

Hub of Hartford Steering Committee
April 22, 2008
525 Main Street, 4th floor
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Attendees: Joe Barber, Kevin Burnham, Nick Caruso, Jennifer Cassidy, Julio Concepcion, Toni Gold, Tom Maziarz, Al Martin, Jackie McKinney, Bob Painter

1. Minutes of March 24, 2008 Meeting

Adopted

2. Review of John Norquist visit

Everyone who had something to do did it extremely well. We put together a wide variety of opportunities for people to hear and comment on the proposal.

At the Legislative Office Building event, there were no legislators from Hartford. The Mayor made some remarks, and Brendan Sharkey talked about the Smart Growth Working Group that he is forming of legislators and citizens. Norquist then followed with his presentation without slides and answered questions. It went quite well and was probably the best of his presentations from his visit.

Richard Frieder has had a number of people call him who would like there to be more conversation about this issue. Perhaps we can do another library discussion. Bob will contact Richard about setting up a meeting to plan such an event.

3. Next steps to move Hub of Hartford study forward

Brendan Sharkey is heading a Working Group on responsible growth. He is attempting to put together a holistic approach and work through the summer and fall in order to prepare legislation for the 2009 legislative session. Bob suggested that the Working Group would be a good avenue to advance our work.

Tom Maziarz has to work with Lee Erdmann to put together a contract to transfer the City money to CRCOG. If we know we are getting the City funds earlier rather than later, then Tom can put together a committee to set up the RFP process. We could start this now if we have assurances that these funds will be available.

Tom stated that our proposed RFP is fine to be presented to Lee; it just needs to be wrapped in some “process” language.

Bob stated that Lee would be happy to sit down with someone from our group, CRCOG, the City Purchasing department, and someone with his office, and he could probably do that right now. The Mayor wants this to move quickly, so he probably will not stand in the way.

Bob further stated that as we move forward, we need to ensure that the process satisfies the Mayor and is able to work with the ConnDOT process.

Tom stated that for consultant selection, we would need a panel that approves the RFP, reviews the proposals submitted, and interviews the finalists.

Bob suggested that this panel should include Tom, Toni, a ConnDOT representative, a City representative, and either Jennifer or Jackie as a neighborhood representative. The group agreed.

In terms of subsequent funding (beyond the City's contribution), the Mayor has ideas of going after big Federal money, but Bob asked Deputy Commissioner Martin how ConnDOT may be helpful.

Mr. Martin responded that ConnDOT is in the early stages. He is going to continue to explore the possibilities and work with Tom Maziarz and the selection committee to identify funding sources, and how we can access them.

Tom Maziarz reported that CRCOG passed its TIP yesterday. Within that TIP, CRCOG is attempting to set up a general project line for STP urban funds, which is intended for smaller studies. The idea is that CRCOG would put all \$1.2 million in a single contract and write work orders against it, rather than doing a proposal each time. The Federal Highway Administration has approved it, but we are still waiting on ConnDOT Planning approval. If we get this approval, we will be able to speed up the process.

Tom added that the ConnDOT process can be nine months, and we need someone to shepherd it through the ConnDOT Planning, Finance, and then Attorney General. The first two we can control to some degree, but we have no control with the Attorney General, so the sooner we can move the better.

4. Next steps

- ◆ Bob will set up a meeting with Lee as soon as possible.
- ◆ Bob and Jennifer are going to look for the funds for this project in the City budget and/or talk to the Mayor to confirm City funding.
- ◆ Bob will set up a meeting with Richard Frieder to discuss the possibility of future public discussions about our project.
- ◆ Joe will do the minutes, and Toni will send out the agenda.
- ◆ Next meeting: May 21, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at 525 Main Street, 4th Floor