

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
CC: CRCOG Staff
Meeting Date: January 27, 2026
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 extend a warm welcome to any new chief elected officials that are joining us for the first time today. We look forward to your contributions as members of our Policy Board! We held two orientation sessions for new members – one on January 12 and one earlier today – if you did not get a chance to attend please reach out to me at mhart@crcogct.gov and we will make sure to provide you with the orientation materials.
- I would also like to congratulate two new CRCOG staff – **Tenley Ranson**, GIS & Data Analyst, and **Jack Treanor**, Transportation Planner – along with Communications Intern **Frankie Ashun**. Jack holds degrees in transportation planning from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (Barcelona) and the Royal Technical Institute (Stockholm), and a bachelor's degree in urban studies from Columbia University. Tenley received her B.S. in Environmental Science and Geography from Villanova University, with a focus on GIS and remote sensing and Frankie is a UConn Alum with a BA in communications and gender studies. Welcome all, we look forward to your contributions to the team!
- I have accepted two new volunteer appointments that I believe will prove beneficial to CRCOG – I have been appointed to the Board of Directors for **Sustainable CT** nominated by Governor Ned Lamont to serve as **Chair of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR)**.

These appointments reflect CRCOG's commitment to advancing sustainability and fostering collaboration across all levels of government.

- Learn more about Sustainable CT: <https://sustainablect.org/>
- Learn more about ACIR: <https://lnkd.in/eDdFMR4f>
- As I mentioned last month, we are pleased to host an in-person **workshop with social media expert Sam Toles** on January 29. The workshop is designed to help local government leaders make sense of a space that feels increasingly complex, high-stakes, and hard to manage. We will hold the three-hour session at CRCOG; the fee is \$75 per person when registering through the Stripe link below: <https://buy.stripe.com/8x29AU9WybdO2Hm14Nco004>

COOPERATIVE BIDDING & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Capitol Region Purchasing Coalition (CRPC) Bids
 - Staff will issue the CRPC bid for **Fuel/Diesel** on January 29 and close it on February 19. This is a NO PIGGYBACKING BID so quantities MUST be submitted by January 28. Questions? Contact [Kim Bona](#).
 - The CRPC bid for **Grass Seed and Fertilizer** is currently open and will close on January 22. Results will be posted on [Capitol Region Purchasing Council \(CRPC\) | CRCOG](#) and emailed to towns by close of business on January 23. Questions? Contact [Kim Bona](#).
- CRCOG's **Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLF)** – Through EPA, CRCOG has approximately \$500,000 available to fund eligible brownfield cleanup projects. Limited Subgrants are available to CRCOG member municipalities. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. [Learn more and apply now.](#)
- Surface Transportation Funding Opportunities:
 - CRCOG's FY26 **LOT CIP Solicitation RFP** for \$45M is open. We will accept applications until 2:00PM on February 18, 2026. [Learn more.](#)
 - U.S. DOT is accepting applications for the **BUILD Grant Program** (formerly RAISE). Read [CRCOG's summary](#). Applications are due February 24, 2026.
- Remember to 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 has convened a working group to discuss a **regional/shared Fair Rent Commission program** to help municipalities comply with new state law. Contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#) for more information.
- Based upon member requests, our **Public Safety team** will be hosting several training opportunities across the region in the upcoming months. Our full-day Tactical Emergency Casualty Care class on January 9 in West Hartford was very well received as 20 attendees from eight different agencies participated. Registration is now open for our Sport and Special Event Risk Management and Planning course on March 4-5 in East Hartford, and a five-day rescue course in Enfield. We are also in the planning stages for our inaugural full day Dive Team Workshop, which will involve all the dive teams within the region.
- A draft Final Plan for the **Priority Pathways study** is anticipated for early 2026. More about this study is available [here](#).
- CRCOG's consultant presented the draft **Regional Waste Authority (RWA) Planning Project** at the CCSWA Annual Meeting. CRCOG will submit the final RWA Planning Report to CTDEEP by January 31, 2026. The report covers program, service, and operational short, mid, and long-term implementation strategies for in-state MSW collection/disposal, food waste/organics, and education and outreach.
- Advancing work from CRCOG's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and CIRCA's Resilient 2.0 initiative, CRCOG has submitted an application on behalf of Newington and Berlin for **DEEP's Climate Resilient Fund** to remedy stormwater issues at three culvert locations.
- The **Capitol Region East Coast Greenway Study** received its final local endorsement, and final edits to the document are now complete. CRCOG is pleased to present the study for Policy Board Endorsement at this month's meeting.
- CRCOG is working with the other COGs across the state to provide a comprehensive summary of **SS PA 25-1, An Act Concerning Housing Growth**. The document will be published this month and will summarize each section, required actions, optional provisions, and fiscal considerations for municipalities and COGs.

- CRCOG has conducted a first review of resumes for our open **Housing Planner** position and will be conducting interviews soon to add staff resources to support our work on the housing growth plans prescribed under the bill.
- On January 22, CRCOG staff participated in the **Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA)** in-person information session geared toward municipal planning staff.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- CRCOG's **Executive Committee** met on January 14. Among other items, the committee appointed Council Chairwoman Lisa Thomas from Coventry and Mayor Connor Martin from East Hartford as chair and vice-chair of CRCOG's Legislative Committee. My thanks to them both for taking on this leadership role!
- At its December meeting, **Central CT Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA)** appointed its new Executive Committee members. The CCSWA Executive Committee members are Bolton, Farmington (Russ Arnold, Treasurer), Hartford, Manchester (Scott Atkins, Vice Chair), Simsbury (Tom Roy, Chair), South Windsor, and Wethersfield.
- At its meeting on January 13, the **Municipal Services Committee** received a presentation from Alfredo Herrera (Connecticut GIS) on various initiatives, including the Master Address Data Set project, parcel and CAMA data collection, and upcoming imagery and LiDAR data releases. Caitlin Palmer also provided an overview of the new housing bill. The MSC will hold its next meeting on February 10 at 12 noon. Please appoint a representative to the MSC if you have not done so. Contact [Kim Bona](#) with any questions.
- CRCOG's **Vision Zero Task Force** held its 11th meeting in December to review progress on the development of the Regional Safety Action Plan. This group will reconvene in Winter/Spring 2026. Contact [Roger Krahn](#) or visit the [Safety Action Plan webpage](#) for more information.
- The **Capitol Region Chiefs of Police Association (CRCOPA)** meeting in January featured a roundtable panel discussion geared toward professional development for command staff and future leaders. There were over 120 participants. Our thanks to Manchester Chief William Darby, East Hartford Chief Mack Hawkins, New Britain

Chief Matthew Marino, and Wethersfield Chief Rafael Medina for serving as our esteemed panel!

- The **Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC)** held its quarterly meeting on January 15. New Business included a presentation from the Capitol Region Dive Team and a WEB EOC training on requisition requests.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- The **CCSWA Executive Committee** will meet on Monday, January 26, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in person at CRCOG offices.
- On January 30, CCM, COST, and the CT Association of Councils of Governments (CTCOG) will host a **virtual information session on SS PA 25-1**, An Act Concerning Housing Growth, geared towards land use commissioners as well as elected and appointed officials.
- We will hold our next virtual **Policy Board** meeting at 12PM on February 25, 2026.