

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106

Route 195 Advisory Committee / Coordination Meeting

Tolland Town Hall

May 17, 2007

7:00 PM

Name	Organization
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Emily Moos	CRCOG
Linda Farmer	Town of Tolland
Tom Maziarz	CRCOG
Steve Werbner	Town of Tolland
Barbara Cook	Town of Tolland
David Smith	Town of Tolland
Kathy Bach	Town of Tolland
Fred Daniels	Town of Tolland

Meeting Purpose

Route 195 Corridor Study - Organizational Meeting of Study Advisory Committee to discuss initial findings and update Committee on steps leading up to Study commencement.

Meeting Discussion

1. Jennifer gave a presentation on the purpose of the corridor study, potential Advisory Committee roles and responsibilities, potential corridor issues identified by CRCOG and next steps.
2. Committee made comments and asked questions as identified below:
 - Preliminary planning to the transitional area along the corridor has been done, there is development potential within the area
 - The study team will need to make sure that the public realizes the Rt 195 project is not just “more of the same” in terms of the previous planning that has been done for this area, but that this is a study which builds upon what has already been done
 - This study is a study of the road itself and how it will work within the context of the visioning that has already been done in the area
 - The commuter lot located along the corridor, near I-84 has been a big topic of discussion – it takes away from developable real estate; the commuter lot could be shared with different uses at different times; the lot may be a part of a longer term vision relating to the busway and future transit corridors.
 - It was established that Rt. 195 will be referenced as running north-south.
 - The phasing of the traffic signals at the intersection of Route 195 with Goose Lane / Rhodes Road should be explored; a modification could help with congestion off of I-84 particularly on heavy volume times during UCONN events.
 - Certain issues related to this corridor study should be taken care of sooner rather than later – we may wish to consider an immediate action list which may include traffic signals and town green issues
 - The town wants the intersection of Anthony and Baxter (which is skewed) to be looked at as well as many local businesses.

- A question regarding the inclusion of Cider Mill intersection in this project surfaced. ConnDOT will be studying the intersection however components can be included into the study
 - Sequencing studies, findings and projects is key
 - The Tolland website will be a good resource to post findings and request feedback
 - It was requested that the project be broken into study sections and the Town Green section of the study be advanced first. The town green has been studied for a long time and the town would like to progress with their vision as soon as possible. CRCOG will begin to explore reworking the project scope to meet this request, which should not be an issue.
 - Sequencing the traffic counts into north of I84 and south of I84 green area/non-green area will be looked at; it may be possible to do the counts for the green in June as this area is affected very little by UCONN traffic
 - The roundabout mirrors the one at Evergreen Walk in South Windsor and that the Town of Tolland has several drawings that have been developed. The town will send CRCOG drawings of the roundabout.
 - The town green portion of the study could secure funding as just a piece of a larger plan; \$300,000 in federal funds to jump start the green may be available – this would come through an appropriation that was presented in 2006.
 - Two key things that make a successful study: 1) linkage to town council and 2) active staff involvement after the study is complete
 - Keeping the Advisory Committee smaller is better – the committee members have been working together on these issues for some time; however, possibly different individuals could be brought in at different points – e.g. traffic count info we can contact Sergeant Kennedy of the Tolland Police
3. Linda Farmer briefly mentioned recent town initiatives.
- In the next couple of months the visioning study done for the transition area of the corridor will be ready to release; it is expected that in late September an RFP will be issued for the update of the Plan of Conservation and Development
4. Jennifer Carrier wrapped up the meeting and outlined next steps
- CRCOG will reexamine the idea of breaking up the corridor study and moving the Town Green piece ahead; she suggested that the group meet again in one to two months
 - Kate Whitacre is the contact for having meeting minutes placed on the town website – minutes can then go to the whole town council
 - The question was raised whether this plan would have teeth after completion. Projects from studies such as this advance, either through a DOT initiative or private development one, etc. This plan could and may show up in future zoning regulations and will hopefully inform the future of roadway development for the corridor
 - This project needs to be discussed carefully in the public realm because the public, specifically property and business owners, have been waiting quite a while to develop their properties and if they have to wait for another plan to be completed they will be dissatisfied with the process
 - This study could jump ahead to look at specific areas where development needs to move forward if need be – there should be open communication between the public, the town and the project team on possible imminent development sites