

February 9, 2026

Senator Christopher Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for Funding Connecticut Institute for Resiliency & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)

Dear Senator Murphy:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to offer this letter of support for the University of Connecticut's request for FY27 Community Project Funding to continue the work of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). Our region faces ongoing challenges related to riverine flooding, extreme rainfall, and infrastructure vulnerability. Addressing these challenges requires technical expertise and planning capacity that many municipalities lack.

CIRCA provides valuable, science-based technical assistance that helps communities better understand risk, evaluate mitigation options, and prepare for future state and federal funding opportunities. CRCOG has partnered with CIRCA to provide technical assistance to our member municipalities and can speak firsthand as to the value of their work. Continued support for CIRCA would allow municipalities in our region to strengthen local capacity and advance resilience efforts in a manner that reflects local priorities and conditions.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and your continued commitment to supporting community resilience and risk reduction efforts in Connecticut.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: CRCOG Policy Board

February 13, 2026
The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: FY 2026 BUILD Grant Application – Planning Grant for Enfield Regional Multimodal Corridor, Enfield, Connecticut

Dear Secretary Duffy:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the Town of Enfield’s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation FY2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for a \$3.2 million planning grant to advance the **Enfield Regional Multimodal Corridor** (“Project”). The Project will address critical BUILD program priorities including safety, economic development, and multimodal connectivity while fostering meaningful partnerships.

The Project will produce shovel-ready designs (60-90%), complete required environmental documentation (including EPA Part 58/NEPA review), conduct a rigorous benefit-cost analysis and traffic modeling, and position the 2.5-mile corridor for capital funding in FY 2027-2028. The corridor connects the existing *CTrail* Hartford Line passenger railroad, where the new Thompsonville Hartford Line station is proposed, with the former Enfield Square shopping mall, where \$250 million in committed public and private investments will transform the underutilized site into a mixed-use development that will serve as a regional economic anchor. The Town of Enfield will convert fragmented transportation assets into an integrated multimodal system serving freight, motorists, transit riders, pedestrians, and cyclists.

The need for this project is well documented. CRCOG, the Town of Enfield, and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), partnered to complete the Enfield Traffic Impact Study in 2023, which identified specific strategies to improve safety, connectivity, economic vitality, and overall quality of life in the Project area. CRCOG’s Regional Transportation Safety Plan identifies the corridor as part of the High Injury Crash Network, including one High Crash Corridor and two High Crash Intersections within the project limits. This Project will advance prior efforts and support safer access to transit and other community assets. The Project is also consistent with CRCOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), and Comprehensive Economic Development Study (CEDDS), all of which emphasize the importance of strong connections between passenger rail investments and regional economic development opportunities.

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Hartford region, including Enfield, CRCOG affirms that this Project is regionally significant and consistent with adopted long-range plans. This BUILD planning investment will catalyze a transformative, safety-focused, and economically strategic corridor that will serve the region for decades to come. If awarded, CRCOG will work with the CTDOT to place this project in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

On behalf of CRCOG, I thank you for your consideration and respectfully request that you fund the full funding request presented in the Town of Enfield's grant application for the **Enfield Regional Multimodal Corridor**.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart,
Executive Director

CC: The Honorable Gina Cekala, Mayor; M. Coppler; A. Marcavitch – Town of Enfield
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Sean P. Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: FY 2026 BUILD Grant Application – Route 174 Congestion Mitigation and Safety Improvements Project,
New Britain, Connecticut**

Dear Secretary Duffy:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the City of New Britain, Connecticut’s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation FY2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for an urban capital project grant for the **Route 174 Congestion Mitigation and Safety Improvements Project** (“Project”). This Project represents a priority regional investment in safety, mobility, economic vitality, and equitable community development.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that serves the Hartford region, CRCOG strongly supports improvements to transportation infrastructure in the region. CRCOG’s Regional Transportation Safety Plan identifies the Route 174 corridor as part of the High Injury Crash Network. The proposed intersection realignment directly implements recommended countermeasures to reduce crash risk and improve conditions for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

Additionally, CRCOG’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan identifies bus rapid transit and enhanced local transit service as critical tools for expanding access to jobs, education, and essential services, particularly in the region’s urban centers. Improved safety and multimodal access along Route 174 will strengthen first- and last-mile connections to CTfastrak and the broader regional transit network, supporting increased ridership and equitable mobility. The Project also aligns with CRCOG’s Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, which emphasizes complete streets, transit-oriented development, walkable centers, and coordinated land use and transportation planning. Infrastructure improvements adjacent to the CTfastrak East Main Street Station and redevelopment of a 4.6-acre City-owned parcel will strengthen regional connectivity and access, expand economic opportunity, and enhance New Britain’s capacity to serve as a key urban center.

CRCOG commends New Britain’s strong commitment to advancing this Project, including completion of preliminary engineering, relocation of the former Public Works facility, and ongoing coordination on right-of-way and environmental review. These actions demonstrate readiness to deliver a high-impact infrastructure investment with lasting regional and community benefits. If awarded, CRCOG will work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) to place this project in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). We thank you for your consideration and respectfully request that you fund the full request detailed in the application.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: B. Sanchez, M. Moriarty - City of New Britain
CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee

February 5, 2026

Ms. Jeannie DeMaio
The New York Community Trust – Long Island
50 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Suite 2
Commack, NY 11725

**Re: Letter of Support – Park Watershed Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund
2026 Application**

Dear Ms. DeMaio,

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the “*Building Capacity for the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan*” application to the 2026 Long Island Sound Stewardship Fund prepared by Park Watershed with the North Central Conservation District.

Having served as a project partner in the recent North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan update, CRCOG supports watershed-level planning that seeks to improve water quality and increase regional collaboration in stormwater management. Increased capacity to fulfill the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan will help implement the overarching goals identified in the Plan update.

This project would help advance a key strategy in CRCOG’s *2024 Regional Plan of Conservation & Development* to improve the water quality of the Connecticut River and can serve as a model for improving water quality in other streams, waterbodies, and groundwater sources throughout the region.

We appreciate your consideration and encourage you to approve the application in the full amount requested.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: Mary Pelletier, Park Watershed