

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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POLICY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING South Congregational Church December 13, 2011 1:00 p.m.

Attendance

Mary Glassman
Richard Hines
Jon Colman
Sydney Schulman
Joyce Stille
Dick Barlow
Dave Kilbon
Scott Kaupin
Chip Beckett
John Adams
Larry Deutsch
Bob Painter
David Panagore
Bonnie Therrien
Leo Diana
Scott Shanley
Terry Borjeson
Catherine Gaudinski
Barbara Gilbert
Steve Werbner
John Ward
Jeff Bridges
Peter Souza
Steve Wawruck

Guests

Paul Nonnenmacher
Michael Bloom
Linda Kelly
Oz Griebel
Becky Nolan
John Shemo

Town/Organization

Simsbury
Avon
Bloomfield
Bloomfield
Bolton
Canton
East Granby
Enfield
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Hartford
Hebron
Manchester
Manchester
Newington
Marlborough
Rocky Hill
Tolland
Vernon
Wethersfield
Windsor
Windsor Locks

CRRA
Rome, Smith & Lutz
Hartford Foundation
MetroHartford Alliance
MetroHartford Alliance
MetroHartford Alliance

Staff

Maureen Barton	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Jennifer March-Wackers	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG

Roll Call

Chairman Glassman called the meeting to order at 1:09 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 November 16, 2011 special meeting as submitted. All voted in favor of the motion.

Reports

Executive Director and Chairman

Mr. Wray reported on the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Consortium meeting and website launch even, which took place on December 7 at Goodwin College, where participants discussed some tools for the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Consortium, like Metroquest and social media initiatives. Mr. Wray encouraged Board members to explore the tools available. Mr. Wray pointed out an item in the meeting packet, which was a comparison of dues for various regional entities, and CRCOG was somewhere in the middle on dues per capita. On January 20 there will be a meeting of the State Transportation Finance Committee regarding the capital plan, which has a budget just shy of \$12 million. There will be a Shared Services conference which is currently penciled in for March 20 at CCSU, which will provide an opportunity to discuss ways to do things cooperatively. Ms. March-Wackers was called upon to answer a question regarding the OPM Regional Performance Incentive Grant program, and she provided a revised deadline – applications will still need to be in by December 31, but the deadline for authorizing resolutions has been pushed back to February 15 by OPM.

MetroHartford Alliance

Mr. Griebel spoke to the Board about the MetroHartford Alliance's (MHA) four year strategic plan, a summary of which is included in the meeting packet. Also included was a graph showing how member's contributions are leveraged. Their board is set to approve the plan on Thursday. The summary includes their priorities for 2012 and a more broad view of their longer-term priorities. Their mission is make the region a magnet for jobs and talent, and to drive economic growth. Ms. Newton invited members to a roundtable discussion on Thursday with Catherine Smith. She also said that newly elected officials should have received information on the MHA. Mr. Shemo spoke about the MHA's ability to assist local business development by sharing a story of a new start-

up business that just received a \$100,000 loan from the MHA after being unable to find traditional funding. Mr. Shemo also informed the Board that the MHA will be hosting a conference on economic development in Hartford in October 2012, in conjunction with the celebration of MHA's 50th anniversary. Mr. Griebel encouraged members to contact the MHA if they need any assistance or information.

Policy and Planning Department

Ms. Kowalewski reported that the Brownfield's project is finishing up with projects in Hartford, and that CRCOG has applied for a grant to fund additional projects. She also reported on the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Consortium meeting, where Mr. Wray and Tim Brennan of PVPC spoke about bus rapid transit and rail project information, and opportunities for economic development and housing projects that will be created by those projects. Jonathan Rose Company also was represented at the meeting to talk about Transit Oriented Development market analysis. Early in 2012, they will kick off transit enhancement study of existing bus service, and how the current ground service could be better connected with jobs. Ms. Kowalewski reported on bike and pedestrian planning, specifically on analyzing crash statistics to improve safety for cyclists. Ms. Kowalewski also stated that a resolution which is on the agenda will need updated wording, and that she will ask for an authorization based on a correction to the current wording. Lastly, she reported on a staff meeting at CT DOT on pedestrian accessibility which will have a workshop on funding for bike and pedestrian improvements.

Municipal Services Committee/Purchasing Council

Mr. Souza reiterated that the deadline for town resolutions to support shared service grant applications has been extended to February 15, 2012.

Public Safety/Homeland Security

Ms. Gilbert mentioned a recent tabletop exercise that was held and then talked about the After Action Review of the response to Storm Alfred, which will be published soon. Ms. Gilbert reported that after attending the hearings, she found the information she received to be confusing and that she is concerned that municipalities won't have answers in time for the next storm. Chief Austin will present on the subject prior to the January 25 Policy Board meeting. Ms. Gilbert also stated it is important for municipalities to provide their feedback on Northeast Utilities' proposals as soon as possible. There was discussion about Northeast Utilities and other utilities, and some members expressed concern that the municipalities will be on their own. Mr. Deutsch asked if any consideration of having a sound truck drive through neighborhoods informing people of shelters has been considered. Mr. Shanley said municipalities should ask residents to make a plan, and make that information available ahead of time.

