

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
CC: CRCOG Staff
Meeting Date: October 23, 2024
Subject: Staff Reports

I am pleased to present our staff report for the Board's information. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- The **Crumbling Foundations Update** that we held at Ellington High School on September 17 was well attended by the community. My thanks to Lori Spielman, First Selectwoman, and Matt Reed, Town Administrator, for hosting us. Special congratulations to Michael Maglaras and the rest of team at the Connecticut Foundation Solutions Indemnity Insurance Company (CFSIC) for reaching a major milestone – 1,000 families served since beginning operations in 2019! This is a significant accomplishment and one that CRCOG can all take great pride in given its early advocacy and partnership with CFSIC.
- Our **October 8 Shared Services Workshop & Forum** also went very well. My thanks to our moderator, Peter Souza, and all of our presenters and panelists - Martin Heft, Rebecca Auger, Christine Goupil from OPM, Maria Capriola from Mansfield, Andy Cirioli from Plainville, Jim Rupert from Bolton, and Pauline Yoder from CRCOG. We had a packed house and an informative conversation about sharing services with your local school district, with other towns, and through the COG. My thanks also to TJ Demichele and Elizabeth Sanderson for preparing this helpful [Shared Services Toolkit](#) for our members.
- I have invited **Attorney General William Tong** to the **December 18 Policy Board meeting** to discuss the state's efforts to curb the use of illicit cannabis products, particularly those targeted at children. This is an important topic for all our residents.

BIL/IIJA UPDATE

- *Discretionary Grants Awarded in CRCOG* – CRCOG's [interactive online map of discretionary grant awards](#) has been updated - \$306M is coming to the region, with over \$62M allocated to our Member Municipalities.

- *Funding Opportunities* – View the [September Edition](#) of CRCOG’s Funding Opportunities Newsletter; below are new opportunities and reminders:
 - CRCOG was selected to receive a grant for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) **Electric Vehicle Charging Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program (EVC-RAA)**. Please review [this list of eligible projects](#) in the CRCOG region and contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) if you have one of these sites and are interested in this funding opportunity.
 - Funding for **waste management infrastructure and programs** (contact [Robyn Nichols](#)):
 - **EPA: [Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling \(SWIFR\)](#)** Grant Program.
 - **CT DEEP: Materials Management Infrastructure Grant Program**. Read the [Request for Applications](#).
 - **CT DEEP** requests your feedback about the **Climate Resilience Fund** – respond to the [Request for Information](#) and [register](#) to attend one or both upcoming public meetings to share your perspectives about how the next round of funding could work better for your community.
 - **CT DEEP** is offering grants for two programs to promote open space: 1) [Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program](#) and 2) [Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program](#). Applications are due **December 2**.
 - U.S. DOT [Bridge Investment Program](#) – Bridges/culverts must be listed on the National Bridge Inventory to be eligible for this funding source, which seeks to improve bridges rated in poor or fair condition. Upcoming deadlines include **November 1** for Bridge Projects (\$100M or less); Planning and Large Bridge applications are being accepted on a **rolling-basis**.
 - **CTDEEP’s Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy (BETP)** is seeking input from representatives of **distressed municipalities** and **multi-dwelling units (MDUs)** to promote equitable **broadband infrastructure and service** across Connecticut.
 - Please review the [Multi-Dwelling Unit Survey](#) to identify MDUs within distressed municipalities that could benefit from broadband infrastructure improvements. The survey is also included on [DEEP’s ConneCTed Communities webpage](#) along with this [map of underserved locations in CT](#) that are eligible for funding under this program.

- *Additional Resources* - Visit CRCOG's [BIL/IIJA webpage](#) for information about federal programs and general information, including:
 - Obtaining a **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)**
 - [Memorandum](#) summary of discretionary grant programs most applicable in our region.
 - **Tools for Rural communities:**
 - [U.S. DOT Funding Opportunities for Rural Projects](#)
 - [National Center for Rural Road Safety Key Funding Opportunities](#)
 - [Schedule of U.S. DOT Funding Opportunities](#)
 - **Contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#)**, 860-724-4701, to discuss priority projects in your municipality and potential funding opportunities.

ADMINISTRATION AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- **GASOLINE BID** - The CRPC is collecting quantities for the gasoline bid; the bid will be issued on November 14. **YOU MUST SUBMIT QUANTITIES TO PARTICIPATE AS THIS BID DOES NOT ALLOW PIGGYBACKING.** Please reach out to Kim at kbona@crcog.org with any questions.
- Communications will launch a four-part video series, continuing and expanding the CRCOGWhat campaign. The video series will kick off at the end of October. Our goal behind the series is to increase our Facebook followers and subscribers to the CRCOG YouTube Channel.
- Orthoimagery captured in April 2023 is now available as an image service at cteco.uconn.edu and has been deployed on the CRCOG Property Viewer. <https://crcog.org/mapping-and-data/>
- **CRPC Electricity Consortium's** reverse auction will be held the last week of October.
- CRCOG received a **Regional Waste Authority (RWA)** grant in the amount of \$570,000. The grant will focus on membership, planning, implementation, and operations of CRCOG's regional waste authority, Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA). **CCSWA Executive Committee** met virtually on September 16, 2024, to discuss RFI (Food Waste/Organics), coordinate enactment of the CCSWA Enabling Ordinance, and discuss state and federal funding opportunities. The next meeting of the Full Membership is scheduled for October 21, 2024.
- The **Human Services Coordinating Council (HSCC)** met virtually on September 17, 2024, to discuss Fair Rent Commissions. The next meeting of the HSCC will be

held virtually on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. CRCOG encourages all member towns to participate in the HSCC. Contact rnichols@crcog.org.

- CRCOG GIS staff are continuing to develop our Regional Data Portal, which incorporates interactive mapping, data downloads, and project visualization. <https://crcog.org/mapping-and-data/> or email GIS@crcog.org. CRCOG Staff have also updated parcel polygons and are in the process of refreshing computer aided mass appraisal (CAMA) data.
- CRCOG staff members continue in a leadership role to enhance cyber security in DEMHS Region 3. CRCOG had a lunch meet-up at the CT Cyber Nutmeg Conference in Hartford. The next bimonthly meeting will be held virtually on December 12, 2024 at 10am. Contact Erik Snowden, esnowden@crcog.org, with any questions.
- Finance participated in the new CT DEMHS Grant Management System Training. Civix and also received training from DAS for the new SBE/MBE Annual Goal Calculation Reporting. The Finance Department continues to work on the annual audit.
- Staff continue to work on the HUD Gap Funding for Crumbling Foundations and the Crumbling Foundations Testing Program. Contact Pauline Yoder with any questions.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- The **Transportation Committee** met on October 21. Staff updated the Committee on the following: Canton Vision Zero Program of Distinction for Schools; BIL/IIJA Update; Quick Build Complete Streets Demonstration Projects on State Roads; LOTCIP Quarterly Report; CTDOT Study of Transportation Needs and Nonmedical Transportation Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities; and CTDOT Draft Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. The Committee approved the On-Call List: Traffic and Safety Engineering Services Selections and a LOTCIP funding increase for a project in Berlin. The Committee recommended the following item for Policy Board approval: TIP Amendments.
- CRCOG staff continue to coordinate with FHWA and the City of New Britain to proceed with the update of the **Regional Transportation Safety Action Plan**, which is being funded by CRCOG's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant award. CRCOG has executed a contract with FHI Studio for consultant assistance with this effort. CRCOG's **Vision Zero Task Force** will meet again on November 14 to develop a plan for a "Vision Zero Workshop & Forum" to be held in 2025.
- CRCOG staff are in the process of initiating the Berlin Turnpike Corridor Planning Study and recently submitted a draft contract to FHWA. Funds from the awarded

RAISE grant are anticipated to be available in November/December 2024. CRCOG will release an RFQ for consultant assistance shortly thereafter.

