

GREATER HARTFORD AREA COMPREHENSIVE TRANSIT SERVICE ANALYSIS

**Advisory Committee Meeting #1
September 3, 2014, 3:00 PM, CTTransit Offices
Meeting Summary**

Overview

Lia Yim, CRCOG Project Manager, welcomed everyone to the kick-off of the Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis for the Greater Hartford Area. She briefly introduced the project, including the study area, project impetus, key tasks, and organizational structure, and then asked meeting participants to introduce themselves. Members of the project Advisory Committee, CRCOG staff, the consulting team, and additional special guests introduced themselves.

Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis

Lia introduced Bethany Whitaker, Project Manager for Nelson\Nygaard, who discussed the overall approach to a Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis project and showed examples of the analyses and deliverables that will come from the project. Bethany briefly discussed the project schedule and then discussed the importance of engaging stakeholders in the study process. During the overview of the study, the following comments were made:

- Mike Sanders said recommendations don't necessarily need to be cost-neutral.
 - There should be a cost-neutral design, but recommendations should also identify actions that could be implemented at additional cost (e.g. "what would you do if you could increase cost 5%?").
- Dave Lee suggested that recommendations should also highlight potential capital improvements in various corridors (e.g.transit signal priority).
- Mike Sanders suggested that the study team should identify potential legal/policy changes that would contribute to improved transit service (e.g. yield to bus, no parking in bus stop, local zoning changes to increase density along routes, etc.).
- Mike Sanders offered to arrange a briefing for study team on planned CTTransit AVL and customer information system projects.

Bethany also asked the group for suggestions of who should be involved in the stakeholder outreach. The following were suggested by meeting attendees:

- Suggested for stakeholder interviews:
 - 10 largest employers (note: State of CT is largest)
 - Church groups
 - Connecticut Public Transportation Commission (CPTC) - for the "statewide prospective"
 - Transport Hartford (bikes and transit)
 - Workforce boards: Jim Boucher, Capital Workforce Partners
- Suggested for Focus Groups
 - employees of large employers (**see note above)
 - HYPE: Hartford Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs

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- Spanish speakers
- Downtown Dwellers (check their Facebook page)
- Student groups
- Older adults
- Persons with disabilities

Transit Data Repository Development

Lia introduced Santosh Mishra, of TransSystems, who presented an overview of the Transit Data Repository Development project being led by his firm. The Transit Data Repository is intended to feed into the UConn t-Hub (discussed below). In the near-term, data will include Trapeze scheduling data, GFI data and other available information. In the longer term, data collection will include future AVL and maintenance data. CRCOG will maintain the database once it is set up.

t-HUB project

Lia introduced Nicholas Lownes, PhD, from the University of Connecticut, who discussed the t-HUB project. t-HUB is a statewide public transportation data resource being developed by UConn. It relies on existing, open, and available data sources (GTFS, Census, etc.) to provide analytical tools to transit professionals and others interested in analyzing transit service performance. A t-HUB workshop is planned on 9/24/14.

Lia closed the meeting by stating that the next Advisory Committee meeting will be held in late October/early November, and a Doodle poll will soon be sent out to determine the schedule.

In Attendance

- Mike Sanders, CTDOT-Transit
- Ricardo Almeida, CTDOT-Transit
- Maureen Lawrence, CTDOT - Transit
- Molly Parsons, CTDOT-Planning
- Dave Lee, CTTransit
- Phil Fry, CTTransit
- Charlie Carson, CTTransit
- Jeff Cormier (for Thom Deller), City of Hartford
- Mark Pellegrini, Town of Manchester
- Michele Lipe, Town of South Windsor
- Ron Van Winkle, Town of West Hartford
- Peter Souza, Town of Windsor
- Anne Hayes, Travelers
- Sandy Fry (for Vicki Shotland), GHTD

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- Rebecca Townsend, MCC
- Lia Yim, CRCOG
- Jennifer Carrier, CRCOG
- Lyle Wray, CRCOG
- Bethany Whitaker, Nelson\Nygaard
- Geoff Slater, Nygaard\Nygaard
- Boris Palchik, Nelson\Nygaard
- Anne Galbraith, ASG Planning
- Santosh Mishra, TransSystems
- Nicholas Lownes, UConn
- Steve Gazillo, URS
- Steve Mitchell, URS
- Jill Barrett, FHI

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