

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday February 22, 2010

Name	Organization
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Larry Baril	Avon
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Leonard Norton	East Windsor
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
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
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Dave Kraus	West Hartford
Mike Turner	Wethersfield
Steven Wawruck	Windsor Locks
Mark Mitchell	CCEJ
Mary Ellen Thibodeau	CCBA
Guests	
Grayson Wright	ConnDOT
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
D. J. Gonzalez	GHTD
Jonas Maciunas	Hartford
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Tom Gutman	AARP
Curtis Cunningham	Bryan Farms Resident
Richard Lynn	LHCEO
Kurt Cavanaugh	Glastonbury
Bradshaw Smith	Windsor Resident
Staff	
Jennifer Carrier	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

Tom Gutman, representing AARP, commented on intersection safety awareness. Mr. Gutman noted that legislation is currently being considered to issue tickets with red light cameras. If this is passed, the installation work should be coordinated with other updates to comply with MUTCD standards including back plates on traffic signals and street sign visibility.

Curtis Cunningham, representing the Bryan Farms neighborhood of Manchester, expressed concern over the recommended I-84, exit 63 interchange reconfiguration in the Buckland Study. Mr. Cunningham handed out a memo detailing his concerns to the Committee.

Bradshaw Smith, Windsor Resident, commented on the proposed TIP Amendment #3 to upgrade approach and terminal signing for Bradley International Airport. Mr. Smith felt that the Airport should be responsible for funding airport signing upgrades.

3. Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Sollmi, seconded by Mike Turner, to accept the minutes of the January 25, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report

Jennifer Carrier reported the following updates from CRCOG staff:

- The Policy Board Retreat is scheduled for February 24th. The Board will discuss regional initiatives and priorities.
- A meeting to discuss the regional bus shelter program will be held at the CRCOG offices on Friday, February 26th at 9:30 AM.
- The FTA has recommended the New Britain-Hartford Busway for funding and a full funding grant agreement will likely be executed this spring. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year. CRCOG will coordinate with ConnDOT to schedule a presentation on the Busway project for an upcoming Transportation Committee meeting.
- The State has secured \$40m for the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Commuter Line which will allow for the double tracking of approximately 10-miles.
- Lyle Wray is monitoring a Livable Communities Grant monies and expects a draft notice of the availability of funds to be issued mid-March. CRCOG is considering developing a regional application in the \$5-\$10m range.

5. TIP Amendments

Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP Amendments. The following is a summary of the Committee discussion:

- Jon Colman asked whether other funding sources were reviewed for the Airport signing upgrades. Grayson Wright replied that he will look into this further, but that the project does qualify for NHS funding since it is on the highway.
- Steve Wawruck noted that airline ridership has declined in recent years and that this year the Airport is facing a budget deficit. Mr. Wawruck added that the Airport has a regional impact.

- Jennifer Carrier added that the project includes signage directing trucks to stay on RT 20 at the request of the Town of Windsor as well as other regulatory and guide signing.
- Dr. Mitchell commented that the Airport may be in a deficit this current fiscal year, but other years may not have been the same. Dr. Mitchell asked whether this project qualifies for funding by Bradley International Airport.

Dr. Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Billy Taylor, to postpone action on TIP Amendment #3, Upgrades to Bradley Approach and Terminal Signing. Steve Wawruck was opposed to this motion; all other members were in favor. The motion passed.

Jon Colman asked that additional information be provided to the Committee including sign description/positioning and the potential for Airport funding.

Dr. Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Jim Sollmi, to approve the remaining TIP Amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Certification-Review-Final Report Issued

Jennifer Carrier summarized the MPO Certification Review Final Report for the Committee.

7. Public Works Equipment Sharing-Litchfield Hills

Richard Lynn, Director of the Litchfield Hills Council of Elected officials provided an overview to a public works equipment sharing program underway in the Litchfield Hills Region. Samples of a Memorandum of Understanding and a Request for Proposal for a Vacuum Catch Basin Cleaner were distributed. The following summarizes the discussion that followed:

- Tony Ferraro asked whether the rental fee included operating costs. Richard Lynn answered that the rental fees did not include operating costs and added that staff would also need training with the equipment.
- Dan Pennington asked if scheduling was an issue since many towns perform similar maintenance tasks at the same time of year. Mr. Lynn explained that two sweepers were purchased to avoid this conflict.
- Mike Turner asked what other equipment is being considered for the program in the future. Richard Lynn named a hot asphalt recycler, crack sealer, and hydro-sealer as potential equipment. The goal is to create a sustainable program, one that can continue to grow without the dependence on grant money.
- Jennifer Carrier informed Committee members that sample service sharing templates are posted on the CRCOG website.

8. Other Business No other business was discussed.

9. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.