

To: CRCOG Transportation Committee

From: Cara Radzins, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning

Date: November 8, 2024

Subject: Environmental Justice Representation on Transportation Committee

Every four years, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) undergoes a certification review with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to ensure that CRCOG's transportation planning program is compliant with federal regulations for Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). The most recent certification review for CRCOG was conducted in October 2021, with findings published in February 2022. USDOT certified CRCOG's planning process, commended some of our more exceptional activities, and identified recommendations for improvement ahead of the next certification review in 2025.

One of the recommendations is as follows:

CRCOG should consider assessing Transportation Committee membership to determine if additional organizations could benefit the metropolitan planning process. This committee offers a forum for cooperative planning and information sharing to inform decision making and would benefit from bringing together a range of stakeholders. CRCOG is encouraged to consider participants that can assist in creating a safe, multi-modal, equitable transportation system. In particular, an active representative of EJ communities and representation from a range of public transportation operators in the region should be considered.

Historically, the Transportation Committee has included a representative from the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice (CCEEJ). While a representative from the organization attended Transportation Committee meetings regularly for many years, attendance has not occurred recently despite multiple outreaches from CRCOG staff to CCEEJ. To ensure that environmental justice populations are represented on CRCOG's Transportation Committee, staff is seeking recommendations for organizations or individuals that could serve in this capacity. Transportation Committee members are encouraged to make suggestions at the meeting on November 18, 2024 or can submit recommendations to Cara Radzins at cradzins@crcog.org or (860) 724-4251. Staff will review these recommendations and return to the Committee at a future meeting with a potential path forward.