

Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Special Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday July 12, 2010

Name	Organization
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Larry Baril	Avon
John Pagini	Bolton
Bill Taylor	East Hartford
Len Norton	East Windsor
Andrew Tierney	Hebron
Piya Hawkes	Enfield
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Kevin Burnham	Hartford
Jennifer Cassidy	Hartford
John McGrane	Hartford
Jeff LaMalva	Manchester
Chris Greenlaw	Newington
Tom Roy	Simsbury
Bob Cafarelli	Somers
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Mike Turner	Wethersfield
Tom Lenehan	Windsor
Steven Wawruck	Windsor Locks
Mary Ellen Thibodeau	Bike Walk-CT
Mark Mitchell	CCEJ
Guests	
Grayson Wright	ConnDOT
Tom Maziarz	ConnDOT
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Sandra Sheehan	GHTD
Vicki Shotland	GHTD
Erik Shortell	FHWA
Eloise Powell	FHWA
Stathis Manousos	Wethersfield
Staff	
Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Karen Olson	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Sandy Fry	CRCOG
MaryEllen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

1. Roll Call Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM.

2. Public Forum There were no public comments.

3. Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made by Mike Turner, seconded by Dan Pennington, to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2010 Transportation Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Report

- Karen Olson provided a brief overview of the FTA Earmark awarded to Hartford. CRCOG is serving as the direct recipient for this funding to be used for synthesizing all Hartford transit studies into a strategy compatible with the City and Regional Plans of Conservation and Development and to develop an implementation action plan. The FTA is currently reviewing this proposal.
- Jennifer Carrier updated the Committee on the Congestion Management Process. Travel time runs have been completed for Routes 15, 4, and 44 and freeway data has been compiled. Additional data collection will be completed in the fall along with additional coordination with CCRPA and Midstate RPA.
- Jennifer Carrier announced that CRCOG will be starting an update of the Long Range Transportation Plan covering the time period 2011-2040 and consulting with various agencies over the next few months.
- The Transportation Committee thanked Marcia Banach for 24 years of outstanding service with a certificate of recognition and wished her the best in the future.

5. TIP Amendments

Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP Amendments. The following summarizes the Committee discussion:

- Mark Mitchell asked which routes the new hybrid buses will service. It was clarified that 4 will be provided to the Hartford Star Shuttle, 2 will be provided to the New Haven Union Station Shuttle, 2 will be designated for Stamford and 2 for Great Bridgeport. Dr. Mitchell voiced a desire to place the Hartford hybrid buses along a route different than the Star Shuttle route. Steve Wawruck was uncertain why the Committee was acting on behalf of the other regions. It was explained that this action is due to the funding structure; the other regions will also act on the Hartford funding.
- Dr. Mitchell asked for details regarding the FTA discretionary Grant for CT Transit. Jennifer Carrier agreed to follow up on this item.
- John McGrane requested clarification on whether pavement preservation was eligible for ARRA funding. Eloise Powell confirmed that this type of work is eligible.

6. Transportation Needs, Challenges & Priorities; Updates on NHHS Rail and the New Britain-Hartford Busway

Tom Maziarz summarized the TSB Discussion Paper on Connecticut's Transportation Needs, Challenges, and Priorities. Mr. Maziarz reviewed the scale and current condition of the State's transportation infrastructure, fiscal outlook, and needs for maintenance and restoration. Dr. Mitchell requested a similar presentation be provided to CT-N.

Mr. Maziarz provided a brief overview on the status of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail and New Britain-Hartford Busway projects. The following summarizes the Committee Discussion:

- Mark Mitchell asked how many miles of double track are being proposed for the NHHS Rail. Tom Maziarz replied that about 20-30 miles in addition to the 10 miles of double track in the first phase are planned.
- Dr. Mitchell voiced concern over the safety of the Hartford train viaduct today and asked why repair/replacement will not be included in the second phase of the project. Mr. Maziarz stated that train operations are currently safe and that the I-84 Viaduct Study is reviewing a potential rail realignment which will affect the rail viaduct. Additionally, a detailed analysis on environmental impacts and cost have not yet been completed which may adversely affect the overall phase two package. Vicki Shotland added that Amtrak completes weekly safety checks on the rail viaduct.
- Tom Roy asked what the anticipated ridership and needed subsidy is for the NHHS Rail. Tom Maziarz answered that almost every transit system does need a subsidy and that ConnDOT is currently analyzing this aspect of the project. Mr. Maziarz added that the average trip length is very long that that the ability to reduce VMT is dramatic.

7. Grant Opportunities-Open Discussion

Lyle Wray announced that CRCOG met with DECD last week to discuss the T-HUD application. There will be two separate submissions; one covering Hartford/New Britain and the other encompassing New York/Hartford/Springfield.

Dr. Wray announced that under CRCOG's new structure, Mary Ellen Kowalewski will be the Director of Policy and Planning. This reorganization reinforces the coordination between transportation and community development.

Ms. Kowalewski reviewed the notice on available grant opportunities.

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