

CRCOG POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 12:00 NOON

This was a virtual meeting.

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

Attendance

Eric Anderson
Brandon Robertson
Hiram Peck
Chris Edge
Jon Colman
Jim Rupert
Mark Walter
Lisa Thomas
Connor Martin
Jason Bowsza
Lori Spielman
Jonathan Luiz
Mike Walsh
Steve Stephanou
Ryan Aylesworth
Erin Stewart
Wendy Mackstutis
William Morrison
John Kleinhans
Rick Ledwith
Fred Presley

Staff

Aaliyah Miller
Caitlin Palmer
Cara Radzins
Cheryl Assis
Erik Snowden
Heidi Samokar
Jill Swenson
Karen Stewartson
Kim Bona
Kyle Shiel

Town/ Organizations

Andover
Avon
Avon
Berlin
Bloomfield
Bolton
Columbia
Coventry
East Hartford
East Windsor
Ellington
Glastonbury
Granby
Manchester
Mansfield
New Britain
Simsbury
Stafford
Vernon
West Hartford
Wethersfield

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Lily Schneider	CRCOG
Matt Hart	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Robin Nichols	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Ryan Aylesworth	CRCOG
Sotoria Montanari	CRCOG
Tracey Malenfant	CRCOG

Guests

CT-N

Donna Hamzy Carroccia	Kozak & Salina
Matt Reich	Office of Rep. Courtney
Mark Massaro	Eversource
Victoria Pasion	Eversource
Mark Salter	CTDOT Intergov. Affairs
Conor Quinn	Office of Rep. Larson
Jennine Lupo	Office of Rep. Hayes

1. **Call to Order**

Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

2. **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

3. **Approval of Minutes from May 28, 2025**

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2025, as presented. Lori Spielman 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 discussed the challenges of the recent legislative session, highlighting the passage of key initiatives including \$100 million in bonding for crumbling foundations, Senate Bill 1444 allowing streamlined commercial-to-residential conversions, and changes to electric rates with \$125 million annually moved from public benefits charge to general obligation bonding. She noted that while PURA gained greater autonomy from DEEP, battery storage provisions were not included in the final bill, and the requested \$30 million for trails funding was not approved. Additionally, the Gray Field revitalization program's \$50 million funding and traffic safety reforms, including \$20 million for wrong-way driving countermeasures and \$5 million for automated work zone speed cameras. She discussed Senate Bill 177, which allows local authorities to improve safety at crosswalks and intersections, and Senate Bill 9, which expands town aid road uses for resiliency infrastructure and requires planning for climate change and sea level changes. Jennine Lupo and Conor Quinn provided brief updates from their respective congressional offices, and Matt announced upcoming meetings to discuss federal transportation bill reauthorization and shared information handouts, including a legislative recap newsletter.

6. **Presentation**

CT Fair Share Study and Housing Legislation, Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Heidi Samokar, Principal Planner.

Caitlin and Heidi provided an overview of the fair share concept, explaining how it estimates additional housing units needed to meet current needs and the process for calculating allocations. The presentation mentioned the anticipation of a special session in September. Heidi explained that the proposed legislation would require all Connecticut municipalities to have an affordable housing plan updated every five years, with a separate Priority Affordable Housing Plan for towns not exempt due to high poverty rates. Additionally, Caitlin detailed additional provisions of House Bill 5002, including changes to zoning regulations, parking requirements, and protest petition procedures, while noting that the bill also proposed funding for COG's technical assistance and regional housing strategy. The presentation can be found: [HERE](#)

7. **ACTION: Accept the FY 2026-2026 Regional Services Grant**

Pauline Yoder explained OPM has informed CRCOG that the grant for FY 2025-2026 is \$1,356,407.09. This resolution would enable CRCOG to accept the funding. Even though CRCOG's Policy Board recently passed a resolution to accept the RSG grants in general, OPM has requested an updated resolution specific to the fiscal year. Lori Spielman made a motion to approve the draft motion. Jon Colman

seconded. Motion carried.

8. **ACTION: Authorizing Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board**

This action authorized the Transportation Committee to act as the Policy Board allowing time sensitive items to be acted upon during the summer period when the Policy Board does not hold regular meetings. Jon Colman made a motion to approve the draft motion. Lori Spielman seconded. Motion carried.

9. **TIP Amendments**

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

1. Bloomfield/Windsor – CT 187/CT 218 – Replace Computerized Traffic Signal System
2. Southington – CT 10 – Replace Computerized Traffic Signal System
3. Southington – Various – Replace Bridges over I-84
4. Hartford – GHTD – Admin Capital/Miscellaneous Support
5. Hartford – GHTD – Replace Paratransit Vehicles
6. Hartford – GHTD – State of Good Repair Updates at Roberts Street Facility
7. Plainville – Crooked Street (SR 536) – Replace Bridge over Pan Am Railroad
8. Southington – I-84 EB – Expansion of Truck Parking Area
9. Wethersfield – Various – Construct Sidewalks at Highcrest and C.W. Elementary Schools

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

10. **ACTION: Adoption of Public Participation Plan**

Jon Colman detailed that CRCOG first adopted a public engagement plan in 2000. This update— CRCOG's third— has been properly vetted and incorporates current requirements related to outreach and reorganizes the document to identify separate guidance for the public and for CRCOG staff. Jon Colman made a motion to approve. Lisa Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed.

11. **Resolution: Annual Urban Planning Certification**

Jon Colman asked the Policy to approve the annual certification. The certification is an annual self-certify that the transportation planning process has been conducted in accordance with the terms and provisions of applicable federal regulations. Jon Colman made a motion to approve. Lisa Thomas seconded the motion. Motion passed.

12. **Correspondence / Handouts**

- [Thank You Letter from Mayor Stewart](#)
- [Letters of Support](#)
- [The CRCOG Connection Newsletter](#)
- [The Funding Newsletter](#)

13. **Other Business**

None.

14. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 12:53PM.