

**CRCOG Legislative Committee Meeting MINUTES**  
Monday, 11/17/25, 2025 10:00 AM - This was a virtual meeting.  
For more information, email [info@crcog.org](mailto:info@crcog.org) or call 860-724-4283

**Member**

Chris Edge  
Anthony Harrington  
Jim Rupert  
Jason Bowsza  
John Cabral  
Raúl De Jesús Jr.  
Steve Stephanou  
David Porter  
Allan Smith  
Wendy Mackstutis  
Alex Ricciardone  
John Kleinhans  
Shari Cantor  
Donna Hamzy Carroccia  
Matt Hart  
Pauline Yoder  
Caitlin Palmer  
Cara Radzins

**Organization**

Berlin  
Bloomfield  
Bolton  
East Windsor  
Hartford  
Hartford  
Manchester  
Marlborough  
Rocky Hill  
Simsbury  
Southington  
Vernon  
West Hartford  
Kozak & Salina  
CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG

1. **Call to Order**

Jason Bowsza called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

2. **November 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Jim Rupert motioned to accept the minutes. Wendy Mackstutis seconded. Motion carried.

3. **Staff Reports**

Any update on HB 8004 was made by Matt and Donna. Matt Hart reported that the General Assembly passed the Housing Growth Bill, HB 8002. He noted that the bill aligns with prior municipal concerns and requires towns to prepare either a local or regional housing growth plan every five years, replacing the current Section 8-30j requirement. Towns may also need to update parking regulations. Much of the bill is incentive-based, including the creation of a Housing Growth Fund to support

infrastructure for housing development, with eligibility tied to having an approved plan and participation in TOD or the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority. CROCOG will prepare a detailed briefing for the Policy Board and municipal staff.

Donna Hamzy Carroccia summarized two additional bills addressed during the special session: a fiscal stabilization bill (HB 8003) authorizing use of \$500 million from the Budget Reserve Fund to hedge against potential federal funding reductions, and an omnibus behavioral health bill (HB 8004), which also includes a delay of the firefighter cancer cell phone fee from 2026 to 2027 and removes the customer opt-out provision.

#### **4. Discussion of 2026 Legislative Priorities**

The committee reviewed the draft priority list. Jason Bowsza emphasized the importance of clearly presenting legislative requests for lawmakers. The importance of the need to defend and expand micro transit and STEAP was discussed. Under Energy, Siting, and Land Use, recommendations were made to revise formatting and clarifying language. There were no comments on the PILOT Program and Local Revenue Options. Regarding Special Education Funding, Chair Bowsza highlighted the need to modernize excess cost reimbursement by using a statewide average for special education expenditures, with excess cost applying above that threshold to better support districts with higher per-pupil costs. Mayor Cantor also suggested examining mid-year corrections. Lastly, the committee inquired about Solid Waste Disposal.

#### **5. Wrap-up & Next Steps**

Matt Hart noted that he and Donna are coordinating with various state agencies. He added that the 2026 Legislative Agenda will be updated based on today's recommendations and prepared for the December 1, 2025 Legislative Committee meeting and the December 17, 2025 Policy Board meeting for approval.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Wendy Macstutuis motioned to adjourn, Chris Edge seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:55.