

**Capitol Region Council of Governments**

**241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106**

**Transportation Committee Meeting**

**Monday January 25, 2010**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
John Pagini	Bolton
Neil Pade	Canton
Dave Kilbon	East Granby
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Robert Phillips	Ellington
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
James Klase	Granby
Jennifer Cassidy	Hartford
Kevin Burnham	Hartford
Mark Carlino	Manchester
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Tony Ferraro	Newington
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Rich Sawitzke	Simsbury
Bob Cafarelli	Somers
Marcia Banach	South Windsor
Bill Hawkins	Suffield
David Smith	Tolland
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Dave Kraus	West Hartford
Mike Turner	Wethersfield
Tom Lenehan	Windsor
Steven Wawruck	Windsor Locks
Gilbert Hayes	GHTD
<b>Guests</b>	
Grayson Wright	ConnDOT
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
D. J. Gonzalez	GHTD
Charlie Carson	CTTransit
Micah Kerr	
Jonas Macionas	Hartford
Stuart Popper	URS
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Tom Gutman	AARP
Bradshaw Smith	Windsor Resident

## **Staff**

Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Tom Maziarz	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Karen Olson	CRCOG
Sandy Fry	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Erik Snowden	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

**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 Jim Sollmi, seconded by Billy Taylor, to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Staff Report**

The Transportation Committee members and guests expressed their appreciation for Tom Maziarz and the work that he has accomplished in the Capitol Region.

Tom Maziarz noted that the first draft of the MPO certification report was received. CRCOG will maintain certification and the final report will likely be issued in the next two months.

### **5. New air photos for Capitol Region, Erik Snowden, CRCOG**

Erik Snowden updated the Committee on the regional orthophotography project. The high quality color orthophotos are scheduled to be available in Spring 2010.

### **6. Endorsement of Buckland Transportation Study recommendations**

The Buckland Transportation Study recommendations were presented to the Transportation Committee at a previous meeting. Tom Maziarz briefly summarized the study goals.

A motion was made by Marcia Banach, seconded by Mark Carlino, to accept the recommendations of the Buckland Transportation Study. The motion passed unanimously.

### **7. TIP Amendments**

Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP amendments.

A motion was made by Dave Kilbon, seconded by Russ Arnold, to approve the TIP amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

### **8. Update on ARRA and STP Urban programs**

Jennifer Carrier provided an update on the ARRA projects. The Phoenix Street Bridge project in Vernon has encountered permitting delays and will not long be able to meet the March 2<sup>nd</sup> ARRA deadline. Funding has been reallocated to the Post Office Road project in Enfield as previously agreed to by the Committee.

Tom Maziarz informed the Committee that a second round of stimulus funds is likely to be available. Since the deadlines are expected to be much tighter than the 2009 ARRA program, it was suggested that ConnDOT use the entire Capitol Region allocation in exchange for the same amount of funding in other programs. This will effectively extend the obligation and construction deadlines. The new

stimulus funds may be used toward projects that were removed from the active project list as well as new projects.

The New Britain Avenue project in West Hartford is one of the projects that was removed from ConnDOT's active project list. CRCOG, West Hartford, and ConnDOT have been working together to find a way to advance the key elements of this project. Jennifer Carrier explained that the project has been scaled back and that the town has agreed to transfer funds from the Farmington Avenue STP-Urban project in order to move this project forward. An additional \$2.5 million of FY2011 STP-Urban funds will be needed to fully fund this project.

A motion was made by Dave Kilbon, seconded by Marcia Banach, to allocate an additional \$2.5 million of FY2011 STP-Urban funds to the New Britain Avenue project in West Hartford. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Maziarz described a second project, Albany Avenue in Hartford, that had been removed from ConnDOT's active project list. The project is time sensitive due to work planned by the MDC and involves the addition of turning lanes and streetscape elements. The details are still being discussed and will likely need action by the Transportation Committee in the future.

## **9. Tolland Route 195 Study Recommendations**

Tom Maziarz presented the Route 195 Study recommendations. The main goal was to calm traffic in the Tolland Green area; pedestrian improvements, gateway treatments, and increased buffer space for some properties were also achieved. The following summarizes the discussion that followed the presentation:

- Jennifer Cassidy inquired about bicycle improvements in this corridor. Tom Maziarz explained that 3-4 foot shoulders will be provided on approaches to the Green area, however in the vicinity of the Green the road will have a 28' wide cross-section. It was important to maintain the narrow road at the Green for effective traffic calming. Bicyclists may either utilize the adjacent carriage road or take the lane in this area.
- Marcia Banach was impressed with the overall plan and cooperation with ConnDOT. Ms. Banach noted that the Department would not allow passive pedestrian crossing equipment on Ellington Road in South Windsor. Tom Maziarz explained that a push button pedestrian crossing may give pedestrians a false sense of safety.
- Tom Gutman expressed appreciation for the pedestrian improvements recommended, but was concerned about the medians and lateral shifts. Mr. Gutman asked that adequate reflectors be used to maintain safety without a dependence on area lighting and pavement markings.

**10. Other Business** No other business was discussed.

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