

CRCOG POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

12:00 NOON

This was a virtual meeting.

For more information, email info@crcog.org or call 860-724-4283.

Attendance

Eric Anderson
Hiram Peck
Chris Edge
Mark Penney
Mark Walter
Lisa Thomas
Jim Drumm
Eden Wimpfheimer
Jason Bowsza
Lori Spielman
Matt Reed
Joseph Capodiferro
Jonathan Luiz
Mike Walsh
Raúl De Jesús
Jeff Auker
Ryan Aylesworth
David Porter
Brock Webber
Jonathan Altshul
Mike Paulhus
Lisa Marotta
Wendy Mackstutis
Shari Cantor
Fred Presly
Ken Lesser
Nuchette Black-Burke
Peter Souza

Town/Organization

Andover
Avon
Berlin
Canton
Columbia
Coventry
Coventry
E. Granby
E. Windsor
Ellington
Ellington
Farmington
Glastonbury
Granby
Hartford
Hartford
Mansfield
Marlborough
New Britain
Newington
Plainville
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
W. Hartford
Wethersfield
Wethersfield
Windsor
Windsor

Staff

Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Cheryl Assis	CRCOG
Erik Snowden	CRCOG
Elizabeth Sanderson	CRCOG
Jill Swenson	CRCOG
Kyle Shiel	CRCOG
Laura Frankowski	CRCOG
Lily Schneider	CRCOG
Matt Hart	CRCOG
Kim Bishop	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Rob Aloise	CRCOG

Guests

Dan O'Keefe	DECD
Donna Hamzy Carroccia	Kozak & Salina
Greyson Wright	CTDOT

1. **Call to Order**

Lori Spielman called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM.

2. **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

3. **Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2024**

Eric Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2024 as presented. Lisa Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. **Monthly Reports**

Chair and Executive Director - Mr. Hart provided an overview of his report. Mr. Hart's full report can be found [HERE](#)

- a) Meetings and Events
- b) Funding Opportunities
- c) Project & Departmental Updates
- d) Committee Updates

5. **Legislative Update**

Donna Hamzy Carroccia from Kozak and Salina, provided a brief update on the election cycle and the upcoming Legislative Session. Currently, Democrats hold the majority at the state level. The session will officially open on January 8th, with important deadlines for bills and announcements for committee chairs approaching. CRCOG is in the

process of developing its Legislative agenda.

Presentations

- Dan O’Keefe, Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. Commissioner O’Keefe discussed how the DECD supports the state, the economy and its progression and opportunities. The Commissioner’s Presentation can be found [HERE](#)

6. Resolution to Adopt the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for the Capitol Region

Heidi Samokar presented the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), which outlines key goals and strategies designed to benefit member towns. The Plan serves as a resource for statutory land use referrals and supports grant application processes, while also providing valuable data for local planning discussions on economic development, open space preservation, transportation, and housing. The Regional Planning Commission approved the Plan on September 19, 2024, and it has been forwarded to the Policy Board for adoption. POCD Presentation can be found [HERE](#). Chris Edge made a motion to approve. Nuchette Black-Burke seconded. Motion passed.

7. Authorizing Resolution for the Execution of an Agreement with Goman + York for the CRCOG Regional Housing Strategy

Matt Hart and Heidi Samokar presented the Regional Housing Strategy designed to assist municipalities with their local Affordable Housing Plans, providing training resources, and exploring regional housing roles. This strategy is a priority in CRCOG’s Strategic Playbook and seeks to enhance access to quality housing for various income levels, developed in partnership with housing organizations and stakeholders. It will build on existing housing goals from the proposed CRCOG 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development and local Affordable Housing Plans. The project will produce tools and resources to address housing challenges rather than a new plan with specific goals. Seven firms responded to the RFQ, and after interviewing four, CRCOG intends to negotiate a contract with Goman + York, the highest-rated firm. Chris Edge made a motion to approve. Lisa Thomas seconded. Motion passed.

8. Resolution to Establish a Fellowship at the University of Connecticut in Honor of Dr. Lyle Wray

The resolution allows for a fellowship to serve and honor Lyle’s legacy and promote student interest in the field of regional planning and government at UCONN School of Public Policy. Jason Bowsza made a motion to approve, Nuchette Black-Burke seconded. Motion passed.

9. Resolution Authorizing CRCOG Executive Director to Apply For and Accept

Certain Grants and Contracts

CRCOG receives recurring grants from the same agencies annually. Many of these grants necessitate a resolution from the Policy Board to authorize the Executive Director to accept them. The resolution permits the Executive Director to approve up to \$50,000 in matching funds for the specified grants. The Executive Committee has recently reviewed and supported the proposed resolution. Chris Edge made a motion to approve, Nuchette Black-Burke seconded. Motion passed.

10. **Approval of 2025 Executive Committee and Policy Board Meeting Dates**

Matt Hart discussed the proposed schedule. The Executive Committee reviewed the schedule at its November 6, 2024 meeting and recommends approval by the full Policy Board. Chris Edge made a motion to approve, Raúl De Jesús seconded. Motion passed.

11. **TIP Amendments**

Rob Aloise made a motion of the proposed TIP amendments to approve the following projects: The following projects are included:

1. Bloomfield—CT 305—Replace Culvert at Mill Brook Crossing
2. New Britain—Washington Street—Superstructure Repairs
3. Plainville—SR 536—Replace Bridge over Pan Am Railroad
4. West Hartford—US44/CT 218—Intersection Modifications and Traffic Signal Replacement
5. East Hartford/Hartford—CT 2—GHMP-Extend CT 2 to I-91 Via New Bridge o/ CT River
6. New Britain—Trail—Beeline Trail (Phase 1) - Construct Multi-Use Trail Along CT72 Corridor
7. District 1—Various—Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations
8. Various—Various—Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program Grant

Chris Edge made a motion to approve, Wendy Mackstutis seconded. Motion passed.

12. **Correspondence/ Handouts**

Letter of Support: [Revisions to the Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems](#)

13. **Municipal Information Sharing**

This is a new item on the agenda. Ken Lesser, Wendy Mackstutis, Jeff Auker shared with their colleagues.

14. **Other Business**

None.

15. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:12pm.