

Hub of Hartford Steering Committee Meeting
September 30, 2010, 5:30 PM
One Union Place, Hartford
GHTD Multipurpose Room

Name	Organization
Bob Painter	Committee Chair/Frog Hollow NRZ
Mike Marshall	Aetna
Jackie McKinney	Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association
Jonas Maciunas	City of Hartford, Development Services
Kevin Burnham	City of Hartford, DPW
Roger O'Brien	City of Hartford, Planning Division
Joe Barber	Frog Hollow NRZ/Co-Chair of Hartford 2000
Sandra Sheehan	GHTD
Bob Benzinger	The Hartford
Michael Zaleski	Hartford BID
Tomas Nenortas	Hartford Preservation Alliance
Toni Gold	West End Civic Association
Guests	
Jennifer Cassidy	City of Hartford
Chris Stone	CT DEP
David Kooris	Regional Planning Association
David McCluskey	State Representative
Public Attendees	
Bill Upholt	ACOTE
Mary Ellen Thibodeau	Bike Walk CT
Rick Thibodeau	Bike Walk CT
Rebecca Floyd	Mark Twain House
Heather Brandon	Resident
Nancy Macy	Resident
David Mercer-Ceder IV	Resident
Bill Mocarsky	Resident
Mary Pollock	Resident
Michelle Scott	Resident
Project Team	
Tom Maziarz	ConnDOT
Jennifer Carrier	CRCOG
Lia Huang	CRCOG
David Spillane	Goody Clancy
Amy Kohn	Goody Clancy
David Stahnke	Wilbur Smith Associates

- 1. Welcome** Bob Painter opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and leading introductions.
- 2. Public Forum** No public comments were received.
- 3. Adoption of Minutes** The motion to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2010 meeting as written was passed unanimously.

4. Discussion on Draft Report

David Spillane provided an overview of the study alternatives, reviewing the main characteristics as well as background information on how these options were developed via a range of analyses with extensive public and stakeholder input. The following summarizes the Committee discussion:

- Roger O'Brien asked if westbound I-84 access to Aetna was maintained. David Spillane replied that this access has been preserved in the concept sketches however exact ramp locations and local network connections need to be analyzed in more detail outside of the scope of this study.
- State Representative David McCluskey commented that Alternative 2 is equivalent to the baseline in terms of cost, but the potential for economic development and re-knitting of the City in Alternative 2 is amazing. State Representative McCluskey added that it is difficult to understand the impacts on the Busway and Griffin Line, but the rail shift would eliminate the need to rebuild the rail viaduct.
- Tom Maziarz stated that after preliminary review, both ConnDOT Highway and Rail review teams feel the rail shift is feasible. The preliminary concept has been vetted through Amtrak.
- Jackie McKinney felt that these options are very promising, adding that she would love the tunnel option but also likes Alternative 2.
- Toni Gold mentioned that Amtrak recently announced several possible alignments for high speed rail and was concerned that some of these layouts may interfere with the alternatives set out in this study. Tom Maziarz explained that the considered alignments are even more preliminary than discussions we are having about the viaduct; they are 40-50 years out and have a much more significant expense. David Kooris noted that the Philadelphia to New York City line will likely be completed before the Connecticut portion.
- Toni Gold felt that the Sisson and Sigourney ramps might be combined into a single full interchange near Hawthorne and Laurel. Ms. Gold added that she understood that this study will not define ramp locations, but this should be looked at in the next study phase. David Spillane confirmed that such analyses will be included in the next study phase. Mike Marshall expressed support for the ramp location language in the section of the report titled *Comparative Assessment of the Alternatives*. Mr. Marshall added that the Capitol Avenue ramps are important for the State employees.
- Jennifer Carrier remarked that CRCOG is very pleased with this study process.
- Roger O'Brien reminded everyone on how this study first came about – through a grassroots effort uniting the communities. All of the goals have been achieved, demonstrating that residents and the community can succeed and that the City recognizes the vitality in its neighborhoods. This is a very exciting time for the public and the City will move these recommendations forward in One City, One Plan.
- Jackie McKinney asked what the City's role will be in the next steps. Roger O'Brien explained that as proposals are made to move One City, One Plan forward these alternatives will be kept in mind to ensure coordination. The City will continue to work together with the community and ConnDOT to implement this plan.
- Dr. Painter asked how the HUB Committee will stay informed as these recommendations are reviewed by ConnDOT. Tom Maziarz stated that the structure of the more detailed study will depend on the funding source. Regardless, there will be an extensive public outreach effort. ConnDOT is in a difficult financial situation, but is exploring possibilities of moving the next phase of study forward; there is a chance that additional analyses may be completed in conjunction with the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail work. ConnDOT has applied for Federal money to study the Hartford train viaduct which will in effect look at the potential

rail line shift and elimination of the train viaduct. If this proposal is selected, ConnDOT plans to begin this study right away.

- State Representative McCluskey remarked that we may be able to acquire special transportation funding or grant money coordinated with sustainable communities. Jennifer Carrier agreed that there are indications that support of sustainable communities will be important in the next transportation bill. CRCOG is also reviewing possible funding opportunities and is looking forward to advancing this study.
- A member of the public asked that other opportunities be considered as these alternatives progress. These plans should not preclude potential options such as a Farmington Avenue light rail/trolley, additional bus rapid transit lines, etc.
- Jackie McKinney requested that the HUB Committee continue to meet regularly to review progress on the Viaduct. Every 4-6 months was suggested.
- Toni Gold asked if the HUB Committee might be able to comment on the ConnDOT Request for Proposals related to the rail viaduct review. Tom Maziarz explained that this solicitation will not include a scope of work; it will be a Request for Qualifications.

5. Next Steps

The Community Summit will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 and will include a presentation of the final set of alternatives and a discussion on future opportunities.

6. Other Business No other business was discussed.

7. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.