

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

Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday February 23, 2009

Name	Organization
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Larry Baril	Avon
John Pagini	Bolton
Roland Klee, Alternate	Canton
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Leonard Norton	East Windsor
Robert Phillips	Ellington
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington, Alternate	Glastonbury
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
Jeffrey Doolittle, Alternate	South Windsor
Bill Hawkins	Suffield
David Smith	Tolland
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Steve Weitz, Alternate	West Hartford
Mike Turner	Wethersfield
Tom Lenehan	Windsor
Steve Wawruck	Windsor Locks
Gilbert Hayes	GHTD
Guests	
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
DJ Gonzalez	GHTD
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
Kevin Burnham	Hartford
Charlie Carson	CTTransit
Brian M Skoniecy	Beta Group, Inc.
Staff	
Tom Maziarz	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Public Attendees	
Thomas Gutman	AARP

1. Roll Call

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

2. Public Forum

Tom Gutman from AARP acknowledged West Hartford for installing back plates on their traffic signals for improved signal visibility. This action will be reported to AARP National for further commendation.

3. Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Sollmi, seconded by Bill Taylor, to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2009 meeting as written. This motion was passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report

No business to report.

5. Economic Stimulus Program

Tom Maziarz led the discussion on the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, summarizing the memorandum that was sent to the Policy Board and distributed to Transportation Committee members. The following summarizes the discussion:

- Jon Colman recapped the CRCOG staff recommendation to approve the (4) listed projects for Recovery and Reinvestment funding and to use the Cost Review and Schedule Subcommittee to select projects for the remaining anticipated funds
- Dan Pennington questioned the need to approve the (4) recommended projects right away, if 12-months is now the deadline to obligate monies. Tom Maziarz replied that the towns sponsoring these (4) projects have already spent a great deal of time preparing the projects to meet the potential shorter time periods and the State has already begun reviewing these projects. Mr. Maziarz continued that within a month ConnDOT will receive several projects to review for this funding; starting the approval process now will give ConnDOT the opportunity to approve these projects before getting inundated with other requests.
- John McGrane commended CRCOG on their preparation for the potential 90-day obligation scenario, but felt that since 12-months are now available projects with greater merit, not necessarily pavement rehabilitation projects, should be considered. Jon Colman agreed that pavement rehabilitation projects likely will not greatly stimulate the economy, but pointed out that the remaining funds have the potential to do so.

Jon Colman made a motion to approve CRCOG's approach to project selection noting that although some committee members may object the majority approves of the process. The motion passed unanimously.

6. TIP Amendments

Tom Maziarz reviewed the TIP amendments. The following summarizes the short discussion regarding the TIP amendments:

A motion was made by Patrice Carson, seconded by Mark Carlino to accept the TIP amendments. Dan Pennington was opposed to the motion and Steve Weitz abstained; all other members were in favor of the motion.

7. Other Business

Tom Maziarz recommended that the Subcommittee meet next week to begin discussing the selection process for the additional funds. Mr. Maziarz then opened up the discussion to the committee to begin brainstorming options for this selection process. The following summarized the discussion.

- Peter Hughes felt that the selection process has been very fair, but in order to reduce the selection effort for the additional funding it would help to understand what category projects are likely to be selected. Tom Maziarz agreed that CRCOG will assemble a list of projects that will likely meet the time constraints as a starting off point for this selection.
- John McGrane agreed that these projects should be selected based on merit and the ability to execute on time.
- Jon Colman stated that the Subcommittee will develop a set of criteria for the selection process. Both recommendations and a rationale basis will be presented to the Transportation Committee.
- Piya Hawkes suggested having backup projects in case the selected projects encounter unexpected delays. Tom Maziarz explained that he has asked DOT for a project reassessment in ~4 months to ensure that all chosen projects are in good standing with permits. John Thiesse suggested using the TIP backlog for backup projects.

The Subcommittee meeting was set for Wednesday, March 4th at 12:00 noon. Location is to be determined.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM.