

Appendix D: Agency Coordination Plan



Purpose

The Agency Coordination Plan (ACP) communicates CTDOT coordination milestones for regional, state, and federal agency participation and to identify opportunities for interactive dialogue in the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process. The PEL process is designed to improve information sharing and early consultation among state and federal transportation and resource agencies, thereby reducing, or even eliminating, duplication of work in future planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) processes. The ACP guided the agency coordination activities at various milestones of the GHMS PEL study and will support the agency coordination process to be followed on any future NEPA actions that may be required based on outcomes of the PEL study.

Key Components

The ACP focuses on the following topics:

1. Identification of Resource Agency Partners
2. Summary of Anticipated Agency Roles and Coordination Outcomes
3. Summary of GHMS Agency Coordination Meetings (Meeting Types, Dates, Focus of Discussion etc.)

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Compliance

Public projects such as GHMS are subject to regulatory requirements. Federal and state statutes or guidance documents call for certain outreach and coordination measures to be taken to ensure that adequate public and regulatory agency input is incorporated into the project. This project complies with:

- Statewide and Metropolitan Planning (23 CFR §450 and 23 CFR §500 and 49 CFR §613, February 14, 2007);
- Environmental Impact and Related Procedures and Section 4(f) (23 CFR §771 and 23 CFR §774) October 16, 2001;
- Environmental Impact and Related Procedures and Section 4(f). 40 CFR §1506.6, July 16, 2020,.
- Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §552), July 5, 1967;
- Protection of Historic Properties (36 CFR §800), December 12, 2000;
- Air Quality Conformity (40 CFR §51), November 24, 1993;
- Management and Monitoring Systems. 23 CFR §500, December 1, 1993;
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, July 2, 1964;
- Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898, US Department of Transportation Order 5610.2(a), February 16, 1994; and
- FHWA Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule 23 CFR §630.1002-1016, September 9, 2004.

Agency Coordination

As the lead agency, CTDOT coordinated with federal, state, and local agency partners at various milestones throughout this study.

CTDOT worked with appropriate agency partners to establish the study's framework, establish need statements, define the preliminary universe of alternatives, eliminate unreasonable alternatives, and document planning decisions.

Resource Agency Partners – GHMS Phase 1 and Phase 2

CTDOT, selected modal agencies within the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)¹ and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (USHUD) provides input during the PEL process related to the study approach, alternatives development, and identification of performance measures used to evaluate them. Resource Agency Partners do not formally “approve” the PEL outcomes and may only confirm their involvement in various phases of the PEL study process but acknowledge that the outcomes of the PEL process and study are an acceptable baseline for public outreach, initial resource identification and initial alternatives analysis and screening for the NEPA process. The role of each agency is identified below in Table 1. Resource Agency Partner points of contact are provided in Appendix D.1 – Agency Partner Contact Information.

¹ FHWA, FTA, FRA were asked to advise on the GHMS

Table 1: Resource Agency Partners

Agency	Role	Anticipated Outcome
Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)	Lead Agency overseeing the GHMS Study	Lead Agency
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Advise on matters related to roadway/equity and accessibility in the GHMS Study Area.	Confirmation of their involvement in the PEL Study, acceptance of Study outcomes, the implementation plan and guidance on future NEPA actions.
FTA Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Advise on matters related to transit service and accessibility in the GHMS Study Area.	Confirmation of their involvement in the PEL Study and recognition the study adhered to the PEL processes.
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	Advise on matters related to passenger and freight rail within the GHMS Study Area.	
US Department of Housing and Urban Development (USHUD)	Advise on mobility considerations in relation to government owned and lower income housing in the GHMS Study Area.	Confirmation of their involvement in the PEL Study and acceptance of the Study outcomes.

Regional Agency Partners – GHMS Phase 1 and Phase 2

CTDOT collaborated with the state agencies and organizations listed in Table 2 below to seek input on the goals and outcomes related to economic development, the environment, and regional planning initiatives. These agencies collaborate with CTDOT and advise on these related topics. CTDOT met with these Regional Agency Partners on an as-needed basis. Their roles are identified below in Table 2 and points of contact are provided in Appendix D.1 – Agency Partner Contact Information.

Table 2: Regional Agency Partners (Phases 1 & 2)

Agency	Agency Role
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (CTDECD)	Advise on matters related to the role transportation has in supporting the economic potential of the Greater Hartford region.
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP)	Advise on matters related to protection, conserving, and improving natural resources.
Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)	Advise on matters related to CRCOG transportation goals and long-term regional planning.

