Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Transportation Committee Meeting
MIRA Trash Museum, Hartford
Monday September 15th, 2014

Name                        Organization
Jon Colman                   Bloomfield
Matt Brown                  Avon
Todd Penney                Coventry
Len Norton                 East Windsor
Timothy Webb               Ellington
Billy Taylor                Enfield
Russ Arnold                Farmington
Khara Dodds                Hartford
Mark Carlino              Manchester
John Carrington            Mansfield
Peter Hughes              Marlborough
Chris Greenlaw            Newington
Tom Roy                    Simsbury
Jeff Doolittle             South Windsor
Jim Grappone               Southington
Bill Hawkins               Suffield
Linda Farmer               Tolland
David Gooch                Vernon
Greg Sommer                West Hartford
Bob Jarvis                 Windsor
Gilbert Hayes              GHTD
Rick Baldwin               CCEJ

Guests
Jonathan Thiesse           Bloomfield
Bill Dwinells              Tolland
Sandy Fry                  GHTD
Sharon Okoye               ConnDOT
Jennifer Trio              ConnDOT
Gayende Martin             ConnDOT
Charlie Carson              CTTransit
Bradshaw Smith             Windsor/Citizen

Staff
Jennifer Carrier           CRCOG
Maryellen Kowalewski       CRCOG
Rob Aloise                 CRCOG
Pramod Pandey              CRCOG
Karen Stewartson           CRCOG

DRAFT until
Endorsed by the Committee
1. **Roll Call** – Jon Colman called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

2. **Public Forum**
   Brad Smith commented on proposed TIP amendment 4b - Statewide transit marketing, CTfastrak marketing. Mr. Smith indicated that he was not in support of this amendment and indicated he thought most Connecticut residents are not supportive of CTfastrak. He indicated that if a service is needed and priced reasonably it should not need to rely on marketing to make it a success.

3. **Adoption of Minutes** – A motion was made by Billy Taylor, seconded by Russ Arnold, to accept the minutes from the July 16th 2014 meeting. This motion was passed unanimously.

4. **Staff Reports**
   - **CT Traffic Signal Circuit Rider**-Ms. Jennifer provided an update on The CT Traffic Signal Circuit rider Program that was included in the mailing packet. Ms. Carrier mentioned that the program will assist Municipalities throughout CT. Ms. Carrier said if anyone had any questions they could contact Donna Shea, Director at CTI.
   - **DEEP MS-4 Permit**- Proposed Revisions- Rob Aloise provided an update on the proposed revisions to the DEEP MS-4 permit, which will impact municipalities. The proposed revisions were published this summer and included a public meeting and 30 day comment period. DEEP has received many comments and at least three petitions for a public hearing. Based on comments DEEP is currently revising the proposed permit revisions and anticipates publishing the edited version, holding a public hearing, and having another 30 day comment period this fall. Jennifer Carrier asked the Transportation Committee if municipalities would like CRCOG to assist in any way with commenting on the proposed regulations. Mr. Tim Webb stated that a CRCOG letter in support of CCM’s stance on the matter would be appropriate. There was general agreement from the committee.
   - **CTDOT Update**- No update was given
   - **Sustainable Knowledge Corridor Update**-Ms. Mary Ellen provided an update on the Sustainable Knowledge Corridor.
     - The Sustainable Knowledge Corridor project is on track for completion by October 31, 2014.
     - At its September 10th meeting, the Knowledge Corridor adopted its final report, *One Region, One Future, An Agenda for a Connected, Competitive, Vibrant, Green Knowledge Corridor.*
     - As I’ve noted previously, the **Connected section** speaks to transportation improvements necessary to support a competitive, vibrant and green region, including
       - Improved Rail Connections
       - An Integrated Bus System,
       - A linked network of bicycle and pedestrian routes and amenities
     - Should be able to share the final report with you at the October meeting.

