

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday September 21, 2009

Name	Organization
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
John Pagini	Bolton
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Len Norton	East Windsor
Robert Phillips	Ellington
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Jennifer Cassidy	Hartford
Kevin Burnham	Hartford
Mark Carlino	Manchester
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Tony Ferraro	Newington
Jim Sollmi (alternate)	Rocky Hill
Rich Sawitzke	Simsbury
Dave Pinney	Somers
Marcia Banach	South Windsor
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Dave Kraus	West Hartford
Michael Turner	Wethersfield
Tom Lenehan	Windsor
Steve Wawruck	Windsor Locks
Barbara Surwillo	American Lung
Guests	
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
Sandra Sheehan	GHTD
Bob Cafarelli	Somers
Charlie Carson	CTTransit
Grayson Wright	ConnDOT
Patrice Carson	
Tom Gutman	AARP
Staff	
Tom Maziarz	CRCOG
Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Mario Marrero	CRCOG
Karen Olson	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

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

2. Public Forum There were no comments from the public.

3. Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by Marcia Banach, seconded by Dan Pennington, to accept the minutes of the June 22, 2009 Special Policy Board Meeting on Transportation. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report

Tom Maziarz reported that ConnDOT is interested in testing a new Town – State master agreement that would be valid for 10 yrs and amended by Memorandums of Understanding as needed. Mr. Maziarz suggested that four towns with ARRA projects (Rocky Hill, Windsor, South Windsor and Manchester) volunteer to test this agreement. The Committee Members from these towns agreed.

Mr. Maziarz noted that the overall MPO Certification Review went well and extended a thank-you to those who assisted. No formal FHWA feedback has been received to date, however feedback is expected within the next month.

SAFETEA-LU is set to expire at the end of September 2009. The House of Representatives is suggesting a 3-month extension and the Senate is suggesting an 18-month extension.

The shortfall of the Highway Trust Fund will be funded with general funds.

Livable Communities monies may be advanced under the new transportation bill.

5. Jobs Access Annual Assessment Report: review & approval

Mario Marrero reviewed the highlights of the Jobs Access Annual Assessment Report. The report now follows the State Fiscal Year rather than the calendar year. The Jobs Access Program budget could face reductions as high as \$200,000 this State Fiscal Year. In preparation for these cutbacks, the program has eliminated / reduced service on The L-Tower Avenue Crosstown route, the Bradley Flyer route, the Berlin Turnpike Flyer route, and the Avon/Canton McDonald's vanpool. Despite these service reductions, the program has maintained steady ridership. A motion was made by Jim Sollmi, seconded by Mike Turner, to approve the Jobs Access Annual Assessment Report and forward this report to the State. The motion passed unanimously.

6. TIP Amendments

Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP Amendments. A motion was made by Marcia Banach, seconded by Jim Sollmi to approve the TIP amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

7. Fiscal problems in state transportation programs

Tom Maziarz described ConnDOT's efforts to manage their transportation program finances. A list of Capitol Region projects that did not appear in the Draft 2010-2013 TIP was handed out. The missing projects are a result of a program and budget review being conducted by DOT. DOT has many more projects programmed than it has financial resources. Part of their budget adjustment process includes postponing or cancelling mid-sized projects (\$5 - \$20 million). Mr. Maziarz continued to explain that this is a major policy issue and CRCOG's Policy Board chairperson and Transportation Committee chairperson will be meeting with Deputy Commissioner Parker to discuss

it. It was suggested by a Committee member that the region take part in assessing which projects to remove from the TIP.

8. Review of New TIP for FFY2010-2013

Tom Maziarz explained the Draft TIP approval process and requirements. All materials are posted on the CROCOG website. The 30-day public comment period has begun and the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled. Mr. Maziarz explained both the Air Quality Conformity and Environmental Justice Analyses demonstrating that the Capitol Region meets the requirements.

The public was given the opportunity to comment on the Draft TIP, however no public comments were received.

9. ARRA and STP Urban Update

Jennifer Carrier provided an update on the ARRA projects. Of the 4 projects that have been bid, all have all come in lower than originally anticipated. Ms. Carrier mentioned that the remaining 3 towns (Canton, Hartford and East Hartford) are currently evaluating their projects to see if bid-alternates would be an option; a small amount has been set aside for change orders on existing projects; additional monies (\$400,000) were programmed for Canton, freeing up the earlier budgeted STP-Urban monies. Assuming the above, there could be at least \$2.6M worth of unprogrammed ARRA monies. CROCOG staff will be evaluating options to reprogram this money over the next couple of weeks and we will bring that back before the Committee.

Tom Maziarz commented that one option may be to allow ConnDOT to use the leftover ARRA funds in exchange for the funding of projects missing from the most recent TIP. One Committee member suggested funding projects that reviewed during the ARRA project selection process but not selected. However, concern was expressed that these projects may not be able to move fast enough to meet the ARRA deadlines.

Jennifer Carrier updated the Committee on the STP Urban Program. A 2% increase was used for budgeting purposes. Ms. Carrier reviewed a handout listing both funded STP Urban projects and those projects waiting for ConnDOT review. The Committee held a brief discussion about how the STP Urban Program may be better streamlined. A state-regional swap option was mentioned – this would not be subject to the federal – state sign off. The use of consultants to review and advance STP-Urban projects was also suggested.

10. Other Business

Steve Wawruck inquired about the status of the bus shelter program. Sandy Fry may be contacted for information on this program.

Lyle Wray announced that CROCOG will be co-sponsoring a symposium on Bus Rapid Transit on Thursday, October 15, 2009 at the Hartford Legislative Office Building.

11. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM