

CRCOG POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2026 12:00 NOON This was a virtual meeting.
For more information, email info@crcog.org or call 860-724-4283

Attendance

Tony Harrington
Jim Rupert
Rodney Fournier
Mark Walter
Brandon Robertson
Laurie Burstein
Connor Martin
Jason Bowsza
Corey Turner
Raúl De Jesús Jr.
Jeff Auker
Steve Stephanou
David Porter
Bobbie Sanchez
Jonathan Altshul
Allan Smith
Wendy Mackstutis
John Kleinhans
Brian Connolly
Bill Morrison
Jon Colman
Ken Lesser
Mike Walsh
Peter Souza
Lisa Thomas
Ryan Curley
Jessica Gerratana
Christopher Moran
Mike Makuch
Ryan Aylesworth
Hiram Peck

Town/Organization

Bloomfield
Bolton
Bolton
Columbia
Avon
Ellington
East Hartford
East Windsor
Glastonbury
Hartford
Hartford
Manchester
Marlborough
New Britain
Newington
Rocky Hill
Simsbury
Vernon
Farmington
Stafford
Bloomfield
Wethersfield
Granby
Windsor
Coventry
Berlin
New Britain
Tolland
Willington
Mansfield
Avon

CRCOG Staff

Caitlin Palmer

Tracey Malenfant

Anaka Maher
Cheryl Assis
Erik Snowden
Cara Radzins
Heidi Samokar
Matt Hart
Pauline Yoder
Aaliyah Miller

Mike Cipriano
Lily Schneider
Robin Nichols
Elizabeth Sanderson
Rob Aloise
Sonya Carrizales
Doreen Hemme

Guests

Mark Massaro
Ryan Mckenna
Victoria Pasion
Donna Hamzy Carroccia
Congressman Joe Courtney
Julia McGrath
Matt Reich
Avery Holzworth
Beata Fogarasi
Grayson Wright

Eversource
Eversource
Eversource
Kozak & Salina
Office of Rep. J. Courtney
Office of Rep. J. Courtney
Office of Rep. J. Courtney
Office of Rep. J. Courtney
Office of Rep. J. Courtney
CTDOT

1. **Call to Order**

Jason Bowsza called the meeting to order at 12:05.

2. **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

3. **Approval of Minutes from December 17, 2025**

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Ms. Mackstutis seconded. Motion passed.

4. **Staff Reports**

Executive Director Matt Hart provided an overview of his report. Mr. Hart's full report can be found [HERE](#)

- a. General Announcements
- b. Project Updates
- c. Committee Updates
- d. Meetings & Events

5. **Legislative Update**

Congressman Joe Courtney then joined the meeting and provided an update on the

current situation in Washington, D.C., highlighting the Senate's ongoing session despite the government shutdown threat. He explained the passage of two spending bills in the House, one covering most of the government and another for the Department of Homeland Security and discussed the challenges the Senate faces in passing these bills. Courtney also mentioned the protection of key programs for municipalities and the inclusion of community-funded projects in the omnibus bill. Lastly, he shared information on the significant job openings in southeastern Connecticut and the initiatives being taken to address the geographical limitations in hiring, emphasizing the opportunities for high school students and young adults in the region.

6. **ACTION: Resolution to Approve Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant Application for Shared Finance Officer**

The resolution is to support a Regional Performance Incentive Program grant application for shared finance officer positions between Marlborough and Woodbridge. The application was supported by Mr. Stephanou, who praised the staff's work on the finance officer sharing project. Mr. Stephanou made a motion to approve; Mr. Lesser seconded. Motion carried.

7. **ACTION: Authorize the Use of Regional Funds Annually for Three Years for Economic Development**

This resolution would authorize the use of regional funds annually for three years to support economic development initiatives, as CRCOG has been informed that it did not receive a federal partnership grant. This action would be a stopgap measure as CRCOG is working with EDA staff to obtain a partnership grant in the future. Mr. Stephanou made a motion to approve; Mr. Colman seconded. Motion carried.

8. **ACTION: TIP Amendments**

Four TIP amendments were presented to the Board totaling over \$50 million, including funds for expanding a transit facility to accommodate electric buses, replacing traffic signals, and designing improvements to bridges and noise barriers. Mr. Colman motioned to approve the resolution. Mr. Porter seconded. Motion passed.

9. **ACTION: Resolution to Accept a PROTECT Grant for the Resilience Improvement Plan and Vulnerability Assessment for Non-Coastal Connecticut**

The resolution would allow CRCOG to accept a PROTECT grant for resilience improvement planning, which would allow CROG to work with NVCOG as a subrecipient.

Mr. Colman motioned to approve this item. Mr. Auken seconded the motion. Motion carried.

10. **ACTION: Adoption of East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study Final Report**

Caitlin Palmer presented the East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study Final Report for the Board's approval. The study focused on closing a 17-mile gap in the off-road network, with a proposed alignment costing approximately \$76.7 million. The report included renderings, costs, and economic benefits of the trail, highlighting its potential to generate \$68 to \$114 million in sales once completed. The final report incorporated public and municipal comments, and the presentation concluded with a call for review and approval.

Mr. Colman made a motion to approve. Ms. Mackstutis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11. **Correspondence / Handouts**

- a. Conflict of Interest Form
 - i. You may complete this form online at:
<https://tinyurl.com/CRCOGEthics>
- b. Annual Report, Hazard Mitigation & Climate Adaptation Plan Implementation.
- c. Letters of Support
- d. The CRCOG Connection Newsletter
- e. The Funding Newsletter
- f. CRCOG 2024-2025 Annual Report

12. **Other Business**

There was no other business

13. **Adjournment**

Ken Lesser called for a motion to adjourn at 1:14PM. Mr. Colman made the motion, seconded by Ms. Thomas. Motion carried.