

**CRCOG POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 12:00 NOON

This was a hybrid meeting.

For more information, email [info@crcog.org](mailto:info@crcog.org) or call 860-724-4283

**Attendance**

Brandon Robertson  
Hiram Peck  
Chris Edge  
Ryan Curley  
Jon Colman  
Mark Walter  
Lisa Thomas  
Jason Bowsza  
Lori Spielman  
Matt Reed  
Michael Walsh  
Raúl De Jesús Jr  
Andrew Tiernery  
Steve Stephanou  
Ryan Aylesworth  
Jonathan Altshul  
Mike Paulhus  
Lisa Marotta  
Wendy Mackstutis  
Marc Nelson  
Paul Chiplinsky  
Alex Ricciardone  
Colin Moll  
Bill Hawkins  
John Kleinhans  
Fred Presley  
Peter Tanaka  
Peter Souza  
Scott Storms

**Town/ Organizations**

Avon  
Avon  
Berlin  
Berlin  
Bloomfield  
Columbia  
Coventry  
East Windsor  
Ellington  
Ellington  
Granby  
Hartford  
Hebron  
Manchester  
Mansfield  
Newington  
Plainville  
Rocky Hill  
Simsbury  
Simsbury  
Southington  
Southington  
Suffield  
Suffield  
Vernon  
Wethersfield  
Willington  
Windsor  
Windsor Locks

**Staff**

Aaliyah Miller  
Caitlin Palmer

CRCOG  
CRCOG

Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Cheryl Assis	CRCOG
Elizabeth Sanderson	CRCOG
Erik Snowden	CRCOG
Heidi Samokar	CRCOG
Jill Swenson	CRCOG
Kim Bona	CRCOG
Matt Hart	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Pramod Pandey	CRCOG
Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Tracey Malenfant	CRCOG

### **Guests**

Donna Hamzy Carroccia	Kozak & Salina
Grayson Wright	CTDOT
Ellen Graham	Office of Sen. Blumenthal
Erin McBride	Office of Sen. Murphy
Matt Reich	Office of Rep. Courtney

### 1. **Call to Order**

First Selectman Jason Bowsza called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

### 2. **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

### 3. **Approval of Minutes from March 26, 2025**

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the minutes of March 26, 2025, as presented. Wendy Mackstutis seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### 4. **Monthly Reports**

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

- a) General Announcements
- b) Project Updates
- c) Committee Updates
- d) Meetings & Events

### 5. **Legislative Update**

Donna Hamzy Carroccia provided an update on key legislative bills related to transit-oriented development and housing. House Bill 6831, was highlighted, which could

impact discretionary funding for towns that do not meet certain transit-oriented community definitions. She encouraged board members to review CRCOG's suggested changes to the bill and discuss them with their legislators at the upcoming legislative breakfast.

House Bill 7112 was also discussed, including provisions for a sewer infrastructure support program and lot size restrictions. Additionally, she noted Senate bills 1263 and 1444 that focus on converting commercial properties into residential use. Chris Edge raised concerns about lost tax revenue. Peter Souza expressed strong reservations about the "by right" provision for converting commercial properties.

Ms. Carroccia encouraged board members to engage with delegation members about SB0547 to express support for the Crumbling Foundation bond allocation. She assured Board members that she would publish another legislative once upcoming deadlines pass. She also referenced several bills related to housing, infrastructure, and road safety, encouraging attendees to advocate for their concerns and support these measures.

Matt Reich provided an update on Representative Courtney's federal activities, including:

- Opposition to Medicaid cuts
- An executive order on the Department of Education
- Community project and grant funding opportunities
- The Veterans History Project
- The U.S. Department of Labor's Higher Bets Medallion Award

## 6. **Presentation**

David Kooris, Executive Director of the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA), presents the organization's purpose and process to support municipalities in growing and revitalizing their downtowns and areas around train stations. The CMDA offers a voluntary opt-in program for eligible municipalities, providing technical and financial resources to increase housing production. The process involves a local resolution, zoning certification, establishing a development district, and applying for funding from a \$60-90 million allocation. Twelve municipalities have already joined, with more in the process, and the CMDA expects to start accepting funding applications this summer.

## 7. **Approval of Amendments to CRCOG Rules of Procedure & Bylaws**

Begins at the 1.30 minute mark. Matt Hart discussed the amendments to CRCOG's Rules of Procedure and Bylaws, specifically related to their function as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He noted that per the by-laws there needs to be two reviews of any changes to the bylaws and this is the first review. The second review will be in the Fall 2025. Jon Colman made a motion to approve the draft motion. Wendy Mackstutis seconded. Motion carried.

## 8. **TIP Amendments**

Jon Colman presented the proposed TIP amendments to approve, the following projects are included:

1. Glastonbury – CT 2 – Bridge Improvements (Bridges 01702 and 01703 over quarry Road)
2. Plainville – Trail – Farmington Canal Heritage Train, RAISE Phase 2
3. District 1 – I-91/CT 190 – Replace Highway Signs and Supports
4. Cromwell, Hartford, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield – I-91/CT 15 – Replace/Upgrade Cameras and Communication Equipment

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the TIP amendments as presented. Peter Souza seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## 9. **Resolution: FY2026 and FY2027 Unified Planning Work Program**

Jon Colman recommended approval of the draft UPWP, with discretion given to the staff to make non-substantial changes to the document in response to comments from FHWA, FTA, and/or CTDOT. Jon noted that the Transportation Committee provided full review and recommendation at their meeting on April 21, 2025. Jon Colman made a motion to approve. Peter Souza seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## 10. **Resolution: FY2026 and FY2027 CTDOT Planning Agreement Program**

Jon Colman presented the accompanying planning agreement with the Connecticut Department of Transportation. This agreement with CTDOT is necessary to allow CRCOG access to its allocated federal transportation planning funds. The UPWP and associated planning agreement cover the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027. Jon Colman made a motion to approve. Peter Souza seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## 11. **Correspondence / Handouts**

Matt Hart discussed the

- [Letters of Support](#)
- [CRCOG CGA Testimonies](#)
- [The CRCOG Connection Newsletter](#)
- [The Funding Newsletter](#)
- [CT Policy Talks – Measuring and Addressing Transportation Insecurity in Connecticut](#)

## 12. **Other Business**

None.

## 13. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 12:51 PM.