

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

Special Meeting

STP-Urban SubCommittee Meeting
Wednesday March 4th, 2009

Name	Organization
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Larry Baril	Avon
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Robert Phillips	Ellington
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington, Alternate	Glastonbury
James Klase	Granby
Jennifer Cassidy	Hartford
John McGrane, Alternate	Hartford
Clarence Corbin	Hartford
Tom Fenton	Hebron
Mark Carlino	Manchester
Tony Ferraro	Newington
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Rich Sawitzke	Simsbury
Jeffrey Doolittle, Alternate	South Windsor
David Smith	Tolland
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Dave Kraus	West Hartford
Mike Turner	Wethersfield
Steve Wawruck	Windsor Locks
Gilbert Hayes	GHTD
Mark Mitchell	CCEJ
Guests	
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Kevin Burnham	Hartford
Blythe Robinson	Avon
Staff	
Tom Maziarz	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Maressa Gonzalez	CRCOG
Public Attendees	
Thomas Gutman	AARP
Ron Dagan	Luchs Consulting Engineers
Caroyln Pivirotta	1000 Friends of CT
Steve O'Neill	VHB, Inc.

1. Roll Call

Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

2. Public Forum

Tom Gutman from AARP expressed concern over the future of Dial-a-Ride. Many seniors depend on this service and he would like some clarification.

3. Recovery and Reinvestment Program

• Staff Report and News on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Tom Maziarz led the discussion on the Recovery and Reinvestment Act, summarizing available funds, certification and reporting requirements, and relevant issues for the Subcommittee to consider.

• Rating Criteria

Jennifer Carrier reviewed the preliminary rating system for the remaining ARRA funds. The Subcommittee was first asked to comment on the rating system approach. The following summarizes the discussion:

- Dave Kraus suggested allocating the remaining ARRA funds to all towns represented by CROG based on the number of Federal highway roadway miles located in each town. This would allow all towns to benefit from the legislation.
- Bill Taylor felt that if a town hasn't begun project design yet, it will likely not meet the 12-month obligation deadline.
- Jim Sollmi shared that dividing ARRA funding among all member towns will burden ConnDOT staff, when they are already being asked to review projects statewide.
- John McGrane expressed the opinion that breaking out funds to all municipalities will result in several very small-scale projects, likely maintenance related rather than capital improvement.
- Bill Taylor added that breaking out funding to all towns based on a formula is counter to regional planning.
- Tom Maziarz mentioned that other regions have created a suballocation formula that awards funds to all municipalities, but also requires that funding is used for quality projects.
- Terry McCarthy inquired as to whether local bridge projects could be funded with ARRA funds.

A motion was made by Dave Kraus, seconded by Mark Carlino, to distribute the remaining ARRA funding equitably among member municipalities rather than use a rating system. Two were in favor of the motion; all other members were opposed to the motion. The motion did not pass.

Jon Colman began a discussion on the rating criteria design. The following summarizes this discussion:

- Tony Ferraro noted that ConnDOT review is a major factor. Relative ease of plan review should be included in the rating criteria. Mr. Ferraro also felt that Average Daily Traffic

volume should be considered however it was noted that small towns would may object to that rating criteria.

- Mark Carlino brought up the question of whether “community benefit” meant local or regional benefit. Tom Maziarz commented that the Subcommittee may decide to combine local and regional benefit into one category or make these two distinct rating criteria. Individual project presentations will allow towns an opportunity to quantify a benefit.
- Mike Turner questioned how job creation potential might be rated. Mr. Maziarz suggested a qualitative low/medium/high rating on how labor intensive the work may be.
- Dan Pennington felt that “status of plans” should not be weighted as heavy since some towns may be able to prepare plans quickly. Tom Maziarz suggested assigning “town experience with DOT process” more weight; Mr. Pennington agreed.
- Mark Carlino asked how “status of plans” might be rated. Tom Maziarz proposed asking municipalities to list which specific aspects of the plan are complete such as survey.

- **Review of Projects**

Jon Colman raised the question of whether the projects will be reviewed by the entire Transportation Committee or by the Subcommittee. The following summarizes the Subcommittee discussion:

- Jeff Doolittle suggested that each municipality have one vote.
- Dan Pennington felt that CRCOG staff would make a fair selection.
- John McGrane stated that the Subcommittee determined the rating system, but the entire Transportation Committee should take part in the project selection.
- Tom Maziarz mentioned that he would like to see the review by the Transportation Committee since the CRCOG staff recommended the initial projects.

A motion was made by Jim Sollmi, seconded by Mark Carlino, to open the review to the entire Transportation Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional discussion items relating to the review of projects were as follows:

- John McGrane suggested a time limit for project presentations (possibly 10 mins).
- Jeff Doolittle asked whether enhancement projects will be included in the potential projects. Tom Maziarz stated that with the lower than expected funding for enhancement projects, it would be fair to allow these projects consideration.

- **Next Meeting Date**

The Subcommittee meeting was set for Thursday, March 12th from 12:00 noon – 4:00 P.M. Location is to be determined.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM.