

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

Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday January 26, 2009

Name	Organization
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Larry Baril	Avon
John Pagini	Bolton
Roland Klee	Canton
Gary Haynes	East Granby
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Kurt Cavanaugh	Glastonbury
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
James Klase	Granby
Jennifer Cassidy	Hartford
John McGrane	Hartford
Mark Carlino	Manchester
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Tony Ferraro	Newington
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Rich Sawitzke	Simsbury
Patrice Carson	Somers
Marcia Banach	South Windsor
David Smith	Tolland
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Dave Kraus	West Hartford
Tom Lenehan	Windsor
Steve Wawruck	Windsor Locks
Guests	
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Charlie Carson	CT Transit
DJ Gonzalez	GHTD
Kevin Burnham	Hartford
Staff	
Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Tom Maziarz	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Sandy Fry	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Public Attendees	
Thomas Gutman	AARP
Timothy Young	Anchor Engineering Services
Stuart Popper	URS

1. Roll Call

Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

2. Public Forum

No comments from the public were offered.

3. Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by Marcia Banach, seconded by Patrice Carson, to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2008 meeting as written. This motion was passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report

- Carmine Centrella reminded the towns to submit public works resource information in order to comply with the Homeland Security Grant Program and CT General Statute 28-22a (intrastate Mutual Aid Compact). Information will be posted on the CRCOG website (http://www.crcog.org/homeland_sec/PW-resources.html)
- Jennifer Cassidy announced that the Hartford Court of Common Council passed the resolution supporting the development of the New Britain-Hartford Busway and the New Haven/Hartford/Springfield Commuter Rail.
- Sandy Fry updated the Committee on the latest Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Program (LOCHSTP) activities. Four submissions were received for New Freedom Funds. The selection process is currently underway.
- Tom Maziarz highlighted the major changes with ConnDOT's reorganization. There may be the potential to develop a master agreement process now, with the reorganization, to streamline the overall agreement process.

5. TIP Amendments

Tom Maziarz reviewed the TIP amendments. A motion was made by Patrice Carson, seconded by Marcia Banach to accept the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

6. Economic Stimulus Program

Tom Maziarz led the discussion on the proposed Economic Stimulus Program. The following summarizes the discussion:

- HR 7110 has been updated and renamed HR 1; the bill is still in draft form and is constantly updated; the most recent version is on the CRCOG website.
- The target date to pass this legislation is February 16, 2009.
- One major update was that the time period to obligate funds was revised to 150 days based on normal obligation requirements from 90 days based on contract award.
- Several offices such as CCM and the Governor's office have requested project lists for stimulus funding; projects submitted to CRCOG are being considered for the proposed transportation funds identified in HR1, Title XII. Town submissions to each requesting office should be as consistent as possible.
- Town-state agreements will still be needed for projects. Several Committee members expressed concern over the time expected for ConnDOT project review. Additionally, all contracts must be signed by the Attorney General—the additional

stimulus projects will create more contracts for the AGs office to review and approve. ConnDOT is working to streamline their efforts. Gubernatorial and/or legislative involvement may expedite the approval process. Lyle Wray also added that there may be an opportunity for the Governor to use her authority to advance projects in a timely manner under the emergency declaration policy.

- Project cost estimates should be conservative since cost increases may be a challenge; however, cost estimates should use ConnDOT unit pricing as a baseline. One Committee member mentioned that a large flux of projects may drive up the bid prices.
- Municipalities will need to bond their projects. Bonding authorization by Town Councils will be required by many towns. A referendum will likely not be necessary.
- CRCOG has developed a list of five groups of projects in preparation for this funding; sample pavement rehabilitation plans are available on CRCOG's website for towns to review as they prepare their own submissions.
- One Committee member voiced concern over how projects were selected and grouped; CRCOG has made these selections based on the project information it has on file and from experience with these projects. If towns have additional information to provide or any questions, they should email Tom Maziarz or Jennifer Carrier.
- A Committee member suggested CRCOG prepare a matrix for projects identifying such items as the status of plans, whether public informational meeting was held, if specs are complete, etc.
- Another Committee member expressed concern that smaller towns at a disadvantage when competing for economic stimulus funding and maybe a multiplier or extra points should be allotted to them.
- A Committee member commented that the latest draft of the Bill mentioned that if the first 50% of the stimulus money is obligated within 150 days of the Bill enactment, another year would be given to obligate the remaining funds—this may provide the opportunity to fund projects other than pavement rehabilitation.

A motion to endorse a resolution to authorize the Transportation Committee to act on behalf of the Policy Board to approve TIP amendments in relation to the federal economic recovery act was made by Marcia Banach and seconded by Bill Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.