

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
CC: CRCOG Staff
Meeting Date: December 18, 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

- Congratulations to **Canton, Enfield, Hartford, and West Hartford** for their awards from the State Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) **Brownfield Remediation and Development Program!** I was pleased to attend the Governor's announcement in Enfield announcing \$4M in Brownfields funding for the North River project. The state's investment in these projects will catalyze the redevelopment of these vacant or underutilized properties, helping bring them back into productive reuse.
- CRCOG has launched a new initiative to help municipalities develop individualized **cybersecurity incident response plans** and **cybersecurity policies**. Please contact Robyn Nichols (rnichols@crcog.org) for more information.
- Congratulations to **Steve Huleatt** from our Public Safety & Homeland Security team, who received the **CEA Winslow Award** at the recent CT Public Health Association luncheon! The Association presents the CEA Winslow Award to a public health professional who has demonstrated leadership and achievement in practice, research, and/or education. The award commemorates Charles-Edward Amory Winslow (1877-1957), a pioneer in public health and medicine, who is credited with founding the second-oldest school of public health in the country at Yale University. CRCOG staff and our committee of local public health directors nominated Steve for this prestigious award.

COOPERATIVE BIDDING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) bids for **gasoline** and **traffic guidelines** will close on December 17. Bid results will be available and posted no later than close of business on December 18.
- The CRPC will begin collecting quantities for the **grass seed** bid in the next week or two. This bid will be issued on January 9.
- Please view the [December Edition](#) of CRCOG's **Funding Opportunities Newsletter**. This edition includes information about **RAISE, PROTECT, and TRIP**. Also included are **Requests for Your Input** from state agencies seeking to improve services such as broadband infrastructure, data systems, and active transportation.

- The CTDOT's **Active Transportation Microgrant Program** was very successful in its first year and will be renewed by the department in 2025. In 2024, CRCOG communities received over \$135,000 in funding, or 32% of all funding awarded across the state (as of the end of Q3). In 2025, CTDOT will expand eligible items under this program to include bike racks and bike repair stations.

PROJECT UPDATES

- Transportation Planning staff are finalizing contract documents with FHWA and participating municipalities for the **Berlin Turnpike Corridor Planning Study**. CRCOG will release a request for qualifications (RFQ) for consultant assistance in early 2025.
- Most towns have adopted our **Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation and Climate Action Plan**. One final friendly reminder that the deadline is December 31, 2024; if any remaining towns would like CIRCA or CRCOG to attend local endorsement meetings, please contact Heidi Samokar at hsamokar@crcog.org.
- On December 9 I attended the Public Information Meeting for our **Route 44 study in Canton**. The audience was engaged and provided some useful feedback. My thanks to our project team at VHB, Pramod Pandey and Sotoria Montanari from CRCOG, and Canton Town Planner Neil Pade for their good work on this project to date.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Our **Municipal Services Committee** (MSC) met on December 10 and provided some useful feedback on a planned trainee program for building code officials, among other topics. The MSC will hold its next meeting at 12PM on January 14, 2025.
- CRCOG's **Transportation Committee** endorsed the **2025 Annual CTDOT Safety Performance Targets** at its meeting on December 16. Staff will seek Policy Board action on these targets in January.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- CRCOG partnered with UConn School of Public Policy to host a very successful panel discussion on "**Untapped Talent**" on December 11. My thanks to our moderator, Natalie Braswell, General Counsel to the Governor, and our panelists - DAS Commissioner Michelle Gilman, DOC Ombudsman DeVaughan Ward, Alyssa Goduti, President and CEO of Adelbrook Behavioral & Developmental Services, and State Senator Julie Kushner, for an informative and engaging session. Special thanks also to Kim Bishop for our team for her hard work to coordinate the event.
- In partnership with the Secure Community Network sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, CRCOG recently hosted a class for law enforcement personnel entitled "**Safety, Security and Addressing Hate**." The class was well received by attendees, and we will look to continue this collaboration. My thanks to Cheryl Assis for coordinating the training.