Capitol Region Council of Governments  
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

Transportation Committee Meeting  
Monday September 22, 2008

Name | Organization
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Jon Colman | Bloomfield
Jonathan Thiesse, Alternate | Bloomfield
Gary Haynes | East Granby
Piya Hawkes | Enfield
Billy Taylor | East Hartford
Len Norton | East Windsor
Dan Pennington | Glastonbury
Kevin Burnham | Hartford
John McGrane | Hartford
Mark Carlinno, Alternate | Manchester
Peter Hughes | Marlborough
Tony Ferraro | Newington
Jim Sollmi | Rocky Hill
Richard Sawitzke | Simsbury
Patrice Carson | Somers
Jeff Doolittle | South Windsor
Bill Hawkins | Suffield
David Smith | Tolland
Terry McCarthy | Vernon
Dave Kraus | West Hartford
Mike Turner, Alternate | Wethersfield
Tom Lenehan | Windsor
Steve Wawruck | Windsor Locks
Gil Hayes | GHTD

Guests
Sandra Sheehan | GHTD
Charlie Carson | CTTransit
Grayson Wright | ConnDOT

Staff
Lyle Wray | CRCOG
Thomas Maziarz | CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier | CRCOG
Karen Olson | CRCOG
Pramod Pandey | CRCOG
Lia Huang | CRCOG

1. Roll Call
Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. It was suggested that Item #4 of the agenda, Staff Report, be moved to later in the agenda.

2. Public Forum
No one from the public was present to offer comments.
3. Adoption of Minutes
A motion was made by Patrice Carson, seconded by Kevin Burnham, to accept the minutes of the July 28, 2008 meeting as written. This motion was passed unanimously.

4. CT Transit fuel cell bus program—short presentation by Steve Warren
Steve Warren, CT Transit Director of Maintenance, gave a presentation on the 40’ hybrid hydrogen fuel cell bus running the Star Shuttle Route for the past 1-1/2 years. This is the only bus of its kind in the United States outside of California. Five more buses are planned to be added to the fleet next year. Currently, these buses use a nickel sodium chloride battery for backup, but in 2010 a lithium ion battery with the ability to plug in and charge up to 30% of its capacity overnight will be used. UTC Power currently provides the necessary hydrogen and the bus can run for 16 hours at a time (4,000 hour lifetime). CT Transit is currently in need of funding for a fueling station and a 6-bus garage.

5. TIP Amendments
Tom Maziarz reviewed the TIP Amendments. Related to amendments 2a, 2b, and 2c it was noted that bus shelter projects now require a 20% town contribution, raised from 10% previously, and an in-kind match is eligible. A motion was made by Patrice Carson, seconded by Mark Mitchell to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

6. STP Urban
- Tom Maziarz reviewed the proposal for CRCOG’s Special Studies Project to be funded under the STP Urban program. Three proposed projects include the Rocky Hill Traffic Study, the Simsbury Route 10 Traffic Study, and the Hartford I-84 Viaduct Study. The studies will be completed under a single CRCOG-DOT contract.
- Jennifer Carrier recapped the Cost Review and Schedule Subcommittee meeting. At their earlier meeting, the Subcommittee approved the cost increase for the Manchester, North Main Street project. A motion was made by Patrice Carson to approve the cost increase to $3,891,000 ($3,112,800 federal). Jim Sollmi seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. No action was necessary on the Hartford, Newington Avenue project. It was mentioned that we should review our project capping policy during the next project solicitation.

7. Staff Report
- Tom Maziarz mentioned that CT Transit will host a public meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2008 as an opportunity for the public to make suggestions for changes and share ideas for improvements.
- Tom Maziarz mentioned that there will be an effort to standardize bus shelter installation and maintenance. A draft proposal was issued.
- Tom Maziarz informed the Committee that the New Britain Busway reevaluation was just submitted with the total cost now at $570 million. The busway is scheduled to open in 2013. There will be a meeting October 10, 2008 with the Commissioner.
- Tom Maziarz informed the Committee that the Federal Highway Trust Fund would receive $8 billion from the general fund, effective immediately upon House approval. A Congressional Quarterly article was provided.

8. Other Business
There was no other business.

9. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.