- CRCOG staff have executed an agreement with Toole Design for consultant assistance for the **Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Priority Network Plan**.
- CRCOG staff have conducted interviews and negotiations are underway for consultant assistance for the **Regional Warehousing Land Use and Traffic Study**.
- Staff continues to advance the following studies: East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study and Route 44 Corridor Study, Canton.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- The **Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council (CREPC)** held its quarterly meeting on October 17th. The meeting featured a presentation on the Capitol Region Dive Team and an Interoperability Presentation by ESF-2.
- CRCOG staff members have begun work on the FY 21 **State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)** and will begin the **FY 22 grant** shortly. This program includes funds for training and exercise, contractual support, and maintenance of regional equipment. The program also includes set asides for the Hartford Bomb Squad, Capitol Region HAZMAT team, and the Metropolitan Medical Response System.
- Recent equipment purchases through the SHSGP grant include new sonar equipment and training for Capitol Region Dive Team, a Bomb Squad vehicle, upgrades to our Salamander accountability system, and upgrades to the Manchester Bearcat – one of our 3 regional units.
- Departmental staff recently partnered with the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District to host a Flu Shot Clinic for 25 CRCOG staff members.
- CRCOG hosted an **(ICS) 300/400 combined class** in Middletown in October and a combined class for **East Hartford** is in the works. We are planning for additional 300 and 400 classes in the coming months.
- CRCOG hosted a 5-day course for the Capitol Region Dive Team through Dive Rescue International. The class included two days of Med Dive medical instruction and three on Dive Rescue 1 which included classroom instruction and diving in Crystal Lake in Ellington.

- The Capitol Region PK-12 Emergency Planning Committee held a quarterly meeting with a School Mental Health presentation from the CSDE.
- CRCOG submitted our **Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) application** to the National Association of City and County Health Officials on August 5 and is currently responding to the first round of questions. To advance this work we established a Steering Committee and three working groups, one for each of the 3 PPHR Goals, and have asked our 14 local health departments/districts to assign team members.
- The **Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council** took part in the statewide CERT Saturday and will hold its next bi-monthly meeting on November 4th. New classes were approved in Bristol, East Windsor, West Hartford as well as equipment and training for Avon, Southington and West Hartford. Teams continue to train and build upon their missions.
- The **CTDEMHS Region 3 Cyber Security Task Force** holds bi-monthly meetings providing federal and state cyber briefings, information sharing opportunities, and a forum for IT managers in the region. The next meeting will be held in December 2024.
- CRCOG continues to meet with the Town of Newington about conducting a potential regional **Full-scale exercise involving CTfastrak**.

REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- The Regional Planning Commission approved the **2024 Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD)** September 19 and recommended the Plan to the Policy Board for approval. Staff is coordinating final edits based on public comments received to present a final Plan to Policy Board in November.
- CRCOG continues as the lead agency for the Hartford MSA on the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program**.
 - Staff continues to work with our consultant to identify the actions to be included in the comprehensive plan. Please take and share our [SURVEY](#) to influence projects and measures that are included in the CCAP.
 - Staff has been working with other COGs across the state to host a [CPRG sector-based event](#) on October 23 in Middletown. Local staff with sustainability-related responsibilities are encouraged to attend to share knowledge on barriers, processes, and policies.

- Staff continues to coordinate and offer support for local adoption of our **Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation and Climate Action Plan**. Approximately 30 towns have completed their local approvals. If towns would like CIRCA or Heidi Samokar present for local meetings, contact Heidi at hsamokar@crcog.org.
- Staff continues to advance our **Warehousing Land Use and Transportation Impact Study** and is working to finalize a contract with WSP.
- Staff received 7 responses to our **Regional Housing Strategy RFP**. Staff reviewed and shortlisted 4 firms and conducted interviews earlier this month.
- Staff released our Capitol Region **Stormwater Authority Feasibility Study** and received 5 responses.
- Staff continues to meet weekly with Veo, the new provider of **Regional Micromobility**. Scooters returned to the City of Hartford in a phased release beginning August 30. In the first 5 weeks, nearly 20,000 rides have been taken. Staff hosted a Micromobility Workshop and Demonstration event on September 18 for all interested CRPC communities. Staff continues to participate and facilitate Veo/community calls with New Haven and others.
- Staff continues working with our communities and EPA on our **MetroHartford Brownfield's Program**.
 - Staff is working on a new EPA assessment grant application due November 14
 - Staff executed our 2nd RLF loan agreement with the developers of Hartford's Arrowhead Gateway.
 - Staff extended multiple contracts with our qualified environmental professionals (QEPs).
 - Staff processed a contract extension with the Town of Berlin for their remediation grant funding.
- Multiple staff participated in the **American Planning Association (APA) "D-PRAT" workshop**, leading a ground team in Enfield for a two-day workshop October 21 and 22.