

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday October 19, 2009

Name	Organization
Larry Baril	Avon
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Mark Mitchell	CCEJ
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Len Norton	East Windsor
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Gilbert Hayes	GHTD
James Klase	Granby
Jennifer Cassidy	Hartford
Kevin Burnham	Hartford
Mark Carlino	Manchester
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Rich Sawitzke	Simsbury
Bob Cafarelli	Somers
Marcia Banach	South Windsor
Bill Hawkins	Suffield
David Smith	Tolland
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Thomas Silva	West Hartford
Tom Lenehan	Windsor
Steve Wawruck	Windsor Locks

Guests

Grayson Wright	ConnDOT
John H. Rorrio	ConnDOT
Kevin Chuckwill	ConnDOT
Robbin Cabelus	ConnDOT
Maribeth Wojenski	ConnDOT
Charlie Carson	CTTransit
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
D. J. Gonzalez	GHTD

Staff

Tom Maziarz	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Sandy Fry	CRCOG
Karen Olson	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG
Brenda Watson	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 September 21, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting. Dave Smith abstained from voting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report

Tom Maziarz provided an overview of the Viaduct Study background and goals. The first public workshop will be held mid-November.

Sandy Fry summarized the bike/pedestrian counting project findings. This is the first year the Capitol Region has participated in the ITE National Bike/Pedestrian Documentation Project. This snapshot of the current walking and bicycling patterns in the region is also a task item in the Regional Bike/Ped Plan. Bike/pedestrian documentation will be an annual effort in the Capitol Region.

5. Route 305 Corridor Study-Adoption of Recommendations

Jennifer Carrier presented a summary of the Route 305 Corridor Study final recommendations and stated that endorsements were received from both the Bloomfield and Windsor Town Councils.

Dr. Mitchell asked about funding sources for implementation of these recommendations. Ms. Carrier noted that these recommendations will probably be constructed in phases. Since Route 305 will likely remain a State road, the use of federal funds will require an 80/10/10 share (federal/state/local). Mr. Maziarz noted that funding in the coming years will be difficult to obtain, but the findings of this study provide a basis for planning purposes. Dr. Mitchell voiced general concern over funding for State roads, adding that this funding has been difficult to obtain in both Hartford and West Hartford.

A motion was made by Gil Hayes, seconded by Dan Pennington, to accept the recommendations of the Route 305 Corridor Study. Dr. Mitchell and Thomas Silva abstained from voting. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Adoption of New TIP for FFY2010-2013

A public comment period was offered at the beginning of this discussion. No public comments were received.

Karen Olson reviewed the FFY 2010-2013 TIP adoption activities to date. The following summarizes each topic:

Public Comment – the draft FFY 2010-2013 TIP is posted on the CRCOG website, a legal notice was printed in the Hartford Courant, a legal notice in both English and Spanish was printed in the Hartford News, notices were distributed to town clerks in all Capitol Region municipalities, a press release was issued to all media contacts, and a public informational meeting was held. Some inquiries were received on specific project status, but no public comments on the draft TIP were received.

Air Quality Analysis – the draft FFY 2010-2013 TIP conforms to the air quality emissions budget.

A motion was made by Marcia Banach, seconded by Dr. Mitchell, to accept the air quality analysis for the FFY 2010-2013 TIP. The motion passed unanimously.

Environmental Justice Assessment – It was found that 26% of the region's population lives inside environmental justice (EJ) target areas. 63% of highway funds and 46% of transit funds of the FFY 2010-2013 TIP are being invested in the EJ target areas. It was found that there is no bias in the distribution of transportation funds.

A motion was made by Dr. Mitchell, seconded by Rich Sawitzke, to accept the environmental justice assessment for the FFY 2010-2013 TIP. The motion passed unanimously.

TIP Adoption – A motion was made by Marcia Banach, seconded by Billy Taylor to accept the FFY 2010-2013 TIP. The motion passed unanimously.

TIP Amendment / Omission – A motion was made by Billy Taylor, seconded by Mark Carlino, to accept the TIP amendment / omission. The motion passed unanimously.

MPO Self Certification – A motion was made by Billy Taylor, seconded by Dan Pennington, to approve of the MPO Self Certification resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Mitchell noted that the I-91 exit for Routes 5/15 and the Charter Oak Bridge backs up and is very dangerous. Dr. Mitchell inquired about projects that will address this issue. Tom Maziarz stated that this need is addressed in the Long Range Plan, but related projects are not currently in the TIP.

Dr. Mitchell also mentioned that Kansas City bus shelters have dynamic message boards that state the current time and the estimated time of arrival of the next bus. Dr. Mitchell questioned whether this technology might be implemented in the Capitol Region in the coming years. Mr. Maziarz stated that Sandy Fry is currently analyzing possibilities for this on Farmington Avenue and added that CTTransit is also in the process of upgrading their buses with Advanced Vehicle Location devices.

Vicki Shotland commented that that funding under program 5309 for Vernon may not be listed in the draft TIP.

7. Fiscal Problems in State Transportation Programs

Lyle Wray, Tom Maziarz, Jon Colman and Mayor Currey met with Commissioner Marie and Deputy Commissioner Parker to discuss the fiscal problems in the state transportation programs. At the policy level, ConnDOT will address the legislature regarding the scale of the fiscal problem. Tom Maziarz noted that Connecticut is one of the states most dependent on federal transportation funding; state revenue must be raised to address the transportation funding issue. CRCOG will work toward bringing awareness and solutions to this financial problem.

At the project level, ConnDOT agreed to help advance projects currently removed from the TIP as much as possible however priority has been placed on projects needed to preserve the existing transportation system. Mr. Maziarz explained that each of the projects that have been removed from the TIP will be reviewed for alternative funding sources and/or phasing options to keep the projects moving forward.

Dave Smith asked about the process for prioritizing projects. Tom Maziarz stated that the potential to qualify for alternative funding sources, ability to fit into funding openings, and project specific items such as ROW acquisition status will all be reviewed during this process.

8. ARRA and STP Urban Update

Tom Maziarz stated that bid prices for ARRA projects have been coming in lower than originally anticipated. The Transportation Committee will need to decide how to use the remaining funds. Mr. Maziarz reviewed three proposed options: Initiate projects from the previous ARRA priority list, transfer STP Urban projects to the ARRA program, or negotiate with ConnDOT with the goal of advancing mid-sized projects that have been removed from the TIP. CRCOG staff will further review these options and report on or before the next meeting.

9. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

10. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.