



# Minutes *from the Transportation Improvement Committee (TIC) meeting* *of 7/26/2012*

## I Roll call and determination of quorum

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. with the following members 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 type="checkbox"/> James Cassidy	Plainville
<input checked="" 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 Mindera	Plymouth
<input type="checkbox"/> (vacant)	Burlington	<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Grappone	Southington
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Moriarty	New Britain	<input type="checkbox"/> (vacant)	Southington

*Also in attendance: Ed Perzanowski (CTRIDes), Grayson Wright (ConnDOT), Jason Zheng (CCRPA)*

## II Comments from the public

None

## III Approval of minutes from the 3/29/2012 meeting

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

## IV Action items

### 1. Recommendations to the Agency Board

- a. STIP/TIP amendment to approve statewide project 0400-XXXX (Replace 32 public transit buses from 2001 which are at the end of their service life).

**DISCUSSION:** Jason Zheng discussed the details of this project.

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

- b. STIP/TIP amendment to approve statewide project 0170-3178 for 2012-2014 (Continue funding for project development and engineering activities related to STP-Enhancement projects).

**DISCUSSION:** Jason Zheng discussed the details of this project.

**MOTION:** Mark Moriarty moved approval as presented; seconded by Stephen Mindera; passed unanimously.

- c. STIP/TIP amendment to approve statewide project 0170-3177 for 2013-2015 (Continue funding for statewide bridge inspection).

**DISCUSSION:** Jason Zheng discussed the details of this project.

**MOTION:** Walter Veselka moved approval as presented; seconded by Art Simonian; passed unanimously.

- 2. STIP/TIP Action Item for ConnDOT Project #0171-0305 CTfastrak
  - a. STIP/TIP amendment for ConnDOT Project #0171-0305 CTfastrak. (Action revises the sources of federal funding for this project with no increase to the overall total cost.)

**DISCUSSION:** Prior to discussion, Jason Zheng informed the TIC that action items are generally approved administratively by CCRPA's Executive Director, Carl Stephani. For this action item, Carl Stephani wanted to present this item to the TIC first for any comments. Jason Zheng then discussed the details of the action. The action does not increase the cost of the project, but the source of funding has primarily shifted from the STPA program to the NHS program and CMAQ program. Funds are available from the NHS and CMAQ programs, and this shift allows for more projects to be funded from the more flexible STPA program.

**MOTION:** Mark Moriarty moved to recommend that staff approve the actions; seconded by Stephen Mindera; passed unanimously.

- 3. STP-U Program Update (current projects for 2012-2015, the need for an alternative project for 2015, and the need to initiate projects in 2013 for future years beyond 2015)
  - a. Approve project applications to ConnDOT to initiate project development

**DISCUSSION:** Jason Zheng discussed the details of the region's STPU program and the meeting that CCRPA staff had with ConnDOT on June 5, 2012.

The region currently has projects scheduled for construction throughout 2012 to 2015. ConnDOT believes the project currently scheduled for 2015, major intersection improvement at CT-72 and Memorial Boulevard in Bristol, may not be on schedule for construction obligation in 2015. ConnDOT recommends identifying an alternative project that is relatively simple (ready for construction by 2015) as well as initiating additional projects for future years beyond 2015 (because projects typically take 4 years for initiation to construction).

Jason Zheng discussed the potential STPU projects that were solicited from the region's municipalities in January 2012. The highest ranked projects (in no particular order) are: (1) Hart St in New Britain, (2) Cooke St in Plainville, and (3) Route 6 in Plymouth. According to ConnDOT, both the New Britain and Plainville projects could be ready for construction by 2015, while the Plymouth project could be ready by 2017 (if the project is initiated in 2013).

It was also noted that any project has the potential to experience delay. It was suggested that The Memorial Boulevard project should still be a goal for 2015, but that the region should have additional projects ready and in the works. Being overprogrammed is better than being underprogrammed so that any gaps that emerge (from a project being delayed) can be filled with other projects. The three projects discussed are a combination of both quick and lengthy projects; the quick projects can fill any potential gaps that emerge in the near future, and the other projects can be initiated now for construction in 2017 and beyond. The region's LRTP was also mentioned as a valuable resource to identify future STPU projects because the LRTP has had municipal and regional input.

**MOTION:** John Bossi moved to send the three highest ranked projects, as noted above, to ConnDOT's project development unit as the next projects to be moved forward ; seconded by Tony Lorenzetti; passed unanimously.

## V Information items and other matters

1. Grayson Wright mentioned the passing of the new federal transportation bill which involved changes to the CMAQ and STPT (Enhancements) programs. ConnDOT is in the process of reviewing how the new bill will affect these programs, and will inform the region of the status of CMAQ and STPT projects soon.
2. Grayson Wright also suggested inviting a member of ConnDOT's project development unit to the September TIC meeting to speak more about the process of the STPU programming.
3. Ed Perzanowski commented about the work that CTRides has been doing to promote ridesharing throughout the state. Ed will be visiting some large employers, such as Bristol Hospital, in our region.
4. Next meeting September 27, 2012.

## VI Adjournment

was declared at 10:03 a.m.