Other Regional Agency Partners – GHMS Phase 2

The Regional Agency Partners identified in Table 2 may advise the GHMS Study Team on local transportation and environmental permitting considerations once an implementation plan of recommended projects is established. The roles of the regional agency partners are identified below in Table 3. Coordination with individual study area municipalities/town is identified in the CEP. Regional Agency Partner points of contact are provided in Appendix D.1 – Agency Partner Contact Information.

Table 3: Other Regional Agency Partners (Phase 2)

Agency	Agency Role
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Advise on matters related to NEPA and Clean Water Act regulations.
US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)	Advise on permitting and USACE jurisdiction within the GHMS Study Area.
SHPO – State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Advise on National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 jurisdiction and cultural resources.
Narragansett Indian Tribe	Advise on potential impacts to tribal populations, transportation needs, and tribal cultural resources.

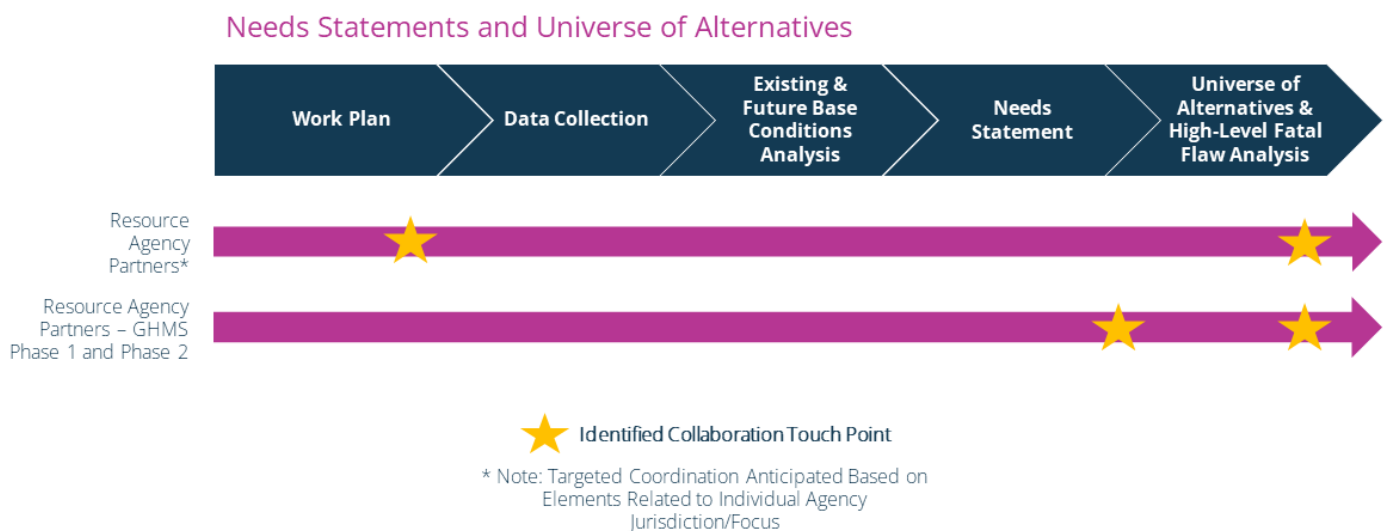
Study Timeline and Collaboration Touch Points

To facilitate agency involvement in the GHMS, CTDOT identified collaboration touch points aligned with key GHMS milestones when agencies can advise on the study process. Advisement was through meetings to solicit feedback on study findings. Collaboration touch points occurred when study activities and/or milestones resulted in important decisions affecting the study process and its outcomes. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, the GHMS Study Team facilitated communications through virtual platforms and developed tools to foster collaboration with Agency Partners.

The GHMS was organized into two phases. Phase 1 focused on the assessment of existing and future base conditions, identifying deficiencies and study needs, developing a Universe of Alternatives and establishing high-level fatal flaw screening criteria to screen the alternatives for inclusion in Phase 2.

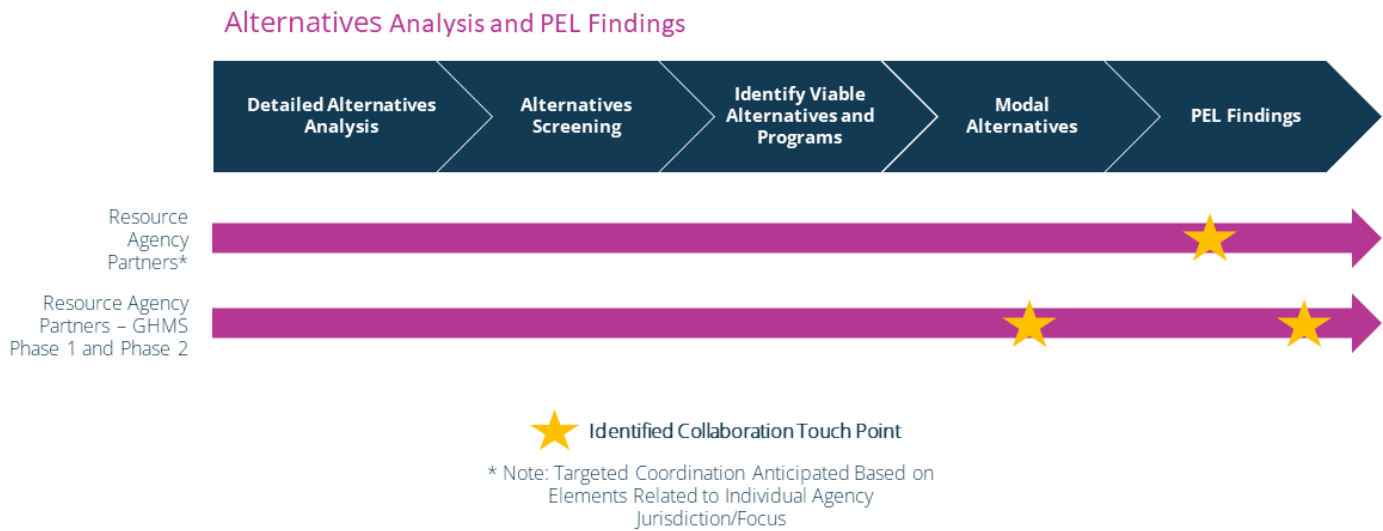
The outcomes of Phase 1 included Need Statements for the overall study area and individual corridors and a screened Universe of Alternatives that was advanced to the Phase 2. A sequential timeline of Phase 1 along with identified collaboration touch points is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1: GHMS Phase 1 Timeline and Collaboration Touch Points



Phase 2 conducted detailed screening of alternatives that passed the Phase 1 high-level fatal flaw screening and evaluated them against appropriate performance-based screening criteria aligned with the overall vision and GHMS study-specific needs. Phase 2 defined potential transportation/ mobility improvement programs based on immediacy of mobility benefits and funding opportunities available along with a project implementation plan to advance appropriate projects through the subsequent NEPA requirements, as applicable. Resource and Regional Agency Partner meeting timelines are included in Appendix D.2 – Agency Meeting Timelines.

Figure 2: GHMS Phase 2 Timeline and Collaborative Touch Points



Revision History

The Agency Coordination Plan is a living document and has been updated to reflect changes to agency contacts, roles, or project information points. Changes to this Agency Coordination Plan are identified below.

Table 4: Revision History

Version	Release Date	Name/Section	Description
1	February 16, 2021	Initial Version	-
2	August 27, 2021	Agency Coordination	Establish separate collaboration timelines for Resource Agency Partners and Regional Agency Partners.
3	November 5, 2021	Agency Coordination	Updated Regional Agency Partners.
4	September 28, 2022	Agency Coordination	Updated timeline and touchpoints.
5	July 14, 2023	General updates	Updates consistent with findings of the PEL study to date.

Appendix D-1: Agency Partner Contact Information

Modal DOT and HUD Partners

Agency	Point of Contact
Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)	Nilesh Patel (860) 594-3411 nilesh.patel@ct.gov
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Jennifer Carrier (860) 494-7567 jennifer.carrier@dot.gov
FTA Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Leah Sirmin (attended ACM 01, 02, 03/inactive) (617) 494-2459 leah.sirmin@dot.gov
FTA Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	Eric Papetti (active) eric.papetti@dot.gov
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	Lydia Kachadoorian (attended ACM 01, 02, 03/inactive) lydia.kachadoorian@dot.gov
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	Marlys Osterhues (active) vmarlys.osterhues@dot.gov
US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	Suzanne Piacentini (860) 240-9702 suzanne.piacentini@hud.gov

Regional Agency Partners – Phase 1 & 2

Agency	Point of Contact
Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (CTDECD)	Jonathan Kenney Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP - Fisheries)	Peter Aarrestad Peter.Aarrestad@ct.gov 860.424.3474
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP - Wildlife)	Jenny Dickson jenny.Dickson@ct.gov 860.424.3114
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP – Regulatory)	William J. Sigmund III william.sigmund@ct.gov 860.418.5924 Jeff Caiola 860.424.4162 Jeff.Caiola@ct.gov
Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM)	Rebecca Augur Rebecca.Augur@ct.gov
Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)	Robert Aloise raloise@crcog.org

Other Regional Agency Partners – Phase 2

Agency	Point of Contact		
US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Nathan Margason Margason.Nathan@epa.gov 617-918-1172		Timothy Timmermann Timmermann.timothy@epa.gov
US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)	Daniel Breen (978) 318-8831		
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)	Jonathan Kinney Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov		
United States Coast Guard (USCG)	Donna A. Fisher (516) 241-2152 Donna.A.Fisher@uscg.mil		
Narragansett Indian Tribe	John Brown -THPO office@nithpo.net Brwnjbb123@aol.com		
Mohegan Tribal Council	James Gessner, Jr – Chairman 860-862-6120 jgessner@moheganmail.com	James Quinn- THPO jquinn@moheganmail.com	Chuck Bunnell – Chief of Staff, Gov't Affairs cbunnell@moheganmail.com
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation	Rodney Butler – Chairman 860-396-6500 rodneybutler@mptn-nsn.gov	Michael Kickingbear Johnson MEJohnson@mptn-nsn.gov	Robert Hayward – Manager State Govt. Affairs rhayward@mptn-nsn.gov
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	Sabrina Pereira Sabrina.pereira@noaa.gov		
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Christopher Boelke christopher.boelke@noaa.gov (978) 281-9131		
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Cynthia Corsair cynthia_corsair@fws.gov (401) 213-4416		
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP-Fisheries)	Peter Aarrestad Peter.Aarrestad@ct.gov 860.424.3474		
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP-Wildlife)	Jenny Dickson jenny.Dickson@ct.gov 860.424.3114		
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP-Regulatory)	Jeff Caiola 860.424.4162 Jeff.Caiola@ct.gov	William J. Sigmund III william.sigmund@ct.gov 860.418.5924	

Appendix D-2: Agency Meeting Timelines

Agency Collaboration Touch Point Meetings

Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Meeting Focus
September 1, 2021	GHMS Agency Coordination Meeting-1	Initial meeting with Resource Agency Partners
February 2, 2022	GHMS Agency Coordination Meeting-2	Findings of Phase 1
September 20, 2022	GHMS Agency Coordination Meeting-3	Conclusion of Phase 2 Universe of Alternatives Screening Process
November 6, 2023	GHMS Agency Coordination Meeting-4	Study Conclusion: Findings and Implementation Plan

In addition to Agency Collaboration Touch Point Meetings held with all regional agency partners, CTDOT met individually with Regional Agency Partners. CTDOT met regularly with CRCOG to coordinate the GHMS study efforts with the Agency's own long-term capital planning efforts.

GHMS-CRCOG Coordination

Meeting Date	Meeting Focus
February 10, 2020	Initiation of GHMS and Data/Scoping Coordination
April 30, 2020	Modelling and Data Types
July 9, 2021	Monthly Study Update
August 5, 2021	Monthly Study Update and Scenario Planning
September 2, 2021	Monthly Study Update and Universe of Alternatives
October 7, 2021	Monthly Study Update and Universe of Alternatives
November 4, 2021	Monthly Update and Phase 2 Development
December 8, 2021	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
January 12, 2022	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
February 9, 2022	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
March 2, 2022	GHMS Briefing for New CRCOG Executive Director
March 9, 2022	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
April 13, 2022	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
May 11, 2022	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
June 8, 2022	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
June 26, 2023	GHMS Study Progress and Implementation Programs
July 13, 2022	Monthly Update, Funding Opportunities, and CRCOG Studies
October 18, 2022	Monthly Update, Funding Opportunities, and CRCOG Studies
November 15, 2022	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
December 20, 2022	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
January 17, 2023	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies

Meeting Date	Meeting Focus
March 21, 2023	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
May 16, 2023	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
June 20, 2023	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
July 18, 2023	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
August 15, 2023	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
September 19, 2023	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies
October 17, 2023	Monthly Update and CRCOG Studies

GHMS – City of Hartford Coordination

Meeting Date	Meeting Focus
October 26, 2022	Monthly Update and Understanding City Priority Projects
April 26, 2023	Monthly Update and Municipal Projects
August 23, 2023	Monthly Update and Municipal Projects
September 27, 2023	Monthly Update and Municipal Projects
October 25, 2023	Monthly Update and Municipal Projects
November 22, 2023	Monthly Update and Municipal Projects