

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
CC: CRCOG Staff
Meeting Date: November 19, 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

- I would like to congratulate all returning Policy Board members and to extend a warm welcome to our newly elected chief elected officials! We will be planning an orientation for new members in January to discuss how we work to support your communities and the region. I would like to also thank our outgoing members for your service to your community and the region. We appreciate your leadership and many contributions to CRCOG throughout the years and wish you all the best in the future.
- Under CRCOG's Bylaws, the Policy Board must elect officers for the next two-year term at the December meeting (December 17). The **Nominating Committee**, headed by Jon Colman of Bloomfield, will have a proposed slate of officers and Executive Committee members for the full Board to consider.
- CRCOG's Transportation Department is undergoing its quadrennial **Federal Certification Review**. FHWA and FTA are accepting comments on CRCOG's transportation planning program through November 21, 2025. More information is available [here](#).
- We are pleased to announce a new partnership with the **Connecticut Main Street Center (CMSC)** through its *Strategic Partner* regional membership program. This collaboration will enhance CRCOG's ability to support our member towns with strengthening and revitalizing their downtown and village centers. Please see the communication attached to today's agenda for more information.
- Reminder! CRCOG has designated Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner, as our liaison to the **Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA)** to assist with collaboration and coordination between CMDA and our member towns. You can connect with Kyle at kshiel@crcogct.gov.

COOPERATIVE BIDDING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- The Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) will issue the **GASOLINE BID (NO PIGGYBACKING)** and the **Traffic Guidelines Bid on November 20**. *If you wish to participate but have not submitted your quantities for gasoline, please contact [Kim Bonq](#) no later than 8:30PM on November 20.*

- CRPC is now collecting quantities for the following: Stormwater Monitoring Services, Catch Basin Cleaning and Disposal Services, and Portable Toilets. **Due date: November 27.** Contact [Kim Bona](#).
- Key Funding Opportunities:
 - CT DECD is accepting applications to fund projects through the **Community Investment Fund**; applications are due December 5.
 - CT DEEP has several open funding opportunities:
 - **Brownfields Grants** for assessment and cleanup projects. Applications are due December 5.
 - **Urban Green & Community Garden Grant Program**, which funds projects that expand, create or enhance green spaces for recreation or environmental education. Applications are due December 17.
 - The **Recreational Trails Grant Program** funds planning, design, and construction of new trails, maintenance of existing trails, accessibility improvements, land acquisition, equipment, and safety/education programs. Applications are due December 18.
 - The **Climate Resilience Fund** supports projects that will help CT prepare for and respond to natural disasters. Planning and Advancement applications are due January 15.
 - Surface Transportation Funding Opportunities:
 - Our **FY26 LOTCIP Solicitation RFP** for \$45M is open. CRCOG will accept applications until 2:00PM on February 18, 2026. [Learn more](#).
 - Notice of Funding Opportunities are anticipated soon for the following programs:
 - Bridge Investment Program (BIP)
 - BUILD Grant Program (formerly RAISE)
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
 - Read the [latest edition](#) of CRCOG's Funding Newsletters to learn more. Contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) to receive additional materials to support your grant applications or to request a custom review of your draft application.

PROJECT & PROGRAM UPDATES

- CRCOG's EPA **Brownfield Revolving Loan Fund Program** will have approximately \$500,000 available for remediation/cleanup projects, over half of which must be loans. The application process will consist of two parts, with applications accepted on a rolling basis until funds are fully allocated. Sign up to receive [Brownfield](#)

Updates.

- Thank you to all CRCOG members who responded to the **Central CT Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA)**'s *Community Waste, Recycling, and Organics Survey*. The consultant will present the draft Planning Phase Report to CCSWA's full membership at the December 15th Annual Meeting.
- CRCOG, on behalf of CCSWA, received notification of award for a **Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Grant** of \$440,300 to support the development of a regional food scraps collection program.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- The CCSWA Executive Committee met on November 17 to discuss the **Tire Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Stewardship Program**. In 2023, Connecticut was the first state in the country to adopt a Tire EPR law and expects to fully implement the statute in March 2026.
- At its November meeting, the **Municipal Services Committee** continued its discussion of a regional fair rent commission. CRCOG staff is convening a group of local government officials who are interested in participating in a **regional or shared Fair Rent Commission (FRC) program**. We will meet every two weeks to discuss how this program could meet state requirements and the needs of the people in our region. Please contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) for more information.
- In response to the critical need for food assistance in our region, CRCOG's [Human Services Coordinating Council \(HSCC\)](#) hosted a [Special Meeting](#) on November 17 to discuss the state of food distribution in our region and resources available for those facing food insecurity.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- CRCOG hosted the 2025 **Capitol Region Tactical Training Workshop** last month, bringing together 170 law enforcement professionals from across the region for a full day of classroom instruction and hands-on tactical training. The morning classroom sessions featured an impressive lineup of subject matter experts, and in the afternoon, training moved to the Middletown Police Range, where participants rotated through a series of scenario-based practical exercises.
- From 6-7:00PM on November 19, CRCOG will host a virtual public information meeting on the **Capitol Region Transportation Safety Action Plan**. [Register here](#).
- As part of our **Regional Housing Strategy**, we are holding a virtual meeting on housing data in the region. **"Dive into the Data"** with us and our consultants, Goman + York, on December 3 at 6:30PM, [register here!](#)
- The Municipal Services Committee (MSC) will hold its next meeting virtually at 12PM on December 9, 2025.

- CRCOG's Human Services Coordinating Council (HSCC) will be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. ET, focusing on the Regional Housing Strategy. Contact [Robyn Nichols](#) for more information.
- The **Executive Committee** is scheduled to meet virtually at 11AM on December 17 in advance of the Policy Board meeting.
- We will hold our next virtual **Policy Board** meeting at 12PM on December 17th. Michael Bloom, the Senior Director of External Affairs and Engagement and Hate Crimes Initiative Coordinator at the CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), will be our guest speaker.