

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
CC: CRCOG Staff
Meeting Date: November 20, 2024
Subject: Staff Report

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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Big news for the **Hartford Line** and our region! On November 15, the Federal Railroad Administration announced that Connecticut has been awarded **\$291M** for projects along the Northeast Corridor, including project planning for the CT River Bridge (\$8M), 6.2 miles of doubletracking (\$102M), and project planning to relocate the Hartford Station (\$2.56M). Our thanks to the CTDOT and Amtrak for pursuing this funding, and to our federal delegation for its support!
- Following a discussion I had with our Executive Committee, we have added a **Municipal Information Sharing** section towards the end of our meeting agenda. Please use this time to share any important information with your fellow Board members and staff.
- In response to the Hawthorne Fire, we activated our regional assets including the **Capitol Region Incident Management Team**, and the Communications, Firefighting, and Volunteer Services support units. These units spent 19 days on scene and at the Incident Command Post. My thanks to Cheryl Assis, Bill Perkins, and other members of the team for their hard work and dedication.
- CRCOG and Novus Insight are planning **cybersecurity training workshops** that will provide critical cybersecurity policy, procedure, and planning for municipalities. Municipalities interested in learning more should contact Robyn Nichols at rnichols@crcog.org

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- View the [October Edition](#) of CRCOG's **Funding Opportunities Newsletter**.
- Our Capitol Region Purchasing Coalition (CRPC) issued the **gasoline bid** on November 14. *If you did not get your quantities submitted, contact Kim Bona at kbona@crcog.org as soon as possible* to be added to this **NO PIGGYBACKING** bid. Both the Gasoline and Traffic Guidelines bids will close on December 17.
- **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**.

- 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. A 20% cost share is required.
- The **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)** discretionary grant program will accept resubmissions from select applicants for **Round 1 by December 2, 2024** and **Round 2 applications by January 30, 2025**. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain funding for your surface transportation projects that will improve safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, mobility and community connectivity, economic competitiveness, state of good repair, partnership and collaboration, and innovation. [Learn more](#).
- The **Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)** discretionary grant program will accept applications until **February 24, 2025**. [Learn more](#).
- Contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#), 860-724-4701, to discuss priority projects in your municipality and potential funding opportunities.

PROJECT UPDATES

- On October 23, CRCOG and a coalition of other COGs around the state hosted the “ColleCTive Climate Action Forum” at Middlesex Community College to highlight our work on our **Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)**. Thank you to our Keynote Speakers, Commissioner Dykes (DEEP) and Bryan Garcia (CT Green Bank), and the 80+ attendees and sector-experts that helped make that event a success. If you haven’t done so already, please take and share our [SURVEY](#) to help identify projects and measures to be included in our Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).
- Staff have completed first-round interviews for consultant assistance for our **Stormwater Authority Feasibility Study**. Towns interested in learning more about this study or requesting an opportunity to be assessed as part of this effort should contact Heidi Samokar, hsamokar@crcog.org.
- Scooters continue to do well in the City of Hartford as part of our **Regional Micromobility Program** with approximately 50,000 rides since launching the system at the end of August. Staff continue to participate and facilitate Veo/community calls with interested communities and expects to launch in New Haven (a CPRC community) late November / early December. CRCOG can coordinate calls with interested communities and our provider or answer any questions you might have; please contact Mike Cipriano, mcipriano@crcog.org.
- Transportation Planning staff are in the process of initiating the **Berlin Turnpike Corridor Planning Study** and recently submitted a draft contract to FHWA. We anticipate funds from the awarded RAISE grant to be available in December 2024. CRCOG will release an RFQ for consultant assistance in early 2025.

- Most towns have adopted our **Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation and Climate Action Plan**. Our deadline is the end of the year; if any remaining towns would like CIRCA or CRCOG to attend local endorsement meetings, contact Heidi Samokar, hsamokar@crcog.org.
- Staff have successfully conducted four **Walk Audits** to date and are partnering with CTDOT to conduct a Walk Audit in Plainville on November 20 regarding a proposed alignment for the East Coast Greenway. Communities interested in learning more about our program and working with CRCOG to conduct an audit in your town, please contact Mike Cipriano, mcipriano@crcog.org.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- CRCOG's **Vision Zero Task Force** is planning a "Vision Zero Workshop & Forum" for early 2025.
- Our **Municipal Services Committee** will hold its next meeting at **12PM on December 10**.
- **DEMHS Region 3 Cybersecurity Task Force** will hold its next meeting at **10AM on December 12**. Please contact esnowden@crcog.org for meeting information.
- CRCOG's **Human Services Coordinating Council** will hold its quarterly meeting at **10AM on December 17**. Please contact rnichols@crcog.org for meeting information.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- CRCOG is partnering with UConn School of Public Policy to host an "**Untapped Talent**" panel discussion the morning of **December 11**. We will send registration information for this event shortly.
- As a reminder, 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.