Transportation Committee

Mr. Colman reported that there are various authorization bills working their way through Congress, but they are not expecting any change to transportation funding or programs, at least through the next election. They received applications for CMAC/STP enhancements, staff will review them and act on them in January. Mr. Colman reported

that Canton was looking at the possibility of installing an electric charging station and wondered if that could be a regional project, and the Transportation Committee was supportive of the idea. Mr. Colman also reported that they are going to challenge ----- and file three town applications and one regional application. Mr. Colman stated that there are some STP projects sitting on the books, and that CRCOG is reviewing these with ConnDOT to see if they are going to move forward. ConnDOT also has put information about the Statewide transportation fund on their website, which will allow town engineers to check projects online and report issues back to CRCOG.

Adoption of Nominating Committee's Recommendations for CRCOG Officers and Executive Committee

Ms. Therrien pointed out the memo in the packet regarding the Nominating Committee's recommendations for CRCOG officers, Executive Committee and committee chairs, and also noted that they are recommending that the Board authorize a By-laws Committee. Ms. Therrien made a motion to adopt the recommendations as submitted, Mr. Colman seconded. Mr. Hines asked if it was within the purview of the Nominating Committee to recommend a By-Laws committee, and Ms. Therrien responded that because the by-laws establish the process for the nominating committee to recommend for the Officers, Executive Committee and committee chairs, it was a sensible combination. All voted in favor of the motion.

Chairman Glassman welcomed Linda Kelly and informed the Board that we will come back to the Action items after Ms. Kelly's presentation.

Strategic Review for Hartford Foundation – Linda Kelly, CBIA

Ms. Kelly thanked Mr. Wray for the invitation to speak at the Policy Board. The Hartford Foundation hired a consultant a year ago to look at the concerns of the community. The priorities identified by the community were Education and Workforce issues. The Hartford Foundation began working on a strategic plan which was accepted in June, and it's called Accelerate Success. They do not want to start from a blank slate, but find ways to get different entities in the private sector and government to agree on a common agenda and agree on how to measure things in the same way. They are looking for areas where the Foundation already has a foothold – areas like early education, public and community schools and scholarships. On the workforce side, they are focusing on adult illiteracy. Studies have shown that in the Greater Hartford region, 42% of adults are functionally illiterate in English, and that rises to 70% in the City of Hartford. The Foundation will work with other providers which already have adult literacy programs, and they want to find a way to tie literacy into workforce development, and to assist in getting people into the workforce or helping them move up in the job market. In addition, Ms. Kelly said they need a way to make the data and measurements that exist understandable for people in the community. The foundation is planning to establish a baseline within a year and will be looking for partners. To sum up, Ms. Kelly said the goal of Accelerate Success is to pull entities together and lift the entire region up. Mr. Deutsch asked about matching funds from the Foundation to the City of Hartford for winter shelters, and whether there are any mutual or cooperative arrangements available for shelters outside the city. Ms. Kelly responded that the Foundation has a

relationship with several agencies dealing with homelessness and supportive housing, and said emergency shelters are an area that Foundation offers assistance with, but that they are not a long-term solution. Some Foundation donors do step in when they see there is a need.

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Grant Application to CT DOT for Bicycle Safety Program

Ms. Kowalewski read aloud the amended wording, and a corrected copy will be submitted to Mr. Barlow for his signature after the meeting. Mr. Colman made a motion to adopt the schedule, Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement with Crosby/Schlessinger/Smallridge for the New Britain/Hartford Busway Transit Oriented Development Implementation Project

Ms. Kowalewski stated that this is a contract with DOT for limited on-call technical assistance. There are \$40,000 left in the grant, so Ms. Kowalewski is seeking to extend the grant period. Mr. Colman, seconded by Mr. Kilbon, made a motion to approve the resolution. All voted in favor of the motion.

Authorization of Water Filter Contract Extension

Ms. March-Wackers stated that this is an extension of a contract with Aqua Pump to service a DEEP program, and they are seeking a month to month extension. DEEP has not yet collected all money due from the polluters and they have added monitoring procedures to this extension to ensure the current funds do not run out. Mr. Colman made a motion to authorize, Ms. Therrien seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of TIP Amendments

Ms. Carrier stated there is one item, an earmark to reconstruct Riverside Drive. Mr. Colman made a motion to approve, Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of STP Urban Program

Ms. Carrier stated that the Transportation Committee endorsed this at their meeting on Monday. There is a memo included in the packet. There are 19 projects, and \$21 million federal dollars in the program. Mr. Colman made a motion to approve, Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Beckett asked what happens when a project doesn't receive funding. Mr. Colman responded that the program is dynamic and changes are constant. If you would like a project to be added to the list, talk to Ms. Carrier.

Approval of CRCOG Transportation Work Program

Ms. Carrier stated that new tasks and administrative requirements have been added to the work plan. Mr. Colman made a motion to approve, Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

CCSWA-CRCOG Service Agreement Extension

Ms. March-Wackers reported that this is a 6 month extension of an existing administrative agreement for her time on the CCSWA project, until a more formal MOU agreement is in place. This project is billing monthly, and they will have an Annual Meeting next week. Mr. Colman made a motion to approve, Mr. Kilbon seconded. The majority voted in favor of the motion, with one abstention (Mr. Barlow).

CRCOG 2012 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Wray asked for volunteers for the Legislative Committee, and will send out a reminder.

Thanks to Departing Members for Their Service

Ms. Glassman presented Dr. Painter with a certificate of thanks for all his work on the Policy Board and other CRCOG programs. Certificates to the outgoing members who were not present will be mailed to them.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Mr. Bloom stated he sat through the meetings on the utilities response to Storm Alfred. He suggested that anyone who has thoughts on this should communicate with the legislators now. Mr. Bloom also stated that STEEP grants will be resolved soon.

Adjournment

Mr. Colman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Mr. Kilbon seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.