

**Capitol Region Council of Governments**  
**241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106**  
**Transportation Committee Meeting**  
**Monday December 12, 2011**

**DRAFT until**  
**Endorsed by the**  
**Committee**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Larry Baril	Avon
John Pagini	Bolton
Neil Pade	Canotn
Timothy Bockus	East Hartford
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Whit Osgood	Glastonbury
Kevin Burnham	Hartford
Bob Lacourse	Hartford
Mark Carlino	Manchester
Chris Greenlaw	Newington
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Richard Sawitzke	Simsbury
Jeffrey Bord	Somers
Michelle Lipe	South Windsor
Dennis Milanovich	Stafford
Bill Hawkins	Suffield
Linda Farmer	Tolland
Terry McCarthy	Vernon
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Mike Turner	Wethersfield
Bob Jarvis	Windsor
Scott Lappen	Windsor Locks
Gilbert Hayes	GHTD
<b>Guests</b>	
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Cara Rodzins	URS Corporation
Grayson Wright	ConnDOT
Stuart Popper	Bike Walk CT
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
<b>CRCOG Staff</b>	
Lyle Wray	Pramod Pandey
Jennifer Carrier	Ann-Marie Clark
Rob Aloise	Karen Stewartson
Sandy Fry	
Lia Huang	
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	
Karen Olson	

1. **Roll Call** – Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.
2. **Public Forum** – No one chose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Minutes** – A motion was made by Daniel Pennington, seconded by Russ Arnold, to accept the November 7, 2011 meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Staff Report**
  - Sustainable Communities Initiative-Knowledge Corridor Updates- Ms. Kowalewski informed the Committee that the \$4.2m grant is shared among three planning regions: PVPC, CRCOG and CCRPA. Transportation projects undertaken with this grant may be found on the project website at [www.sustainableknowledgecorridor.org](http://www.sustainableknowledgecorridor.org). Ms. Kowalewski encouraged Committee members to participate in a priority survey, at [www.skcmetroquest.com](http://www.skcmetroquest.com).  
Ms. Kowalewski informed the Committee on the status of two transportation projects:
    1. The Transit Enhancement Bus Study will involve three CRCOG towns, Enfield, Windsor, and Manchester. The kickoff meetings for each of these were held last week; and
    2. The Market Study for Transit Oriented Development will study the level and type of development likely for the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Commuter Line and the New Britain Busway.Gil Hayes made a request to speak to Ms. Kowalewski about this effort after the meeting. Whit Osgood was interested in reviewing the scope of work.
  - Transit Oriented Development On-Call Update-Ms. Sandy Fry explained that the TOD On Call contract with ConnDOT expired in June 2011. The Policy Board will consider resigning the contract this week. The scope of work is flexible and may be used for a variety of work such as overlay designs and zoning changes. There is approximately \$40k left in the contract. Contact Sandy Fry if you are interested in pursuing TOD work in your community.
  - Pedestrian/Bicycle Update-M. Sandy Fry reported that the Bike/Ped plan will be updated within the next year. She added that when completing some of the crash analysis it was found that there was an unusually high number of bicycle-involved fatal crashes on Burnside Ave in East Hartford this year (3 crashes, compared to 4 regionally in 15 years). ConnDOT is reviewing possible traffic calming measures and CRCOG has applied for “Light the Night” safety funds to install free bike lights and provide safety education. Possible Light the Night locations include East Hartford, Hartford, and New Haven.
  - CRCOG’s 2012 Transportation Committee Meeting Schedule-Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the proposed meeting schedule, adding that the November meeting will be changed from November 12<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup> due to a holiday conflict. A motion was made by Mike Turner, seconded by Mark Carlino, to accept the 2012 meeting schedule. The motion passed unanimously.
  - NHHS Rail-Ms. Jennifer Carrier announced that ConnDOT will provide an update at the January meeting. ConnDOT, in coordination with FRA and FTA has revised the schedule for the release of the Environmental Assessment to allow time for additional technical and legal sufficiency reviews. The Draft Environmental Assessment is scheduled to be published in February and public hearings will be scheduled in mid-march. The 2016 start up target date for the launch of service still stands.

