Capitol Region Council of Governments
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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
CRRA Trash Museum, Hartford
December 9, 2013
12:00 p.m.

Name                  Organization
Jon Colman             Bloomfield
Larry Baril            Avon
Jonathan Thiesse      Bloomfield
Patrice Carson         Bolton
Neil Pade              Canton
Denise Horan           East Hartford
Bill Taylor            Enfield
Russ Arnold            Farmington
Gil Hayes              GHTD/East Windsor
Daniel Pennington     Glastonbury
Whit Osgood            Glastonbury
Kevin Clark            Granby
James Klase            Granby
Thomas Deller          Hartford
Khara Dodds            Hartford
Kevin Kelly            Hebron
Mark Carlino           Manchester
Peter Hughes           Marlborough
Chris Greenlaw         Newington
Tom Roy                Simsbury
Jeff Doolittle         South Windsor
Bill Hawkins           Suffield
Jim Luczak             Tolland
Terry McCarthy         Vernon
Duane Martin           West Hartford
Mike Turner            Wethersfield
Bob Jarvis             Windsor

Guests
Ell Reszanowski       CTRides
Sandy Fry             GHTD
Mark Moriarty         New Britain
Cara Radzins          URS Corporation
1. **Roll Call** – Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

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

3. **Adoption of Minutes** - A motion was made by Patrice Carlson, seconded by Gil Hayes, to accept the October 21st meeting minutes. This motion was passed unanimously.

4. **Reports**
   - Uniform Police Crash Report (PR-1) – Lia Yim reported that the PR-1 is being updated. There is a push to collect all forms electronically, and currently, data through 2011 is online. The goal is for crash data to be available within a month.
   - CT’s Safety Circuit Rider Program – This program is designed to provide safety training and technical assistance. There is a handout included in the packet that shows the areas in which assistance is available.
   - FFY 2015-2018 Draft TIP – ConnDOT has put together a draft State Transportation Improvement Program for FY15-18. This is updated every four years. They will be contacting communities this month and the TIP will be finalized in the summer of 2014.
   - Interstate 84 Viaduct Replacement Update - .CRCOG participates in the executive advisory committee for the 84 reconstruction project. They have held two meetings which include transportation officials and major employers, and they are seeking viable options for I-84 replacement. Alternatives have been identified. 84 has reached the end of its useful life, the bridges are deficient. There is a 14 year schedule for replacement and we are one year into that schedule. Governor Malloy is looking to streamline the process. They want to understand all the impacts before a decision is made. There is a handout included in the meeting packet. Ms. Carrier said she would have the consultants come to a future meeting.
   - CTfastrak and NHHS Rail Updates – Ms. Carrier reported that she toured the CTfastrak and found it fascinating, and that the possibilities of TOD are visible. There are some excerpts from a number of public meetings included in the meeting packet. They will be testing and training in October of 2014, and the operations should start in February of 2015. NHHS will be opening a bid next summer. More funding is needed north of Hartford. There is information on the
CRCOG website on the Corridor Advisory Committee, which is in place for both the NHHS and the CTfastrak

- MPO Boundary Update – The boundaries will be changing on January 1, 2014. Seven towns have asked to join CRCOG, four are east of the river, and 3 are east of the river. Projects and financing needs to be worked out, and there is a thought to have a hold harmless in place for the new members. There are a number of loose ends that need to be worked out, and transportation will be a major issue. There have been no boundary changes since 1956. The idea is that there will be fewer regions that can do more. Mr. Colman stated that members should be clear that the Policy Board is not the MPO, as the MPO requires representatives from transit and DOT.

- Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Update – Ms. Kowalewski reported she attended a meeting of HUD grantees, they were brought together to talk about their projects, and she had the opportunity to meet with White House staffers regarding the implementation of their program. They reinforced the need for funding to complete the NHHS, and long-term broad transit connections. The Sustainable Knowledge Corridor is moving into the final stages. They are putting together a bi-state action plan, with a goal to being connected, competitive, vibrant, and green.

- Intelligent Transit Systems - this is regarding transportation with a technical aspect, the first ITS plan approved by CRCOG is now 16 years old, so it is time to be updated again. There is some STP-Urban money set aside, it will be managed by ConnDOT, the plan will be updated, and they will develop a response for the traffic signal report. They have a contractor, Gant Fleming, to do the report, and it will be completed by summer.

- Other – Ms. Carrier recognized the work of Richard Sawitzke from Simsbury, who was not able to attend the meeting and is retiring. She presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Roy to take back for Mr. Sawitzke.

