



Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments

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Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments and Lower Connecticut River Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

RiverCOG Members:

Chester: Lauren Gister *
Clinton: Christine Goupil *
Cromwell: Anthony Salvatore *
Deep River: Angus McDonald, Jr. *
Durham: Laura Francis *
East Haddam: Emmett Lyman *
East Hampton: Michael Maniscalco *
Essex: Norm Needleman
Haddam: Lizz Milardo
Killingworth: Cathy Iino *
Lyme: Steve Mattson *
Middlefield: Ed Bailey *
Middletown: Joe Samolis *
Old Lyme: Bonnie Reemsnyder *
Old Saybrook: Carl Fortuna *
Portland: Susan Bransfield *
Westbrook: Noel Bishop *

MPO Members:

Middlesex Chamber of Commerce: Darlene Briggs *
Estuary Transit District: Joe Comerford
Middletown Area Transit: Lisa Seymour *

Others Present:

Pat Bandzes, Eversource (10:00)
Carol Conklin, Past Regional Election Monitor
Chris Holden, Middletown Public Works
Bill Villano, Workforce Alliance
Rory Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald & Halliday
Franciso Gomes, Fitzgerald & Halliday

Staff Present:

Sam Gold
Robert Haramut
Janice Ehle-Meyer
Margot Burns

RiverCOG

Eliza LoPresti
Jon Curtis
Dan Bourret

1. Call to Order, Roll Call/Introductions, Public Speaking

Chairman Michael Maniscalco called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at RiverCOG, 145 Dennison Rd., Essex, CT.

Roll call was taken by Sam Gold, Executive Director.

There was no public speaking.

2. South-Central Connecticut Manufacturing Initiative – Bill Villano, Workforce Alliance President & CEO

The manufacturing initiative has been created due to employer demand. The program is a curriculum and assessment process to prepare a workforce for careers in manufacturing. Currently the net result of the initiative has over 1,200 people employed in 180 companies. There are 13,000 manufacturing openings in the state with 25,000 projected manufacturing jobs over the next ten years.

The accelerated program is a five week basic introduction to manufacturing. The hope is to graduate another 200 individuals this year. Mr. Villano discussed the collaborative nature of the program and the length of contracts that employers in the state already have.

Mr. Villano will send information out on upcoming information sessions. Ms. Francis encouraged each CEO to touch base with their high schools as they are getting little information. There was discussion on other trades that could benefit from a similar program like outdoor trades such as arborists and land use officials and other government-type jobs.

3. LCRVMPO Business

a. Approval of Minutes of the January 23, 2019 LCRVCOG & MPO Meeting

Upon motion of Mr. Salvatore, seconded by Ms. Gister, it was unanimously voted to approve the Jan. 23, 2019 Minutes of the LCRVCOG & MPO Meeting.

b. Review/Prioritize LOTCIP Projects

Eight projects came in. At the beginning of the discussion the road projects were ranked as follows: 1) Saybrook Rd., Middletown, 2) Smith/Flanders/Lakeview St., East Hampton 3) Candlewood Hill Rd., Haddam, 4) Long Hill/Liberty St., Clinton. The sidewalk projects were ranked as follows: 1) Rt1/Stage Rd., Old Saybrook, 2) Rt. 1, Clinton, 3) Rt. 17, Durham, 4) Rt. 153, Essex. For the sidewalk jobs, the Old Saybrook and Clinton jobs received the same amount of points. After discussion it was decided that the Clinton job will be ranked in the first position.

Upon motion of Ms. Reemsnyder and second of Mr. Salvatore, the LOTCIP projects submitted to CT DOT will be in the following order: Road projects in Middletown (Saybrook Rd.), East Hampton (Smith/Flanders/Lakeview), Haddam (Candlewood Hill Rd.), Clinton (Long Hill Rd/Liberty St.) & sidewalk projects in Clinton (Rt.1), Old Saybrook (Rt. 1), Durham (Rt. 17), Essex (Rt. 153). Vote was unanimous in favor.

c. Other Transportation Updates

i. FY2020 & FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

CT DOT sent out draft budgets for the UPWP for 7/1/19 – 6/30/21. Provided the legislature approves the submitted budget they will go back to the full 10% match. There will be a public comment period in April and May and it will be brought to the MPO for endorsement at the April meeting. Mr. Haramut hopes to have a draft to the board by next month.

ii. Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2019 – 2044

The draft will be out for formal comment March 1 – April 1. Two public meetings will be held – March 13 at MAT and March 25 during the RPC meeting at the COG office. The draft will be sent to the MPO for provisional approval at the March 27 meeting. The deadline to submit to CT DOT is April 4.

iii. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Information for the TAP has been distributed; applications will be brought before the MPO during the April meeting and submitted to CT DOT by the end of June. This year a TMA-based prioritized list will be submitted. The Hartford TMA has about \$7 million and New Haven has \$4 million. With any luck one job will be done out of that pot of money. There was discussion on how the funds are being allocated and what that might mean for each MPO.

d. Route 81 Corridor Study Presentation – Francisco Gomes of Fitzgerald & Halliday

Mr. Gomes presented the findings and recommendations from the study. The purpose of the study was to guide development in the area, improve connections between the downtown areas, provide bike –ped enhancements, and deal with access issues in the I-95 interchange area.

e. Route 66 Study Update

The advisory committee will meet next week to review existing and future conditions. The report should be finalized by this time next year.

f. Transit Integration Study Update

The kickoff meeting was held two weeks ago with the consultant, Nelson Nygaard.

g. On Demand Transit Pilot

CT DOT is funding 9 Town Transit to run a three month pilot program for an on-demand transit service. The program will focus on a specific service area, and rides will be available as needed by app or phone call. There will be outreach to try and obtain private sector partnerships.

4. LCRVCOG Business

a. Governor's Budget Proposal and Legislation of Note

Mr. Gold reported that he reached out to Johnathan Harris, new undersecretary of OPM to talk about pertinent issues such as school funding and pensions. Discussion occurred on the notice that was recently distributed regarding municipalities contributions to teacher pensions.

Mr. Salvatore discussed the PSAP regionalization proposal. He asked Mr. Gold to try and get some answers about important questions that he raised. School regionalization and other types of regionalization were also discussed.

b. Household Hazardous Waste 2019 Budget

Upon motion of Ms. Francis and second of Mr. Bailey HHW budget proposal #2, which includes adding a satellite collection in Cromwell, was approved unanimously.

Ms. Ehle-Meyer stated that she is looking into textile recycling for town transfer stations or curbside pickup. There is also a current regional compost bin and rain barrel sale happening; information was distributed.

c. Regional Election Monitor Update

Ms. Conklin gave an update on what might happen now that the contracts for regional monitors have expired. She showed a presentation that includes talking points in support of the regional monitor position. Mr. Bishop asked for a discussion of funding of the election monitor position to be on the agenda of the next Executive Committee meeting. There was discussion of sending a letter to Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz to advocate for funding for this position within the Secretary of State's office.

d. Municipal GIS Parcel Data Submission Mandate

Mr. Bourret previously sent out a memo about this state mandate. Towns' parcel data should be sent to the COG by May 1. This will then be sent up to OPM with a report. Mr. Bourret will contact each town in March. Mr. Gold noted that the COG is currently advocating for statewide parcel data.

e. Regional POCD Update and Timeline

Mr. Curtis gave an update on the timeline for the POCD – the hope is to have it approved at the December COG meeting. The existing conditions portion will be sent out for review in April.

5. Chairman’s and Executive Director’s Reports

Mr. Gold noted that he is going to Hartford directly after this meeting to give testimony on the bills for COG county equivalency and statewide GIS software (which was a bill submitted by Senator Needleman).

6. Other Business

a. DEMHS Update

Mr. Downes distributed a report from Bob Kenny. The region was given \$100,000 to spend by June 30. There is now a recommendation from the steering committee on the spending, but REPT still needs to approve.

7. Adjournment

Upon motion of Ms. Francis and second of Ms. Reemsnyder, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary