

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
CC: CRCOG Staff
Meeting Date: September 24, 2025
Subject: Staff Report

I am pleased to present our staff report to the Policy Board. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CRCOG's Transportation Department is preparing for its quadrennial Federal Certification Review, which will be held later this year. FHWA and/or FTA will attend the Policy Board meeting in October or November to hear from Policy Board members and the public about CRCOG's transportation planning work.
- Curious to learn more about the Policy Board's role as our region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)? Please check out our new story board [What is an a Metropolitan Planning Organization \(MPO\)?](#)
- CRCOG has secured a discount for our members interested in attending "Insuring the Future" on September 30. This second annual event is hosted by the CT Insurance Department (CID) and CT Insurance & Financial Services (CT IFS) and includes sessions on financing resilient communities, addressing the economic and health impacts of climate change, and regulatory standards. Attendees will hear from experts in housing, healthcare, insurance, and risk modeling who will highlight practical solutions, cross sector partnerships, and innovations to help protect people, property, and communities. [Select the "CRCOG Member" ticket option at this special discount link.](#)
- CRCOG staff recently published our latest topical report "[Third Places – Social Infrastructure in the Capitol Region.](#)" Receiving coverage from Fox 61 and featured in MetroHartford Alliance's recent newsletter, this report helps municipal decision-makers at the elected, commission, and staff level better understand what third places are, their importance, and how to encourage their development.

COOPERATIVE BIDDING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The following CRPC bids have been issued and will CLOSE on September 23:
 - #779 Sand
 - #780 Asphalt Pavement Crack Sealing
 - #781 Ladder and Hose Testing

Please contact [Kim Bona](#) with any questions.

- The CRPC issued an RFQ for Integrated Pest Management Control Services. One submission was received and is currently under evaluation. Once completed, the information will be shared with members. Please contact [Kim Bona](#) with any questions.
- Upcoming Funding Opportunities:
 - U.S. DOT will update the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the **Bridge Investment Program (BIP)** for Planning Grants and Bridge Projects (those with eligible costs of \$100M or less) soon.
 - U.S. DOT plans to issue a NOFO for the **BUILD Grant Program** (formerly RAISE) in November 2025– up to \$1.5B will be available for surface transportation projects.
 - Award announcements from FY25 SS4A grants are expected to be announced in November/December.
 - The Rural and Tribal Pilot Program is back and will accept applications until October 8, 2025. [Learn more.](#)
 - Per the CT Greenways Council, the RFP for **Rec Trails Grant** applications will be released by the end of September with an anticipated due date in December. More information to come, including details for a program overview webinar scheduled for October 16 at 1PM.
 - Learn more about these and other funding opportunities in [CRCOG's September Funding Newsletter](#).

PROJECT & PROGRAM UPDATES

- The Advisory Committee for our Regional Stormwater Authority Feasibility Study held its fourth meeting on September 17. Public information and engagement sessions are being planned for October. Questions about the study or about stormwater authorities/utilities can be directed to Heidi Samokar at hsamokar@crcogct.gov or the

[project website](#).

- We are in the process of spending down the FY 22 funds for our State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP). We have recently increased our cache of regional barricades, upgraded all three of our regional Bearcat units, purchased a drone detection system that will be rolled out for the Hartford Marathon, and have sent several members of regional teams for specialized training. We are now looking at replacing police UTV units and adding three fire units.
- CRCOG has published a new webpage as part of our Regional Housing Strategy to visualize various housing typologies to help answer the question of “what could this actually look like in my town?” This resource can be viewed at <https://crocogct.gov/housing-typology/>

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- The Regional Planning Commission held its quarterly meeting on September 4. Attorney Mike Zizka from Halloran & Sage LLP provided land use law updates that commissioners were able to use for mandatory training hours.
- The CRCOG Vision Zero Task Force held its 9th meeting on September 11. The Task Force is making progress with preparing our next Regional Transportation Safety Plan and is holding meetings with all our towns. The Task Force will meet again on November 5.
- CRCOG’s Brownfield Steering Committee met on September 8 and discussed the State’s new Release-Based Cleanup Regulations, which will go into effect March 1, 2026, and may impact municipally owned land. Committee members also reviewed CRCOG’s draft Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund application; we anticipate announcing a Request for Applications this Fall to access supplemental funding we were awarded in FY 2024 and FY2025 for remediation/cleanup projects.
- The Municipal Services Committee will hold its next meeting (virtual) at 12PM on October 14. The committee will continue its discussion of establishing a regional fair rent commission and review model AI use policies.
- The Executive Committee is scheduled to meet virtually at 12PM on October 15.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- The Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) will hold its Annual Meeting at 9AM on October 28, 2025. The meeting will be held at the CRCOG Offices, 1st Floor Conference

Room, 350 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103. “SAVE THE DATE” will follow soon.

- We are excited to continue our CT Public Policy Talks series with the UConn School of Public Policy! We will hold our first event on October 16 in Manchester to highlight our staff's [Third Places Topical Report](#). Registration info to come soon!.
- As part of our Regional Housing Strategy, we are hosting two community conversations, “Let’s Talk Housing.” Join us and help spread the word for the two upcoming opportunities:
 - Southington | 7pm on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at Calendar House Senior Center, 388 Pleasant Street - [REGISTER](#)
 - East Hartford | 7pm on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at the Community Room, Goodwin University, 1 Riverside Drive - [REGISTER](#)
- We will hold our next Policy Board meeting at 12PM on October 22.