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

Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday March 23, 2009

Name                  Organization
Jon Colman             Bloomfield
Larry Baril            Avon
John Pagini            Bolton
Neil Pade              Canton
Bill Taylor            East Hartford
Leonard Norton         East Windsor
Robert Phillips        Ellington
Piya Hawkes            Enfield
Russ Arnold            Farmington
Daniel Pennington      Glastonbury
James Klase            Granby
Jennifer Cassidy       Hartford
John McGrane           Hartford
Peter Hughes           Marlborough
Tony Ferraro           Newington
Jim Sollmi             Rocky Hill
Rich Sawitzke          Simsbury
Patrice Carson         Somers
Marcia Banach          South Windsor
Bill Hawkins            Suffield
David Smith            Tolland
Terry McCarthy         Vernon
Steve Weitz             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
Grayson Wright          ConnDOT

Staff
Tom Maziarz             CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier        CRCOG
Lia Huang               CRCOG
Karen Stewartson        CRCOG

Public Attendees
No one from the public attended

1. Roll Call
Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.
2. **Public Forum**

There were no public comments.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by Marcia Banach, seconded by John Pagini, to accept the minutes of the following meetings:

- February 23, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting as written
- March 4, 2009 ARRA Subcommittee meeting as written
- March 12, 2009 ARRA Subcommittee meeting as written
- March 18, 2009 ARRA Subcommittee meeting as written

This motion was passed unanimously.

4. **Staff Report**

No business to report.

5. **Authorizing Resolutions for Route 10 and Route 3 studies**

Tom Maziarz explained that the resolutions authorized CRCOG’s Chairperson or Executive Director to execute an agreement with ConnDOT for funds to conduct the Route 10 and Route 3 studies.

A motion was made by Peter Hughes, seconded by Bill Taylor, to approve the authorizing resolutions for the Route 10 and Route 3 studies as written. This motion was passed unanimously.

6. **Biennial Transportation Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Discussion was postponed to the next Transportation Committee meeting.

7. **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

Tom Maziarz provided an overview of the ARRA Subcommittee project selection process and results. Below is a summary of the discussion that followed:

- Jim Sollmi noted that ARRA funding for Enhancement projects is determined by the State and inquired about the status of State programming of these funds. Mr. Maziarz announced that the Governor’s Office published a list of Enhancement projects earlier today and the two CRCOG candidates for Enhancement funds (Farmington River Trail Phase III in Canton and Resurfacing of Existing Canal Trail in Windsor Locks) were not listed. It is unclear whether this list represents the final project selections. More information will be obtained and disseminated as soon as possible.
- Tom Maziarz suggested that the Committee approve $700,000 of STP-Urban funds to replace the Enhancement funding we had hoped to receive. Peter Hughes offered the possibilities of either reducing the project scope or requiring Canton to fund the remaining balance. John McGrane felt that scaling the project back may not be desirable because it may result in an incomplete trail with no connectivity. Neil Pade stated that the project is complicated and further discussion with the Canton Town Engineer about options is necessary.
- Jim Sollmi questioned whether the Windsor Locks project would also potentially obtain funds from the STP Urban program. Tom Maziarz felt that a recommendation could not be made without further information and discussion. Mr. Maziarz further stated that the Windsor Locks project was recommended for ARRA funding although other projects were given higher ratings because it was eligible for Enhancement funding.
A motion was made by Peter Hughes, seconded by Marcia Banach, to approve the ARRA recommended project list prepared by staff based on the project ratings done by the ARRA subcommittee. The motion was passed unanimously.

8. **STP Urban Program for FY2009**

Jennifer Carrier reviewed the status of the STP Urban program. The following summarizes the discussion:

- Due to several projects not being able to scheduled obligation dates in FY2009, we could have an unspent balance of $4-6 million in FY2009. The Committee discussed the possibility of using the balance to fund projects on the ARRA list.
- Tom Maziarz noted that the Suffield Street bridge reconstruction project is eligible for another federally funded local bridge program (80% federal, 20% local) and may not achieve the greatest benefit for the region by funding it as a FY2009 backup project through the STP Urban program. Additionally, the pending DEP permit could cause delays.
- Mr. Maziarz explained that ConnDOT is aware of the potential backup projects. These projects must be ready within ~90 days; it is uncertain whether these projects will be approved for FY2009 monies.

The Committee agreed with the programming approach, but did not take any action on this item.

9. **TIP Amendments**

Tom Maziarz reviewed the TIP amendments for the Committee. The following summarizes the discussion:

- Steve Wawruck questioned the cost increase for the Windsor Locks Canal Trail Resurfacing project. Mr. Maziarz stated that ConnDOT recently released this new estimate based on constructability of the project.

A motion was made by Rich Sawitzke, seconded by Marcia Banach, to approve the TIP amendments as written. The motion passed unanimously.

10. **Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

11. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 PM.