- STP-Enhancement-Mr. Rob Aloise reported that five applications were received. A Special Transportation Committee Meeting will be held the first week of January to include project presentations as well as ranking and selection for the program. \$3m in Federal Funds (assuming level funding) are available to our region, so three to four projects will move forward.
- After the Storms Roundtable – Ms. Jennifer Carrier announced that this discussion, hosted by the T2 Center meeting will be held on January 10, 8:30 am at the Police Department Training Center in Farmington, CT. Please RSVP to Donna Shea by e-mail ([shea@engr.uconn.edu](mailto:shea@engr.uconn.edu)) if you are planning to attend.
- Connecticut Transportation Infrastructure Capital Plan-Ms. Jennifer Carrier said the five year plan through 2016-assumes level federal funding to CT was released (<http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1383&Q=454340&PM=1>) Progress has been made toward reducing the project backlog, primarily due to increased state capital funding and lower construction bids. However a large backlog still exists with about \$1.7 billion in highway projects and \$2.5 billion in transit initiatives.
- Other-Mr. Lyle Wary informed the Committee that level funding for transportation is the best assumption until the Presidential elections. There are still several transportation projects not in the Capital Plan and Connecticut depends on Federal Funding for about 65-70% of transportation project costs. The State may need a policy change in future.

- 5. CMAQ-Overview of projects Received and Next Steps** – Karen Olson provided an update on the CMAQ project selection process. Eight projects were proposed with a notice of intent to apply – four signal projects, three intersection improvements, and one application for electric charging stations. ConnDOT has limited the number of applications to three per region, but we may try to submit three municipal applications and one regional application. An email will be issued by CRCOG in the near future to gauge interest in a regional application for electric charging stations. The Transportation Committee agreed to this approach.

Given the concurrent CMAQ and STP-Enhancement solicitations, the Committee may want to limit towns to the number of awards a community receives to one in order to provide a more even distribution of project funding throughout the Region. However, unlike the Transportation Enhancement projects, CMAQ submissions must compete statewide and are subject to Federal approval. Due to on-going project solicitations it was decided that a further discussion / action would occur at the January Transportation Committee meeting.

- 6. DRAFT TIP (FFY12-FFY15) & AQ conformity** – Ms. Karen Olson announced that the 2012-2015 TIP is being released for a 30-day public comment. An email will be issued when the draft TIP has been posted. Ms. Olson asked everyone to check their respective project listings and verify that all information is correct. CRCOG has outreached to CCEJ for their assistance with the Equity Assessment.
- 7. Annual Work Program-amend to add new work tasks** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed updates to the Annual Work Program. A motion was made by Bob Lacourse, seconded by Mike Turner to accept Annual Work Program amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

## 8. STP-Urban Program-

- **Project Recommendations** – Jennifer Carrier reviewed the Project Recommendations. ConnDOT agreed to provide the local match for a Transit Enhancement Study. ConnDOT has not yet agreed to provide the local match for the ITS Architecture Update, but we will continue discussions with the State and keep a placeholder for this project. ConnDOT is currently reassessing how corridor studies are being managed and selected, no additional studies will be advanced using STP-Urban funding at this time / solicitation.

A motion was made by Mark Carlino, seconded by Kevin Burnham, to approve the STP-Urban project recommendations as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Preliminary Design/Final Design** – Jennifer Carrier explained that ConnDOT is currently working on implementing the PD/FD process into state projects and has not yet determined how this will translate into the municipal project process. These steps are being added to better coordinate with NEPA procedures.  
Dan Pennington asked how this will change from the existing process. Ms. Carrier explained that it will break the Preliminary Engineering phase into two phases, each having a separate dollar amount assigned. This is a Federal directive and the details are still being worked out.
- **Inactive or Delayed Project** – Jennifer Carrier explained that there are five projects currently on hold, totaling about \$9m in funds. Each project has its own set of complexities and these are summarized in the issued memo. Jon Colman added that the Cost Review and Schedule Subcommittee was concerned about the number of projects on hold and may in the future think about implementing a time limit. Jim Sollmi asked if there is funding set aside for these projects and if it can be reallocated to other, more currently relevant projects. Ms. Carrier explained that ConnDOT has not yet allocated money to these projects. CRCOG has identified them in our program, but they are not acknowledged by ConnDOT until they are ready to move forward.

9. **TIP Amendments** – Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP amendments. A motion was made by Kevin Burnham, seconded by Mike Turner to accept the TIP Amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

10. **CRCOG Presentation: Route 6 Study-Preliminary Alternatives Overview** – Lia Huang provided an update on the RT 6 study including prior efforts, the study process and findings, and described the preliminary recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

11. **Other Business** – There was no other business discussed.

12. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.