

Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Transportation Committee Meeting
Monday November 7, 2011

**DRAFT until
Endorsed by the
Committee**

Name	Organization
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Larry Baril	Avon
John Pagini	Bolton
Neil Pade	Canotn
Denise Horan	East Hartford
Russ Arnold	Farmington
Daniel Pennington	Glastonbury
Mark Carlino	Manchester
Peter Hughes	Marlborough
Jim Sollmi	Rocky Hill
Jeffrey Doolittle	South Windsor
Bill Hawkins	Suffield
Linda Farmer	Tolland
Duane Martin	West Hartford
Mike Turner	Wethersfield
Bob Jarvis	Windsor
Scott Lappen	Windsor Locks
Gilbert Hayes	GHTD
Guests	
Jonathan Thiesse	Bloomfield
Cara Rodzins	URS Corporation
Sandra Sheehan	GHTD
Charlie Carson	CTTransit
Ed Perzanowski	CT Commuter Services
Pamela Hypolite	CT Commuter Services
Staff	
Lyle Wray	CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Sandy Fry	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
Karen Olson	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Ann-Marie Clark	CRCOG
Karen Stewartson	CRCOG

1. **Roll Call** – Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.
2. **Public Forum**- No one chose to speak.
3. **Adoption of Minutes**- A motion was made by Russ Arnold, seconded by Michael Turner with one abstention by John Pagini, to accept the September 26th 2011 meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously.
4. **Staff Report**
 - Sustainable Communities Initiative-Knowledge Corridor update-Sandy Fry Explained that there are two projects being undertaken: 1) Transit Enhancement Study - A review of potential transit enhancements in Enfield, Manchester, and Windsor. The recommendations for these sample locations will help develop improvements for similar areas throughout the Knowledge Corridor. 2) Market Analysis for Transit Oriented Development – A study on transit oriented development at the regional, corridor and station levels. Ms. Fry stated as they go along more updates will be given.
 - eCrash Initiative- Lia Huang gave a brief update on the eCrash Initiative. Ms. Huang stated that UConn is developing a crash data repository accessible via the internet. It is still a work in progress, but towns are welcome to use it and offer feedback. The database may be accessed at www.ct.crash.uconn.edu. Ms. Huang said that in the coming months a demonstration will be given.
 - RPI Grants/Public Works Service Sharing-Lia Huang mentioned to the Committee that CRCOG is coordinating the region's submissions for the Regional Performance Incentive Grants. CRCOG does not intend to submit the public works equipment sharing project, however towns are encouraged to apply for this project independently if interested. OPM has recently released details on the Inter-town Capital Equipment (ICE) Purchasing Incentive Program. Two or more towns are welcome to apply for grant money (70/30 local/state split) to purchase shared capital equipment. Priority will be given to applications for energy efficient vehicles, e-government infrastructure, and emergency management investments. The deadline for ICE Program submissions is May 31, 2012.
 - Funding Overview-Rob Aloise reviewed the funding overview that was distributed to the Committee. John Pagini asked for more information on the funding splits for Bike/Ped projects. CRCOG staff explained that the current funding splits for Bike/Ped projects are 80% Federal, 0% State, and 20% Local for construction and right-of-way phases, and 100% Local for design phases. However recent indications are that ConnDOT will allow an 80% Federal Share, 20% Local design phase funding split for some projects as determined on a case-by-case basis.
 - Putnam Bridge Feasibility Study-Rob Aloise mentioned to the Committee that a 6 ft sidewalk has been added to the Putnam Bridge project and is scheduled to be constructed by 2014. Mr. Aloise explained that this is an important river crossing to enhance regional bike/ped connectivity. A year-long feasibility study is being initiated to connect the bike and pedestrian approaches to the bridge. The study will also include a review of environmental impacts. Mr. Dan Pennington asked if the study has been funded. Mr.

Aloise stated that it has been funded and that ConnDOT's on-call consultant will be performing this work.