5. Transportation Committee Meeting Dates for 2014
Mr. Colman asked for a motion to adopt the meeting schedule. Ms. Carson made a motion to adopt, which was seconded by Mr. Taylor. All voted in favor of the motion.

6. FY 2014 STP-Urban and LOTCIP Programs – Jennifer Carrier stated that approval of LOTCIP funding is on the State bond commission agenda for Friday, December 13th. CRCOG’s allocation of LOTCIP funds will be approximately $9.8 million annually. For 2014 LOTCIP programming, the Cost Review Subcommittee met and recommended approved costs for 6 roadway projects, one study, and program management costs. Based on these approvals, for 2014 CRCOG anticipates programming $6 million, and carrying over 3.8 million.

The Cost Review Subcommittee also reviewed the 2014 STP-Urban program. Currently, CTDOT would like the Region to consider funding CTDOT projects with any un-programmed 2014 funds. The Subcommittee approved CTDOT funding requests for Design and ROW phases for projects in West Hartford and Vernon. The Subcommittee also considered lifting the funding cap for the Broad Street project in Hartford, however
the increase was deferred until reassurances could be made regarding the schedule. It was recommended that representatives from Hartford attend the Subcommittee meeting in January so they can commit to a schedule before subcommittee considers it. CRCOG staff also explored options for funding additional CTDOT project with unspent STP-Urban funds. Many of the major available projects for funding were Interstate projects. The subcommittee voiced concern regarding potentially funding Interstate type projects with STP-Urban monies, and therefore deferred action at this time. Mr. Carlino made the motion to approve the actions of Cost Review Subcommittee, Ms. Carson seconded. Mr. Deller said he would like the Hartford project considered at the January Cost Review Subcommittee meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

7. LOTCIP Guidelines – Rob Aloise called the committee’s attention to a memo titled “CRCOG LOTCIP Review: CTDOT and CRCOG Guidelines”. The memo summarizes CRCOG’s assessment of the final CTDOT guidelines in comparison to CRCOG review comments made on a previous version of Draft Guidelines. In November, the Subcommittee met to consider the 2013 CTDOT guidelines and made the decision to move ahead with the program while noting issues that are in need of addressing in future guideline iterations.

The memo also contained a Draft Outline of CRCOG’s design review guidelines. Mr. Aloise indicated that the outlined had been vetted through the Cost Review Subcommittee with the resulting CRCOG design review process emerging for projects:

- Required 35% Preliminary Design Submission and Review for all projects
- Required 70% Semi-Final Design Submission and Review only for reconstruction projects
- Municipality Option of submitting a 90% Submission of Selected Elements for Review on any project.

Mr. Aloise also indicated that the subcommittee expressed a desire for expeditious design reviews and stated that the reviews are anticipated to be performed by consultants retained for that purpose. Mr. Aloise solicited Committee comments on the Draft Outline and indicated that CRCOG would be developing official CRCOG guidelines based on this outline and any comments received from the Transportation Committee. There were no significant comments on the outlined guidelines.

8. Presentation: Sustainable Knowledge Corridor: Walkable Downtown and Transportation Livability Initiatives – Mark Moriarty from New Britain gave an overview of the city’s Complete Streets Master Plan. Mr. Moriarty is the Director of Public Works, and he stated he likes to take on pet projects from time to time. In a previous job, he worked on this kind of project, so it was a natural fit. The City needed streetscaping, and he saw that the CTFastrak station offered an opportunity. New Britain’s downtown is compact, walkable, and there are many things in a short walking space, including grocery stores. However, the roads were not pedestrian friendly, with
extremely wide crossings and Rt. 72 splitting the downtown area in half. The Master Plan was about placemaking. They tried to think strategically and create a consistent downtown. They right-sized roads, thought about connectivity, wanted to be bike and pedestrian friendly. They came up with conceptual designs for critical areas, and found that the one result of the Master Plan was that it was effective at capturing grant money. The project had a working group of established stakeholders and community members, and had the support of a consultant team. It started as a formal working group, but many people joined in, so there was significant community support. One area of downtown has back-in angled parking, which is a new concept for the area. They moved the bus hub closer to CTFastrak. CTFastrak was their opportunity to redevelop New Britain, and they want to help CTFastrak with riders. They received a $212,000 investment from HUD that they turned into $8 million in construction projects. The Master Plan is available in full on the CCRPA website.

9. Other Business
With no other business, Mr. Hayes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Carson. Based on a unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.