Related to improving the network of bicycle and pedestrian routes and amenities in the region, CRCOG last week completed its 2014 Bike and Pedestrian Count
Effort was led by Lia Yim of the Transportation Staff and Emily Hultquist of the Policy and Planning Staff.

This year the count was reorganized to focus on areas that will benefit from major infrastructure changes and investments that are soon to come. This will help document changes in bike and pedestrian activity that are related to CTfastrak, East Coast Greenway connections, bike lanes on Burnside Avenue, New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Commuter Rail, and other upcoming projects.

These statistics not only gauge general trends in activity, but also can help serve as support to fund additional projects that benefit bicyclists and pedestrians in the future.

Over 70 percent of the 109 total count locations were counted last week and over the weekend which makes this the most successful and largest count to date.

This counting effort is nearly 100 percent fueled by volunteers, so CRCOG is very thankful to those who participated.

The data will be tabulated this fall, and forwarded on to the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project.

It will also be shared with the Transportation Committee and CRCOG municipalities.

Long Range Plan Update – Jennifer Carrier reviewed flow charts outlining processes for both a minor update and major overhaul of CRCOG’s long range transportation plan. Each included considerations of recent and on-going federal and state initiatives, along with plans to address regional planning agency and MPO consolidation. The outlines show a target date of May 2015 for the minor update, and the major update being completed in 2016 or later.

Other – Mr. Jon Colman provided an update on the Transportation Forum that was held in North Haven. Mr. Coleman stated that both panelists had different views on Transportation. The Panelists were Tom Foley and Dannel Malloy. Mr. Colman stated more information on Forum could be heard on the local news and in the newspapers.

Other – Ms. Carrier reviewed the memorandum that was distributed during the meeting related to the TIP projects and Air Quality findings.

5. TIP amendments

- Newington, GIS technology
- Hartford, I-84 bridge rehabilitation
- Hartford, I-84 viaduct replacement study
- Statewide, transit marketing

Mr. Jon Colman made a request to revise the meeting agenda to add a TIP amendment utilizing $3 million dollars in Federal Railroad Administration monies for railroad grade crossing improvements in the Town of Windsor. A motion was made by Gilbert Hayes, seconded by Tom Roy to add this amendment to the agenda. The motion was passed unanimously and the TIP amendments were revised to include the Windsor rail crossing improvements.

A motion was made by Russell Arnold, seconded by Jeff Doolittle, to accept the TIP amendments. A comment was made by Jon Colman stating he was concerned about amount of funding being requested by CTDOT for CTfastrak marketing when at the same time many existing transit service needs are not being addressed. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. Local Transportation Capital Improvement Plan (LOTCIP)
Program Update - Ms. Jennifer Carrier gave a brief update on the LOTCIP Program. Currently there are approximately $20 million worth of LOTCIP funds allocated to CRCOG, and CRCOG has selected approximately $31 million worth of projects to utilize this and future LOTCIP allocations. These projects were originally selected to utilize STP-Urban funds, and currently, $11 million of the $31 million has been is or is being transitioned to LOTCIP funding. Ms. Carrier reiterated that Municipalities must complete a LOTCIP application in order for their projects to transition to LOTCIP funding and advance.

Authorizing the Execution of Agreements for Planning Studies - Ms. Carrier reviewed the resolution that was drafted that would allow CRCOG’s executive director to enter into contracts with CTDOT and Consultants to perform the following two Transportation Planning Studies:
  o Transportation Safety and Improvements Study: Farmington and Hartford
  o NextGenCT Pathways to UConn Study: Eastern Gateways
A motion was made by Bob Jarvis seconded by Billy Taylor to approve the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously.

7. Presentation: CTDOT Asset Management Program: Gayende Martin, Jen Trio, CTDOT
Mr. Gayende Martin presented to the committee an update on CTDOT’s asset management efforts, mandated by MAP-21 legislation.

8. Other Business- There was no other business discussed.

9. Adjourn- A motion was made by Russell Arnold, seconded by Jeff Doolittle to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 pm. This motion was passed unanimously.