

## **Agenda Item Summary**

**To:** Policy Board

**From:** Heidi Samokar, Principal Planner

**CC:** Matt Hart, Executive Director; Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning and Development

**Meeting Date:** November 20, 2024

**Subject:** Resolution to Adopt the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for the Capitol Region

**Background:** Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-35a requires councils of governments to develop a regional Plan of Conservation and Development at least once every ten years. The current Plan was adopted in 2014. With the guidance from our Technical Advisory Committee comprised of staff from 13 member municipalities, our team worked over the past 18 months to update the Plan. We did incorporate a robust public input process as part of this project.

Staff presented an initial draft to the Policy Board in May 2024 and incorporated the Board's feedback into the Plan. We made additional minor edits to the Plan based on feedback and additional staff review. Most edits were minor (e.g. corrections, adding caveats to maps, clarifying language, etc.). One notable revision we made was to add a new strategy in the economic development theme to address continued support and resources for brownfield redevelopment.

The state's Office of Policy & Management (OPM) has reviewed the draft and provided its findings to CRCOG. Our Regional Planning Commission (RPC) held a public hearing at its September 19, 2024 meeting and voted to approve the Plan and forward it to the Policy Board for its adoption. The [proposed plan](#) is posted on CRCOG's website.

**Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG:** The Plan includes many goals, strategies, and actions that would benefit our member towns when implemented. The Plan is also used by CRCOG staff when conducting statutory land use referrals from towns and when municipalities request letters of support when applying for grants. The Plan also includes data and information that towns may find useful when updating local Plans or when having conversations about important issues such as economic development, open space preservation, transportation, and housing.

**Financial/Operational Impact:** There are no financial implications to adopting the Plan. In terms of CRCOG operations, we anticipate that staff time will be allocated to implementation efforts. Staff intends to develop a separate implementation component.

**Project Schedule:** Aside from post-adoption administrative tasks required by Connecticut General Statutes, we will complete the plan update process upon adoption by the Policy Board.

**Recommendation:** We believe that our process has produced a quality Plan to help guide CRCOG's projects and initiatives over the next 10-year cycle. Based on the RPC's endorsement, we respectfully request the Board's approval of the Resolution to Adopt the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development for the Capitol Region.

### **Attachments:**

- Determination letter from the CT Office of Policy and Management
- Proposed Resolution

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2024 PLAN OF CONSERVATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
(POCD) FOR THE CAPITOL REGION**

**WHEREAS**, the CRCOG By-Laws charge the Regional Planning Commission with the responsibility for maintaining and keeping the Regional Plan of Conservation Development current; and

**WHEREAS**, the Regional Planning Commission has prepared the 2024 update of the *Capitol Region Plan of Conservation and Development* in accordance with the requirements of Section 8-35a of the Connecticut General Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan was informed by an extensive public input effort which had an estimated reach of over 1,000 people in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan encourages building communities of choice, opportunity, and belonging, and was determined by the CT Office of Policy and Management to be “not inconsistent” with the *2018-2023 Conservation & Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut* (in effect at this time); and

**WHEREAS**, CRCOG provided for a 65-day public review and comment period, and provided for municipal notification prior to a public hearing which was held during the Regional Planning Commission’s September 19, 2024 meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, at its September 19, 2024 meeting the CRCOG Regional Planning Commission voted to approve the Plan and forward it to the Policy Board for its adoption;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Capitol Region Council of Governments Policy Board hereby adopts the 2024 Capitol Region Plan of Conservation and Development.

**CERTIFICATE**

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Policy Board at its meeting held on November 20, 2024.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Bowsza, Secretary