ACapitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Transportation Committee meeting
Monday May 20, 2013

Name                  Organization
Jon Colman             Bloomfield
John Pagini            Bolton
Denise Horan           East Hartford
Billy Taylor           Enfield
Timothy Webb           Ellington
Matt Blume             Farmington
Daniel Pennington     Glastonbury
Jonas Maciunas         Hartford
Mark Carlino           Manchester
Peter Hughes           Marlborough
Chris Greenlaw         Newington
Jim Sollmi             Rocky Hill
Rich Sawitzke          Simsbury
Jeffrey Doolittle      South Windsor
Bill Hawkins           Suffield
Terry McCarthy         Vernon
Michael Turner         Wethersfield
Scott Lappen           Windsor Locks
Rick Baldwin           CCEJ
Gilbert Hayes          GHTD

Guests
Jonathan Thiesse      Bloomfield
Grayson Wright        ConnDOT
Cara Radzins          URS Corporation
Mike Piscitelli       New Haven
Ed Perzanowski        CT Rides
Bradshaw Smith        Windor/Citizen

Staff
Lyle Wray             CRCOG
Jennifer Carrier      CRCOG
MaryEllen Kowalewski  CRCOG
Rob Aloise            CRCOG
Lia Huang             CRCOG
Emily Moos            CRCOG
Pramod Pandey         CRCOG
Karen Stewartson      CRCOG

1. Roll Call – Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.
2. Public Forum – No one from the public choose to speak.
3. Adoption of Minutes – A motion was made by Billy Taylor, seconded by John Pagini, to accept the April 22, 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.
4. Reports

- Sustainable Knowledge Corridor update- Ms. Mary Ellen Kowalewski informed the Committee of a TOD Forum that will be held on Wednesday June 5th at the Lyceum starting at 8:30 am. Ms Kowalewski also reported that the top transportation priorities in the Bi-State Action Strategy are funding for NHHS and CTfastrak transit improvements, expanding and facilitating complete streets initiatives, and continuing to provide assistance for TOD planning and zoning.

- Transportation Safety Research Center-Ms. Lia Huang announced that the Governor held a press conference on April 29 to announce a partnership between the State and UConn on a Transportation Safety Research Center. Current tasks include reducing the lag in crash report availability and creating an online crash data repository. A companion project is the development of electronic crash data collection methods. CTDOT has a goal of 100% electronic filing of crash reports by January 2015.

- Future MPO Boundaries-Mr. Lyle Wray reported that there is a proposal to consolidate Connecticut’s regions into five Regional Planning Agencies. Under this structure, CRCOG would not be significantly affected however there are other alternate proposals also being considered. These are only preliminary discussions and any action on this is still 2-3 years out.

Mr. Wray also mentioned the Connecticut Education Network (CEN), a part of the Nutmeg Network. This is an initiative currently in progress to connect all schools, libraries, and emergency responders through a fiber optic backbone.

Mr. Wray reported that a meeting regarding a regional bike share will be held on June 14.

- MPO Certification Review: September 2013- Ms. Jennifer Carrier announced that CRCOG’s Certification Review will be held this fall and provided an overview of the process.

Bradshaw Smith asked who the lead agency is and what other agencies will be involved. Jennifer Carrier replied that FHWA is the lead agency and FTA will likely be involved. It is uncertain if FRA will take part as they have not participated in past certification reviews.

- CTDOT Update-Mr. Grayson Wright announced that CTDOT sent out the Master Municipal Agreement for construction projects to towns for CEO signature.

- Other - Rob Aloise reported that CTDOT is undergoing a LEAN process review to improve the efficiency of the encroachment permit process. A consultant is leading the review process and is anticipated to take approximately one year. Changes to the permit process will only impact permits for work that physically alters infrastructure within the State right-of-way. It is anticipated that the new process will require more up front documentation to CTDOT including indication that the Town is aware of the application. CRCOG will keep Towns apprised of any updates.

8. Presentation: Complete Streets, Mike Piscitelli-City of New Haven

A motion was made by Michael Turner, seconded by Billy Taylor, to move agenda item #8 forward. This motion was passed unanimously.


5. STP-Urban Program-Phase 1 Submissions- Rob Aloise summarized the 2013 STP-Urban Solicitation Phase 1 eligible project proposals. 16 eligible Pavement Rehabilitation projects
proposals and 6 eligible Stand-Alone Sidewalk project proposals were received. The Phase II STP-Urban RFP is open to all STP-Urban Projects, including studies and non-traditional projects; proposals are due on July 17th. CTDOT will release its policy on studies shortly and will likely require a 10% town match.

Mr. Jim Sollmi inquired when the Phase I rankings will be complete. Mr. Aloise indicated that the draft rankings should be complete and made available by June 1st.

6. Congestion Management Program-DRAFT Report- Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the key findings and recommendations of the Congestion Management Process Report. CRCOG is coordinating this effort with CCRPA and Midstate RPA and will finalize the report in the next month.

7. TIP amendments- Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP Amendments.

Mr. Gilbert Hayes from GHTD asked Ms. Carrier to explain MAP-21. Ms. Carrier provided an overview of the current Federal Transportation Bill. Mr. Lyle Wray added that 70% of the transportation monies spent in the State are Federal Transportation funds allocated by this Transportation Bill.

A motion was made by Jim Sollmi, seconded by Gilbert Hayes, to accept the TIP Amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

8. Other Business-Mr. Lyle Wray gave a brief update on Governor’s Bill 849. Mr. Wray explained that this bill reinstates the Local Bridge Capital Improvement Program and creates a state funded Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program. The bill does require MPOs to sign off on the agreement so passage of the bill does not automatically give away MPO rights to STP-Urban funding. He further indicated that State Law cannot usurp Federal Law or MPO responsibilities. Mr. Wray mentioned that there is a strong likelihood that the bill will pass. If passed, a solicitation for the Local Bridge Program will likely follow soon after so towns are encouraged to begin preparing for this.

Ms. Jennifer Carrier reported that Mr. Mark Carlino has been representing CRCOG at working group meetings to develop administrative details on this agreement. Mr. Mark Carlino indicated that the committee has been meeting every three weeks and has made good progress.

9. Adjourn-The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.