



Minutes *Transportation Committee meeting – 3/28/2013*

I Roll call and determination of quorum

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

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donald Padlo, Chairman	Bristol	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Bossi	Plainville
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Strawderman (alternate for 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jim Grappone	Southington
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Moriarty	New Britain	<input type="checkbox"/>	(vacant)	Southington

Also in attendance: Jason Zheng (CCRPA), Bill McKinstry (New Britain Transit)

II Comments from the public

None

III Approval of minutes from the 12/26/2012 meeting

MOTION: Stephen Mindera moved approval as presented; seconded by Don Padlo; passed unanimously.

IV Action items

1. Recommendations to the Agency Board to approve STIP/TIP amendments:
 - a. Plymouth Project 0111-0135 “Hybrid Muni Vehicles”

DISCUSSION: Jason Zheng discussed the details of this project. Of the three CMAQ proposals from our region submitted to ConnDOT in 2011, this project was chosen by ConnDOT for funding.

MOTION: Stephen Mindera moved approval as presented; seconded by Paul Strawderman; passed unanimously.

- b. District 1 Project 0171-0357 and 0171-0358 “Install STC Approved Traffic Signals”
- c. District 4 Project 0174-0361 and 0174-0362 “Install STC Approved Traffic Signals”

DISCUSSION: Jason Zheng discussed the details of the above projects. The above amendments are for any right-of-way phase of the projects. The construction phases are funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). These projects are

not adding any new signals to the region, but they are upgrades to existing signals. The projects will upgrade signals at over 30 intersections, but 6 are located in the Central Connecticut region: one in Burlington (Route 4 @ Route 69); two in Plainville (Route 10 @ Northwest Drive, Route 10 @ Whiting St); and three in New Britain (Route 71 @ Blake Rd, Route 71 @ Stanley St, Route 71 @ Barbour Rd).

MOTION: Stephen Mindera moved approval as presented; seconded by Steven Schiller; passed unanimously.

d. District 4 Project 0174-0374 “Extreme Weather Vulnerability Pilot Project”

DISCUSSION: Jason Zheng discussed the details of this project. ConnDOT wishes to study the impact of rising water levels on bridge structures.

MOTION: Stephen Mindera moved approval as presented; seconded by James Cassidy; passed unanimously.

V Information items and other matters

1. Bus Signage Project Update

DISCUSSION: Bill McKinstry updated the committee on the status of the bus signage project. Municipalities are providing input on the location of bus signs. CT Transit will be responsible for all installation and maintenance costs.

2. Roundabout report (http://ccrpa.org/projects/roundabouts/roundabout_report.pdf)

3. Traffic counts (http://ccrpa.org/transportation/traffic_and_turn_counts.htm)

DISCUSSION: Jason Zheng highlighted the agency’s capabilities to perform traffic counts and traffic studies (using the roundabout report as an example). This service is provided to municipalities at no cost.

4. Local Road Accident Reduction Program (LRARP) Solicitation

DISCUSSION: Jason Zheng discussed the details of this program. This solicitation from ConnDOT will also be sent to chief elected officials and police chiefs.

5. Trans. Alternatives Program (TAP) and Surface Trans. Urban Program (STPU) Update

a. Funding & Scheduling Changes; New project solicitations

DISCUSSION: Jason Zheng updated the committee on the status of the TAP and STPU. The new federal transportation bill, MAP-21, directs transportation funding for the next two years. MAP-21 made changes to funding programs and funding levels. The TAP, formerly known as Enhancements, had funding levels reduced. CCRPA originally submitted three projects to ConnDOT, but only one (Farmington River Trail Reconstruction in Burlington) will be funded. The STPU had funding levels increased to the regions, but funding levels decreased to the State.

To best make use of the sudden change in funds, the State recommends a collaborative approach to using the funds. Regions do not have projects that are ready and can immediately make use of the funding levels. Therefore, the region should spend as much as possible, and leftover funds will be spent by the State. However, those leftover funds will always be spent on a project within the region. For 2013 and 2014, a number of projects (in different phases: preliminary engineering, right of way, and construction) will be funded. The original scheduled project for 2014, Reconstruction of Farmington Avenue Bridge over Mattabesset River in Berlin, has been delayed and moved to 2015. To make use of 2014 funds, the Reconstruction of Cooke St in Plainville project has been accelerated, and funding will be used to supplement New Britain's TCSP grant. The decision to supplement New Britain's TCSP grant were due to several factors: ConnDOT has informed CCRPA that they would not accept new projects for 2013/2014; other projects that may be "ready" from a municipality's perspective may not be considered "ready" from ConnDOT's perspective; New Britain's TCSP project was the only project already in ConnDOT's system that we could instantly expand upon. CCRPA will be soliciting towns within the next few weeks for new projects for the STPU program. CCRPA will be looking for a mix of smaller and larger projects, and these projects will be scheduled for the year 2018.

6. Next meeting 5/30/13.

VI Adjournment was declared at 10:00 a.m. Steven Schiller moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Art Simonian; passed unanimously.