Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Transportation Committee meeting
***SPECIAL MEETING***
(Transportation Committee acting as the Policy Board)
Monday June 17, 2013

Name | Organization
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Jon Colman | Bloomfield
Larry Baril | Avon
Denise Horan | East Hartford
Len Norton | East Windsor
Billy Taylor | Enfield
Timothy Webb | Ellington
Russ Arnold | Farmington
Daniel Pennington | Glastonbury
Jamie Klase | Granby
Mark Carlino | Manchester
Peter Hughes | Marlborough
Chris Greenlaw | Newington
Jim Sollmi | Rocky Hill
Rich Sawitzke | Simsbury
Jeffrey Doolittle | South Windsor
Terry McCarthy | Vernon
Duane Martin | West Hartford
Michael Turner | Wethersfield
Bob Jarvis | Windsor
Scott Lappen | Windsor Locks
Rick Baldwin | CCEJ
Gilbert Hayes | GHTD

Guests
Jonathan Thiesse | Bloomfield
Grayson Wright | ConnDOT
Cara Radzins | URS Corporation
Charlie Carson | CTTransit
Robert Phillips | Ellington
Mary Baker | CT DOT-Bridge Consultant Design
Sandy Fry | GHTD
Bradshaw Smith | Windor/Citizen

Staff
Jennifer Carrier | CRCOG
MaryEllen Kowalewski | CRCOG
Rob Aloise | CRCOG
Lia Huang | CRCOG
Pramod Pandey | CRCOG
Karen Stewartson | CRCOG

DRAFT until Endorsed by the Committee
1. **Roll Call** – Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. Let the minutes show that the Transportation Committee is acting for the Policy Board.

2. **Public Forum** – No one from the public choose to speak.

3. **Adoption of Minutes** – A motion was made by Russ Arnold, seconded by Jim Sollmi, to accept the May 20th 2013 meeting minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

4. **Reports**
   - **Action over the summer** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier told the Committee that during the summer months the Transportation Committee will act as the Policy Board if needed. Ms. Carrier says the regular meetings will resume in September.
   - **CT DOT’s Graphic Assessment of Federal Funding Levels** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the handout that was included in the mailing packet.
   - **CTDOT Capital Plan** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier announced that CTDOT’s Capital Plan for 2013-2017 is available and advised towns to review the listing included in the mailing packet.
   - **DBE Program—Releasing for public comment** – Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the memorandum and informed the Committee there will be an update in the near future. More information can be found on CRCOG’s website.
   - **Sustainable Knowledge Corridor** – Ms. Mary Ellen Kowalewski gave a brief update on the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor. Over 80 municipal, state and federal officials, for-profit and non-profit developers, and individuals and agencies with an interest in transit oriented development (TOD) came together at the June 5th workshop, *How the Knowledge Corridor’s Municipalities Can Make TOD Work for Them*. The session was co-sponsored by the Capitol Region Council of Governments and the Partnership for Strong Communities, with funding from a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. This training was part of CRCOG’s and the Partnership for Strong Communities’ ongoing efforts to help communities capitalize on the new bus rapid transit (CTfastrak) and commuter rail (NHHS Rail Project) investments underway in the region. The session focused on:
     - understanding the market potential for transit oriented-development nationally and in the Knowledge Corridor region,
     - identifying the critical factors that have led to successful TOD in other parts of the country, the importance of a corridor approach to transit oriented development,
     - and Value Capture and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as tools to harness increased value for municipal purposes.

   The session also included a brief meeting of the NHHS Rail and BRT Corridor Advisory Committees. A copy of the study Executive Summary is in your meeting handouts. A video of the session, power point presentations, and resource materials will soon be available on the CRCOG and Partnership for Strong Communities websites.

