

Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday May 17, 2010

Name	Organization
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Larry Baril	Avon
John Pagini	Bolton
Roland Klee	Canton
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Robert Phillips	Ellington
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
John McGrane	Hartford
Jennifer Cassidy	Hartford
Mark Carlino	Manchester
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Tony Ferraro	Newington
Rich Sawitzke	Simsbury
Bob Cafarelli	Somers
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Dave Kraus	West Hartford
Mike Turner	Wethersfield
Tom Lenehan	Windsor
Steven Wawruck	Windsor Locks
Mary Ellen Thibodeau	Bike Walk-CT
Gilbert Hayes	GHTD
 Guests	
Grayson Wright	ConnDOT
Tom Gutman	AARP
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Herb Virgo	Hartford
Carl Bard	MDC
Bradshaw Smith	Windsor Resident
 Staff	
Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Sandy Fry	CRCOG
Mario Marrero	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Beth Emery	CRCOG-Bike ED
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

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

2. Public Forum

Tom Gutman, representing AARP, expressed appreciation for recent pavement restriping particularly in Hartford. The paint color is more intense and visible to motorists.

3. Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by Piya Hawkes, seconded by Russ Arnold, to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report

- Lyle Wray informed the Committee that the T-HUD notice of available grant funds anticipated to be issued in May will likely be delayed. CRCOG is partnering with area MPOs to submit an application.
- Dr. Wray updated the Committee on the TIGER II grant opportunity. Twenty projects nationwide are expected to be funded therefore joint applications are a good approach.
- Dr. Wray explained a future rail connection from Boston to New York City following an inland route, passing through Connecticut. The project cost is estimated at \$100 billion and has strong political endorsement.
- Jennifer Carrier noted that the Transportation Committee will act on behalf of Policy Board at the June 21, 2010 meeting.
- Ms. Carrier explained that CRCOG will act as a direct recipient for an FTA earmark on behalf of the City of Hartford. A CRCOG Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program is being developed and a 45-day public comment period will be held. A final draft is expected to be available this summer. A memorandum was distributed with additional information.
- Sandy Fry announced that NHTSA has awarded CRCOG a grant to run a bicycle education program through September 2010. At that time Bike Walk Connecticut plans to continue this program. Towns interested in bike education should contact Beth Emery, Bicycle Education Coordinator.
- Sandy Fry congratulated Simsbury on being awarded the League of American Bicyclists Bronze Status Bicycle Friendly Community designation. Mrs. Fry encouraged all towns to apply in the future.
- Jennifer Carrier provided details on two upcoming webinars reviewing the new provisions of the 2009 MUTCD.

5. Jobs Access Annual Assessment Report: review & approval

Mario Marrero summarized the Jobs Access Annual Assessment Report. A motion was made by Mike Turner, seconded by Gil Hayes, to approve the June 2010 Jobs Access Annual Assessment Report. The motion passed unanimously.

6. TIP Amendments

Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP Amendments.

A motion was made by Billy Taylor, seconded by Rich Sawitzke, to approve the TIP Amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

7. UPWP

Jennifer Carrier summarized the comments received on the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) including those from ConnDOT, FHWA and the City of Hartford. These comments have been incorporated into the UPWP.

A motion was made by Russ Arnold, seconded by John McGrane, to accept the Unified Planning Work Program. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Authorization to Execute Annual Planning Agreement

Ms. Carrier reviewed the resolution authorizing the agreement execution with ConnDOT for CRCOG's 2-year Transportation Planning Program.

A motion was made by Mike Turner, seconded by Jeff Doolittle, to authorize the execution of the Annual Planning Agreement.

9. ARRA

Jennifer Carrier informed the Committee that approximately \$1.2m in ARRA funding is available due to lower than expected bids in earlier ARRA projects. In the event that lower bids are also received for the Hartford ARRA project additional ARRA funding will be available for the region. Ms. Carrier reviewed the options to program this funding. Action will be taken at the June Transportation Committee meeting.

Steve Wawruck commented that June action may not provide enough time for project selection. Jennifer Carrier explained that CRCOG staff met with ConnDOT and review of a new project will be too difficult to meet the programming deadline. Steve Wawruck mentioned that Windsor Locks will be able to provide project specifications by the end of the month. Ms. Carrier offered to review the proposed project for other potential funding sources. Jon Colman suggested that Windsor Locks coordinate with CRCOG staff.

10. Green Infrastructure (Carl Bard, MDC)

Carl Bard, Deputy Chief of Program Management at the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), provided an overview of the MDC's Green Infrastructure Initiative. The initiative incorporates bioswales, green roofs, rain gardens, permeable pavement, and rain harvesting. Mr. Bard described the Capitol Demonstration Project scheduled to be completed this summer, the RT 44 storm sewer project currently in progress, and future potential projects. The following summarizes the Committee discussion:

John Pagini asked whether this work is being coordinated with ConnDOT. Carl Bard replied that ConnDOT has been supporting green infrastructure for several years now.

Lyle Wray commented that this work is directly related to the CRCOG Sustainable Communities Initiative and suggested coordinating efforts.

Dr. Wray asked where the MDC plans to obtain funding for future projects. Carl Bard explained that it is best to implement green infrastructure when other road work is planned.

11. Other Business No other business was discussed.

12. Adjourn The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 PM.