

Hub of Hartford Steering Committee
March 4, 2008
525 Main Street, 4th Floor Conference Room
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Attendees: Joe Barber, Kevin Burnham, Jennifer Cassidy, Julio Concepcion, Toni Gold, Tom Kurtz, Mike Marshall, Tom Maziarz, Jackie McKinney, Bob Painter, Mike Zaleski

1. Minutes of 2/20 Meeting

Joe did not finish these until last night. He has forwarded them to Toni for her review and will be sent out in the near future.

2. Discuss and edit as needed RFP4, Section III, “Consultant’s Statement of Work”, drafted by Tom K. and Tom M.

Bob talked to the Mayor, and he is still on board but concerned about some of the wording in Part II of the vision statement. He was concerned that we were trying for something perhaps too grand—i.e., to change the City. Bob suggested some changes to the language that allayed the Mayor’s concerns.

Bob went through his other comments as well, all of which the steering committee approved, and he gave them to Toni to be integrated into the next draft.

Tom Kurtz then discussed his approach in putting together this document. His top-level objective is that whatever we do must be rooted in fact. For example, will “it” hold the traffic? When you are on “it,” does it work. Obviously cost and community impact are important as well.

After a great deal of discussion, the steering committee agreed to the following:

- ◆ The goals in the RFP will be reprioritized—switching the first and third.
- ◆ We want to keep the RFP general and let the consultants propose the details.

Some specifics that we would like to have guide the process are:

- ◆ We seek the revitalization of the area as a multimodal, transportation nexus that also addresses traffic issues.
- ◆ We should have the consultants look at the four alternatives we have identified—bury, deck, boulevard, or divert I-84 traffic regionally—as well as any alternatives they may identify.

As stated above, our process needs to be a general level analysis, so although we may be concerned with traffic flows and how that affects traffic on and off the highway, we will not be doing things like drilling down and looking at intersections. Furthermore, because we are making the community needs primary, we would approach traffic differently, as we would want to make sure there is something about the transportation issues of the larger community rather than just on the highway.

Tom Maziarz suggested that this is not a traffic study; instead we should turn the process on its head. Typically, the traffic studies are done first and we want to turn that around and make addressing community issues primary. And through this process, we want to have a set of criteria to turn over to ConnDOT that reflects a broader vision. He offered to use CRCOG's computer transportation modeling for our project.

3. Reports and Updates

a. Norquist visit April 15 and 16

i. Public presentation, Tuesday evening: Jackie & Jennifer

Nothing to report yet. Looking at Asylum Hill Congregation Church and perhaps Union Station.

ii. Business breakfast presentation, Wednesday morning: Mike & Julio.

We need to select a location. We have a couple of options, some of which are free and some with a cost. 242 Trumbull Street (above Stackpole, Moore, & Tryon) would be free and could accommodate a decent-sized crowd. Mike Zaleski will look into this, as well as the Marriott.

All promotional work covered by the Business Improvement District (BID) or the MetroHartford Alliance. Our costs would be space and food. Mike Zaleski has talked some with Mike Marshall about Aetna being a sponsor—more to come later on this.

iii. LOB lunch presentation, Wednesday noon: Tom Maziarz, Julio, Bob

The Mayor would like this done through Representative McCluskey and Senator DeFronzo. He would also like to get the Hartford delegation involved. The Mayor is now in the process of contacting Representative McCluskey. The Mayor did not commit to paying for the lunch, but seemed amenable. He would like to make this event a legislative invitation—education for the delegation.

The Mayor also stated that he wanted to keep the New Haven/Route 34 issue separate, although inviting Mayor DeStefano is fine.

b. Al Martin: Bob

Al Martin is supportive, but he has not found money yet. Martin did state that he is going to follow up on the offer from Congressman Larson for an earmark (see subsection c below). And if Martin gets the earmark, he can front the Department's money in order to start the project earlier. He sees the Hub as being a part of all these transportation projects—one big problem to solve. To that end, he is worried that we are getting into some political issues. The busway is not moving ahead very quickly and there are Amtrak issues as well. He would like to have Tom Maziarz, the Mayor, Toni, and Bob meet with him to iron out some of these issues. He wants to do it this week—there seems to be some sort of urgency to this.

c. Larson/Rossi: Toni for Tom N.

Tomas let Toni know that he told Rossi about the Norquist visit and asked if Congressman Larson was interested in being there. Congressman Larson cannot attend but Rossi is interested, so we should decide which programs he is invited to.

4. Plan for next meeting with Mayor

This can be the meeting with Al Martin that Bob, the Mayor, Al Martin and Toni are going to have this week—hopefully Thursday (see subsection b above).

5. Next Steps

a. Assignments

- ◆ Joe will do minutes for both February 20th and today.
- ◆ Bob needs to set up a meeting with the Mayor, Al Martin, Tom Maziarz, and Toni Gold—shooting for this Thursday. He will also go back to Rick Porth to see if the Hartford Foundation is interested yet.
- ◆ Toni is going to revise the document based on our discussion today.
- ◆ Mike and Julio will work on Rising Star breakfast.
- ◆ Jackie and Jennifer will work on the venue for the public presentation
- ◆ Toni will think about how to get another \$100,000 (in addition to the earmark request) and bring back her ideas to the group.

b. Next meeting

The focus of next meeting will be to review and finalize the RFP. March 18th at 8:30 a.m. at 525 Main Street