   Another opportunity—June 27th Workshop being sponsored by the Connecticut Main Street Center and the Connecticut Department of Transportation entitled *Creating Transit Villages in Connecticut*. This is an invitation-only workshop for communities in the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail and CTfastrak corridors. The workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Main Street Center in Hartford. It will include presentations on transit villages—what they are and how they have worked in other states and an interactive discussion on the various roles needed to bring transit villages to life in Connecticut.
• **Strategic Highway Safety Plan**- Ms. Lia Huang explained that MAP-21 requires an update to the State SHSP and that a Safety Summit will be held in the fall. In the meantime, CTDOT has drafted a “bridging” document to allow the use of federal safety money until the new plan is in place. The draft bridging document was included in the mailing packet and CTDOT is looking to finalize this on July 1.

• **Bicycle Pedestrian Update**- Ms. Lia Huang informed the Committee that CRCOG staff helped organize the statewide National Bike to Work Day celebration on May 17. About 200 bike commuters attended the event in Downtown Hartford and there were 280 first time bike commuters registered to participate statewide. The City of Hartford is developing a Parks and Open Space System Connectivity Plan with a public forum scheduled for July 11. The Putnam Bridge Multimodal Trail Connections Feasibility Study has preferred alternatives selected and will be holding a public meeting on June 18.

• **CTDOT Update**- Mr. Grayson Wright indicated that there was no CTDOT update.

• **Other**- Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed upcoming ITS training opportunities described in the handout to the Committee.

5. **Air Quality Conformity**- Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the Air Quality Conformity Resolution Memo distributed to the Committee. A motion was made by Michael Turner, seconded by Jim Sollmi, to approve the resolution on Conformity with the Clean Air Act-Ozone. This motion was passed unanimously.

6. **Bill 849: An Act Concerning Local Bridge Program Reform and Establishing a Local Transportation Capital Program**- Mr. Rob Aloise gave a brief update on Bill 849 an Act Concerning Local Bridge Program reform and Establishing a local Transportation Capital Program. Mr. Aloise summarized the distributed memorandum reporting that on Friday June 14th, 2013 Governor Malloy signed Public Act 13-239 that re-establishes State funding for the Local Bridge Program and directs CTDOT to create a Local Transportation Capital Program. Mr. Aloise also said that CRCOG anticipates that CTDOT will be issuing a request for applications for State FY2014 Local Bridge Program funding by the end of the week, with a due date that could be as soon as early July. He also said the FY2014 Local Bridge Program Manual will be available shortly and will include updated application forms and program specifics. More information can be found on the CTDOT Local Bridge Program website.

   Mr. Mark Carlino has been representing CRCOG in the Local Transportation Capital Program Working Group and informed the Committee that preliminary guidelines have been established for the Right-of-Way Phase (in general, the municipalities will handle this unless there are complex issues where CTDOT will become involved) and guidelines for the Construction Phase will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. **STP-Urban Phase 1-project Ratings and Recommendations**- Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the 2013 STP-Urban Program Solicitation-Phase 1: Preliminary Project Ratings memorandum. The memorandum highlighted staff’s recommendation to select the five top rated projects for inclusion into the STP-Urban Program, and prioritize the Windsor and Bloomfield pavement rehabilitation projects for receiving FFY2014 funding. Ms. Carrier reminded the Committee that CRCOG had reserved approximately $3.2 million of STP-Urban federal funds for this purpose. All projects that were not selected in Phase 1 will be considered under the Phase 2 solicitation unless the municipalities indicate otherwise.

   A motion was made by Peter Hughes, seconded by Mark Carlino to accept the ratings, selections and prioritization of Phase 1 projects as indicated in the memorandum. This motion was passed unanimously.
8. **TIP Amendments**-Ms. Jennifer Carrier reviewed the TIP Amendments. A motion was made by Russ Arnold, seconded by Jeffrey Doolittle, to accept the TIP Amendments. This motion was passed unanimously.

9. **Presentation**: Accelerated Bridge Construction: Mary Baker, CTDOT, gave a brief presentation on what Accelerated Bridge Construction is and projects that have used and will use this technique in Connecticut. The presentation can be found on CRCOG’s website ([http://www.crcog.org/publications/TransportationDocs/Tech%20Assist/ABCinCT.pdf](http://www.crcog.org/publications/TransportationDocs/Tech%20Assist/ABCinCT.pdf)).

10. **Other Business**-There was no other business

11. **Adjourn**-The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm