

Agenda Item Summary

To: CRCOG Policy Board, CRCOG Transportation Committee

From: Rob Aloise, Director of Transportation Planning

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director

Meeting Date: May 22, 2024 (Transportation Committee: April 22, 2024)

Subject: Resolution endorsing the Greater Hartford Mobility Study

Background: The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has released the final documents for the Greater Hartford Mobility Study (GHMS) on December 18, 2023. These documents are available at hartfordmobility.com. This Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study assessed an array of alternatives aimed at addressing transportation issues within the Greater Hartford area. CRCOG staff reviewed the final documents and prepared summary documents to assist our member municipalities in understanding not only how recommendations within the study could impact individual communities but also how the recommendations could impact the region as a whole. The study recommendations and summary documents were discussed at the February, March, and April 2024 Transportation Committee Meetings, including a [presentation by CRCOG staff at March 2024 Transportation Committee](#). The summary documents are available on the CRCOG website, with the following three documents also attached (following the resolution) for further information:

1. [GHMS - CRCOG Staff Review Memo](#): This 2/26/2024 memo describes and links the Staff summary documents.
2. [GHMS – Primary Projects Analysis](#): Table of the nine primary projects making up the GHMS’s four core components and their alignment with the goals and deficiencies of CRCOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
3. [GHMS - CRCOG Comments and CTDOT Responses](#): CRCOG Comments from Staff and Transportation Committee Members were collected and shared with CTDOT.

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: CRCOG staff reviewed the core components of this study and found the overall study recommendations to be in alignment with the major deficiencies and goals identified in the CRCOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan and regional sustainability and equity priorities. Supporting this study will encourage these projects and their expected benefits to advance in our region.

Financial/Operational Impact: The GHMS and its core components are managed by CTDOT and their Consultants at no direct cost to CRCOG and member municipalities.

Project Schedule: The GHMS PEL study was published on December 18, 2023. Pace of project advancements will depend on discretionary funding awards. Discretionary funding has already been sought for three independent components/projects. The first major project to be advanced of those that do not receive discretionary funding is expected to be the Route 2/I-91 Direct Connection.

Recommendation: CRCOG staff is seeking the Board's approval to recommend advancement of the four major components of the Greater Hartford Mobility Study (see attached resolution) and welcomes any feedback the members may have.

Attachments:

- Draft Resolution for Endorsement of the Greater Hartford Mobility Study
- GHMS - CRCOG Staff Review Memo
- GHMS - Primary Projects Analysis
- GHMS - CRCOG Comments and CTDOT Responses

RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF THE GREATER HARTFORD MOBILITY STUDY

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Capitol Region, and the CRCOG Policy Board serves as the MPO; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) conducted the Greater Hartford Mobility Study, a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study, “to create a vibrant, equitable, and accessible regional transportation system by redefining transportation infrastructure to prioritize safety, convenience, and accessibility for all residents and visitors in the Greater Hartford region”; and

WHEREAS, CTDOT and the Consultant team met with CRCOG staff throughout the study effort to provide updates and opportunity for input; and

WHEREAS, CTDOT and the Consultant team worked with community stakeholders and the public throughout the study through engagement strategies such as an interactive website, bilingual communications, and targeted outreach to historically overlooked communities; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG staff reviewed the core components of this study and found the overall study recommendations to be in alignment with the major deficiencies and goals identified in the CRCOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan and regional sustainability and equity priorities; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG staff presented to the CRCOG Transportation Committee the reviewed information, comments on the study from CRCOG staff and Transportation Committee members, and comment responses from CTDOT; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Capitol Region Council of Governments does hereby endorse the advancement of the four major components of the [Greater Hartford Mobility Study: Planning and Environmental Linkages Study](#) dated December 2023 to the NEPA/Preliminary Design Phase and the advancement of the early action and mid-term recommendations of the Implementation Plan to the STIP/TIP process.

CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Policy Board at its meeting held on May 22, 2024.

BY: _____ DATE: _____
Jason Bowsza, Secretary