

CRCOG Legislative Committee Meeting MINUTES
Monday, 12/1/25, 2025 10:00 AM - This was a virtual meeting.
For more information, email 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
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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. CRCOG 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.