transit Enhancement Bus Study

Mr. Colman, seconded by Mr. Kilbon, made a motion to approve the resolution for executing the agreement with Nelson/Nygaard. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Jonathan Rose Companies, Inc. For the Regional Sustainable Communities Planning Project's Market Analysis of the Knowledge Corridor's Bus Rapid Transit and Rail Corridors

Mr. Colman, seconded by Mr. Kilbon, made a motion to approve the resolution for executing the agreement with Jonathan Rose Companies. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Clarion Associates, LLC For the Regional Sustainable Communities Planning Project's Sustainable Land Use Code

Mr. Kilbon, seconded by Mr. Colman, made a motion to approve the resolution for executing the agreement with Clarion Associates, LLC. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of STP-Urban Pavement Rehabilitation Projects

Mr. Beckett, seconded by Mr. Kilbon, made a motion to approve the STP-Urban Pavement Rehabilitation Projects recommended by the Transportation Committee. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of TIP Amendments

Mr. Colman stated that the third item on the TIP amendments did not require action. Mr. Colman, seconded by Ms. Stille, made a motion to approve the TIP amendments. All voted in favor of the motion.

State Agency Update

A representative from a State agency contacted Mr. Wray about speaking at this meeting, but the representative did not attend the meeting.

Status of NHHS Rail Project

Tom Maziarz gave a presentation on the status of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Project, which is moving forward. The DOT is still working with individual towns to bring everyone up to speed, but Mr. Maziarz said they are looking to reach a broader audience now. The NHHS project is a small part of larger vision for rail service in the region, and in order for the other pieces to proceed, NHHS need to be completed first. The NHHS will improve regional connections and reduce trip times. Significant work will need to be done to update the current infrastructure. \$471 million is the available funding to date, the preliminary program cost is \$647 million (excluding new stations, new trains, and upgrades to both the CT River Bridge and the Hartford Viaduct). Construction will start in 2014 and operations will start in 2016. Mr. Maziarz said that for the members of this committee, one of the important features of this project is the opportunity for economic development at the new stations, and it would be an engine for regional economic growth as well.

Tropical Storm Irene: After Action Review

Bill Quinlan from CL&P thanked those members that testified at the legislative hearing. CL&P will hold fifteen regional forums looking for feedback on their storm response, and will come back with action steps that they will execute with COGs and municipalities. This was the first time CL&P used their Town Liaison process, which was intended to provide towns with a single point of contact. Mr. Shanley asked if their substation

information could be provided to towns as a layer in their GIS systems as a simple circuit map. Towns reported mixed success with their Town Liasons, some were effective, but some were not. Mr. Galligan reported that the South Windsor liasion didn't show up until after they closed their emergency response center, and didn't have any specific understanding of emergency management. Mr. Beckett stated that on Sunday, Glastonbury had cleared 48% of the trees that were across roads, but it still took two more days before power was restored. Chairman Glassman said it would be helpful to know who would be the last to have power restored, as they are the people the municipality needs to communicate with to make sure they have an emergency plan. Mr. Quinlan asked the members to follow up with him if they have further questions.

Solid Waste Management Update

Dick Barlow gave the solid waste management update. Two vendors were selected to offer contracts in late July. The procurement process came in under budget. After the decision was made, things were quiet until September 16, when CRRA began contacting towns to offer a \$20/per ton rebate, a rebate that had not yet been approved by the CRRA board, and asking them to sign up by October 1st, two days after the board would review the rebate. This raised a number of issues. Mr. Barlow will be attending the CRRA board meeting to voice the Authority member's concerns. The Town of Tolland withdrew from CCSWA with thanks and recognition of the value of the procurement process in their ultimate decision. Policy Board member discussion centered on whether the CRRA rebate offered after the RFP opening was even legal. Ms. March-Wackers stated that the Authority consulted their legal counsel and were told they could alter CRRA's proposal to the benefit of the towns but had to open the same option up to Murphy Road Recycling. Any affected tier agreements will have to be re-written and documentation established of CCSWA accepting the changes.

Draft Policy Board Schedule

The schedule was not included in the packet and this will appear on next month's agenda. The draft schedule will be e-mailed to members tomorrow, to review for major conflicts.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Ms. Lutz reported that not a lot is happening right now. The Governor's Job Summit will be held October 6 at the Convention Center, you must register online to attend, and you can do so through the ct.gov website. There will be a special session on October 26 on jobs, and they will only recognize job-related issues. Last night there was a vote by the Energy & Technology, Appropriations & Public Health Committees to change the formula for LIHEAP. They increased the amount available for total costs, and are hoping the rest will come from the feds. The Chairs committed to backfilling, but they won't be able to cover all programs.

Adjournment

Mr. Kilbon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Stille seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.