

## **CRCOG Legislative Agenda for 2025**

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is the largest council of governments (COG) in Connecticut and serves 38 municipalities with a population of almost one million residents. Geographically, the region encompasses an area of 1,000 square miles covering most of the historic Hartford and Tolland counties.

CRCOG greatly appreciates the support that we have received from state government in recent years. Stronger COGs can continue to encourage regional collaboration to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of municipal services and to strengthen our economic recovery from the global pandemic.

CRCOG coordinates its Legislative Agenda in collaboration with other state and municipal entities such as the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR), the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), and the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST). It is important to note that this agenda is subject to change. As the Legislature begins its work in 2025, CRCOG will monitor all legislation that is introduced, including items that may not appear on this agenda, and may adjust its priorities accordingly.

### **Legislative Priorities**

#### **Economic vitality & community development**

- *Commercial office vacancies* – support legislation to assist commercial property owners with significant vacancies and to offset negative impact to municipal grand lists.
- *Crumbling foundations* – authorize \$100M in state bond funds for CT Foundation Solutions Indemnity Company (CFSIC) and 6 more years of Healthy Homes funding to ensure that CFSIC has sufficient funds to complete its work. (\*CRCOG will seek specific legislation for this item.)
- *Electric rates* – support sustainable solutions to mitigate the impact of rate increases for all ratepayers, including municipalities. The state is assessing Community Choice Aggregation ([EPA - Community Choice Aggregation](#)), which could prove a viable option for Connecticut.
- *Housing stock/supply* – support state funding to incentivize construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing, including middle housing.
- *PILOT funding* – fund the state’s payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) programs at statutorily required levels.
- *Permitting/siting of large solar and battery installations* – seek legislation to strengthen the municipal role in the Connecticut Siting Council’s permitting process for solar installations greater than one megawatt in size as well as battery installations that are not facility owned and operated by a private power producer that is determined by the Council to be for the producer’s own use and has a generating capacity of 1 megawatt or less if utilizing renewable energy sources or a generating capacity of 25 megawatts or less if utilizing cogeneration technology ([CT Siting Council FAQs](#)).

## **Infrastructure & multi-use trails**

- *Local bridge program* – increase the annual funding for CTDOT’s Local Bridge Program by \$10M, for a total of \$30M per year. (\*CRCOG will seek specific legislation on this item.)
- *Trail improvements and maintenance* – provide CTDEEP with \$30M in capital funds to bring state-owned soft-surface trails up to standard, and sufficient funding (estimated \$3-4M) for DEEP’s annual operating budget to better maintain state-owned system. (\*CRCOG will seek specific legislation for this item.)
- *Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP)* – seek increased funding for TRIP, a recently created state grant program designed to support rural municipalities, which are ineligible for many federal transportation programs.
- *Water and wastewater systems* – seek additional state funding, including matching funds for federal grants, for water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

## **Road safety**

- *Safety* – support various recommendations of the state’s Vision Zero Council and CRCOG’s Vision Zero Task Force to improve safety for all road users, in particular legislation to:
  - reduce the incidence of cannabis-impaired driving
  - prohibit open containers of alcohol in passenger vehicles
  - allow the state to designate Safety Corridorsimprove access to and content of driver education training

## **Transportation planning**

- *Greater Hartford Mobility Study* – support CTDOT’s progression with the next phases of the project, including the NEPA review process and implementation of early action items.
- *Enhanced transit service* - continue to support CTDOT's transit service improvements including implementation of transit priority corridors, expansion of CTfastrak service east to Manchester, and improved service to Bradley International Airport. Support transit-oriented development and other state initiatives designed to enhance transit connections to workplaces, schools, academic institutions, and commercial centers.
- *Micro-transit service* – continue to support CTDOT micro-transit pilot program with a goal to establish on demand micro-transit service in underserved areas of the state, including rural communities. Focus on connections to workplaces, schools, academic institutions, and commercial centers.
- *Rail stations* – provide funding in the state’s capital improvement program to:
  - complete design and construction of West Hartford and Newington stations
  - update Windsor station
  - complete second platforms at Enfield and Windsor Locks stations.

## **Workforce development & shared services**

- *Municipal workforce development* - provide continued funding for state’s regional performance incentive program (RPIP). Support recommendations of Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) municipal workforce development work group.