

**CRCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 12noon

This was a virtual meeting.

For more information, email [info@crcog.org](mailto:info@crcog.org) or call 860-724-4283.

**Name**

Jon Colman  
Anthony Harrington  
Alvin Schwapp  
Rodney Fournier  
Mark Walter  
Jimm Drumm  
Connor Martin  
Jason Bowsza  
Corrie Betts  
Jeff Auker  
Raúl De Jesús Jr.  
Steve Stephanou  
Ryan Ayelsworth  
David Porter  
Alex Ricciardone  
William Morrison  
Shari Cantor  
Fred Presley  
Ken Lesser  
Nuchette Black-Burke  
Peter Souza

**Town/Organization**

Bloomfield  
Bloomfield  
Bloomfield  
Bolton  
Columbia  
Coventry  
East Hartford  
East Windsor  
Hartford  
Hartford  
Hartford  
Manchester  
Mansfield  
Marlborough  
Southington  
Stafford  
West Hartford  
Wethersfield  
Wethersfield  
Windsor  
Windsor

**CRCOG Staff**

Cheryl Assis  
Matt Hart  
Pauline Yoder  
Rob Aloise  
Doreen Hemme

**Guests**

Jennifer Brady, FHWA  
Jennifer Pacacha, CTDOT

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Bowsza called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

2. **Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

3. **Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2026**

Mr. Colman motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Black-Burke seconded. Motion carried.

4. **Staff Reports**

Mr. Hart announced the annual meeting scheduled for June 3rd at the UConn Alumni Center, featuring Joe D'Ambrosia as the keynote speaker and the reintroduction of awards for regional excellence and individual contributions. He also highlighted the use of CROG's YouTube channel, "The CROG Connection," for hosting informative content and events like the legislative breakfast. The upcoming policy board meeting on March 25th will feature presentations from Dr. Jordan Grossman on school security and Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto on Connecticut DOT initiatives, including federal funding challenges.

5. **Business Items**

a. **ACTION: Emergency TIP Amendment for NEVI Program**

The executive committee discussed a time-sensitive TIP amendment related to the NEVI program, where \$44 million in federal funding for electric vehicle chargers is at risk of being lost if not obligated by March 12th. Mr. Aloise explained that while the amendment typically would go through the Transportation Committee and Policy Board, the urgent nature of the situation allowed the executive committee to act on behalf of the policy board. Ms. Pacacha from DOT confirmed that the funds must be obligated by Friday, and the committee agreed to approve the amendment to prevent the loss of the \$44 million in federal funding. Mr. Colman suggested an informational email to Transportation Committee members for future similar emergency amendments.

Mr. Colman motioned to approve. Mr. Stephanou seconded. Motion passed.

b. **DISCUSSION: Legislative Update**

Mr. Hart and Ms. Hamzy Carroccia provided a legislative update, highlighting the success of a recent breakfast event at the Legislative Office building, where they appreciated the attendance of policy board members but noted the absence of state representatives and senators. Ms. Hamzy Carroccia suggested engaging the legislative delegation earlier in the agenda creation process and holding two events instead of one to increase their involvement and accountability.

The group discussed legislative engagement opportunities at the Capitol. Ms. Hamzy Carroccia suggested the April 29th Restaurant Night as a social event for interacting with legislators, though Mr. Bowsza noted it might be too late in the session. Ms. Hamzy Carroccia agreed to provide Mr. Hart with dates of upcoming session days, and Mr. Hart confirmed they would send out invitations for legislative breakfasts while encouraging attendees to contact their own legislators. Mr. Bowsza expressed appreciation for the legislative updates provided by the team, which help him track bills for which to submit testimony.

Mr. Bowsza raised concerns about tracking amendments that get added to bills, with Ms. Hamzy Carroccia confirming that the only reliable method is to read all amendments.

**c. Discussion: Strategic Vision & Priorities**

Mr. Hart then discussed plans for a strategic visioning session, postponed due to weather, which will now be rescheduled for either April 22nd or May 27th. The session will focus on reviewing existing strategic priorities and exploring new topics such as budgetary pressures, workforce challenges, and infrastructure projects, with particular attention to federal funding opportunities and regional development initiatives. The meeting focused on planning a strategic vision session for the CROG Region, with Mr. Hart emphasizing the importance of defining regional priorities and translating them into legislative initiatives. Participants expressed support for the session, despite scheduling challenges, with Ms. Black-Burke noting she would be represented by Mr. Souza due to work commitments.

**6. Correspondence and Handouts**

a. [Finance Report dated February 28, 2026](#)

Ms. Yoder presented a finance report, highlighting a \$400,000 additional allocation for housing and solid waste planning, and the overall financial health of the region was discussed.

**7. Adjournment**

The conversation ended with a motion to adjourn, and Jon mentioned the recent passing of Dave Kilbon, a former Policy Board chair. Mr. Colman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Souza seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.