- Other-Mr. Lyle Wray told the Committee that he, along with Mary Glassman, Jon Colman and Jennifer Carrier met with the new Commissioner of ConnDOT (Commissioner Jim Redeker). The full funding grant agreement for the Hartford-New Britain Bus Rapid Transit project is expected soon. Mr. Wray commented that the House is pursuing level transportation funding through 2012 and that the Senate is currently working on a bill. Mr. Jon Colman said that the Commissioner is sensitive to the challenges municipalities face in moving projects forward and is trying to expedite this process.
- 5. Discussion of STP-Enhancement Program-**Mr. Rob Aloise stated that CRCOG is estimated to receive approximately \$3m (federal) in STP-Enhancement funds over a period of (4) years. Off-road trail and streetscape projects are traditionally funded with this source, however there are (12) eligible project categories. A Request for Proposals was released in late October. Applications are due on Friday, December 9th at 4 PM and must utilize the electronic forms provided. Each municipality is allowed one submission and must sign the project sponsor and commitment statement. CRCOG is allowed to select up to three projects. Mr. Aloise stated that a Special Sub-Committee of the Transportation Committee will convene in January to review the recommended program and Policy Board approval will be sought in late January.
- 6. Discussion of CMAQ Program-**Ms. Karen Olson stated that \$20m in CMAQ funds are available statewide. CRCOG is allowed to submit (3) applications to ConnDOT for consideration. Ms. Olson said to apply for the CMAQ funds a 2-page notice of intent to apply must be submitted to CRCOG by Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 4:00 pm. Rating criteria and a list of intended projects will be reviewed at the next Transportation Committee meeting. Submissions must be forwarded to ConnDOT by February 1, 2012.
- 7. TIP Amendments-** Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP Amendments.-. A motion was made by Gilbert Hayes, seconded by Peter Hughes to accept the TIP Amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.
- 8. STP-Urban Program**
 - FFY 2012 Program to date-There is a small gap in the STP-Urban Program however it is still early in the fiscal year. There are a few options currently available: funding a transit enhancement study within the Capitol Region; providing funding to the Putnam Bridge sidewalk project; partnering with ConnDOT to advance state projects. Peter Hughes commented that it would be best to offer assistance to the Putnam Bridge as soon as possible and noted that it is a project with regional significance. Jon Colman agreed that supporting the Putnam Bridge Project is a good idea. Jennifer Carrier stated that in the next month CRCOG staff will look into this further and report back at the December meeting.
 - Stafford Allotment-Ms. Jennifer Carrier asked that the Committee consider a \$250,000 (\$200,000 federal) non-competitive set-aside for the Town of Stafford. Previously the

Town had transferred about \$200,000 in ARRA monies to CRCOG. Additionally, the Tolland Avenue project that has been submitted may not qualify. A motion was made by Jim Sollmi, seconded by Peter Hughes to include a \$250,000 (\$200,000 federal) non competitive set-aside for the Town of Stafford in the STP-Urban program to fund an eligible project of their choice. This motion was passed unanimously.

Jeff Doolittle asked if the selected project will need to meet the federal guidelines.

Jennifer Carrier answered affirmatively.

- Farmington Consideration-Ms. Jennifer Carrier asked the Committee to consider accepting the Route 177 at New Britain Avenue Project under the latest solicitation. Jim Sollmi asked if the project would compete with the other STP-Urban proposals. Jennifer Carrier replied that it would be part of the competitive selection process. A motion was made by Jim Sollmi, seconded by Mark Carlino to include the Farmington-Route177 at New Britain Avenue project in the 2011 STP-Urban competitive selection process. This motion was passed unanimously.
 - Discussion of Preliminary Projects Ratings-Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the Preliminary Project Ratings that were included in the meeting packet. Ms. Carrier stated a Sub-Committee Meeting will be held on Friday November 18th at 10am to discuss the project ratings and recommendations in more detail. Peter Hughes asked what the highlighted items meant. Jennifer Carrier explained that these are stand alone sidewalk projects. The ConnDOT funding allocation for these projects are shared with pavement rehabilitation projects.
9. **Presentation:** Route 10 Transportation Study-Simsbury-Ms. Emily Moos gave a presentation on the Route 10 study recommendations. Ms. Moos said the purpose of the study was to demonstrate what the Route 10 Corridor could be if designed and built using context sensitivity formed by broad based public participation, state-of-the art engineering practices and tools, and in conformance with emerging local, regional and federal policies for sustainable development and livable, walkable places. A motion was made by Peter Hughes, seconded by John Pagini to endorse the Route 10 Study recommendations. This motion was passed unanimously.
 10. **Other Business**-Ms. Carrier told the Committee that due to the inclement weather the Technology Transfer Center will hold their “After the Storms” meeting in early December. Following the meeting – the event was set for January 10, 2012 from 8:30 am until 12:30 pm.
 11. **Adjourn**-The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.