

# CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

*Serving Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth, and Southington*

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## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (TIC) MEETING MINUTES

9 A.M. Thursday, 5/26/2011; CCRPA 225 N. Main Street Suite 304, Bristol, CT

### I. Roll call and determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with the members checked below in attendance:

Representative	Municipality	Representative	Municipality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art Simonian	Berlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steven Schiller	New Britain
<input type="checkbox"/> Bryan Griswold	Berlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Cassidy	Plainville
<input type="checkbox"/> Donald Padlo, Chairman	Bristol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Bossi	Plainville
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Veselka	Bristol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tony Lorenzetti	Plymouth
<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Tharau	Burlington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen W. Mindera	Plymouth
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Burlington	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Southington
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rob Trottier for Mark Moriarty	New Britain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Grappone	Southington

*Also in attendance: Ethan Abeles (CCRPA)*

### II. Comments from the Public

None.

### III. Action items

In the absence of Committee Chair, Don Padlo, the Committee voted to make Tony Lorenzetti the acting Committee Chair for the meeting.

**MOTION:** Art Simonian moved to make Tony Lorenzetti temporary Chair; seconded by Stephen Mindera; passed unanimously.

A. Approval of the April 28, 2011, Regular Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** Walt Veselka moved approval as presented; seconded by Stephen Mindera; passed unanimously.

B. HPMS Data: Ethan Abeles gave an overview of the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data required by ConnDOT to be submitted by the towns. As of the meeting, the City of Bristol was the only municipality in the region to have fulfilled the data request. The town engineers in attendance assured CCRPA that the data will be submitted in a timely fashion.

C. Recommendations to the Agency Board

- 1) STIP/TIP amendment to approve statewide projects 170-3065 and 170-3066 (Repair or replacement deteriorated overhead sign supports on NHS routes)

**MOTION:** Walt Veselka moved to recommend approval of the STIP/TIP amendment to the Agency Board; seconded by Stephen Mindera; passed unanimously.

- 2) Amendment to the TIC Bylaws to designate the TIC as the Agency Title VI, Environmental Justice, and Limited English Proficiency Committee

**MOTION:** Art Simonian moved to recommend the Committee defer action on this item until DOT and FHWA representatives can sufficiently explain all new responsibilities to the Committee such a change would entail; seconded by Steven Schiller; passed unanimously.

*Stephen Mindera made a motion to add the agenda item "Minor adjustment to the LRTP" under Recommendations to the Agency Board; seconded by Jim Grappone; passed unanimously.*

- 3) Minor adjustments to the LRTP: Ethan Abeles explained the changes made to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that CCRPA is asking to be approved. CCRPA is proposing minor adjustments to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) previously adopted. These changes are in response to funding announcements made after adoption of the LRTP. Since these changes are minor in nature, the public notice and comment process spelled out in the Public Participation Plan is not triggered. The changes will do the following:

1. Clarify that projects are not listed in order of priority but by mode. (Prioritization is part of the Transportation Improvement Program process.)
2. Correct the name of the Berlin Town Manager.
3. Specify that CCRPA and other parties will study and seek to improve access to and the area around the Berlin-Kensington train station. These changes are being made at the request of Agency Board member(s) from the Town and to support the Town in its application for a Connecticut TOD Pilot Program grant. (15% of the score by which OPM awards grants reflects "Local & Regional Supporting Actions.")
4. Expand the text on hiking trails and add projects to acquire the Plymouth Reservoir, protect the New England Trail, and bridge gaps in the Tunxis Trail in Burlington. These changes with regard to the Reservoir are being made to enable the Town of Plymouth to seek \$800,000 in PLHD funds (discretionary federal transportation funding) for the purchase of the Reservoir. CCRPA believes Plymouth stands a good chance of award. These funds are not available to any other town in the region. (Other towns do not contain or neighbor federal land.) The New England Trail was added to the LRTP in order to qualify it for potential funding sources; other National Scenic Trails, of which there are 10, have

received approximately \$1-2 million per year for land or easement acquisition. Berlin, New Britain, Plainville, and Southington would be eligible to receive funds through this program. Bridging gaps in the Tunxis Trail have identified as a priority by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. Funding for either the New England Trail or Tunxis Trail projects would come from dedicated land or trail programs; it would not compete with other transportation projects in the LRTP or Transportation Improvement Program.

**MOTION:** Stephen Mindera moved to recommend approval of the minor adjustments as presented to the Agency Board; seconded by Art Simonian; passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Information items and other matters**

- A. Traffic Count Requests: Ethan Abeles discussed the traffic counting service provided by CCRPA. CCRPA is currently accepting traffic count requests from the towns in the region.
- B. Funding Opportunity Updates
  - 1. Safe Routes to School: Jim Grappone and Art Simonian discussed the similar positions Southington and Berlin are in with respect to the SRTS program for 2011. Both towns are expected to apply for an SRTS grant next year, but not complete the application requirements for this year's round of funding. John Bossi informed the committee that the Town of Plainville was still on track to submit an SRTS application for 2011.
  - 2. Transit-Oriented Development Pilot Program: There was no further information to report concerning the TOD pilot program.

- V. Adjournment** was declared at approximately 9:57a.m. Stephen Mindera moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Jim Grappone; passed unanimously.