



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

September 15, 2016

Members of the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development:

The Honorable Catherine A. Osten  
The Honorable Philip J. Miller  
The Honorable Art Linares  
The Honorable William Aman

Dear Senators and Representatives:

In accordance with Section 16a-28(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) hereby submits its initial draft of the 2018 – 2023 Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut (Draft State C&D Plan) for your review and comments. This initial draft includes only minimal revisions to the 2013 – 2018 State C&D Plan, which was adopted by the General Assembly on June 5, 2013, and the Locational Guide Map currently remains unchanged.

Next steps in the statutory revision process require OPM to: (1) publish and disseminate a revised Draft State C&D Plan to the public on or before March 1, 2017 (CGS Section 16a-28(b)); (2) conduct public hearings over a five-month period to solicit public comments on the revised Draft State C&D Plan (CGS Section 16a-28(c)); and (3) take public comments into consideration, make necessary or desirable revisions, and submit the final Draft State C&D Plan to the Continuing Committee by December 1, 2017 (CGS Section 16a-29).

Attachment C of the attached Draft State C&D Plan outlines the cross-acceptance process that OPM intends to follow in fulfilling its statutory requirements summarized above. This process will involve coordination with each regional Council of Governments (COG) and its member municipalities, as well as with affected state agencies that are ultimately required to implement the State C&D Plan under CGS Section 16a-31(a) and Section 16a-35d.

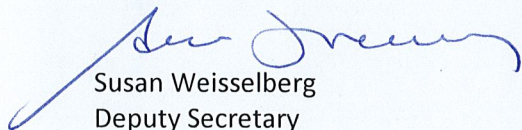
The cross-acceptance process will also provide opportunities for affected parties to inform OPM about potential updates to its geographic information systems (GIS) data, criteria used to delineate the boundaries of priority funding areas, and the use and application of the Locational Guide Map. An updated Locational Guide Map will be included when OPM publishes the revised Draft State C&D Plan on March 1, 2017.

To the extent that time allows, OPM staff will resume efforts to gain consensus around a set of meaningful and measurable performance indicators to gauge the State C&D Plan's implementation, as required by CGS Section 16a-27(e). The examples of performance indicators provided in the Draft State C&D Plan will continue to serve as placeholders until such consensus is achieved. OPM views the establishment of benchmarks for each Growth Management Principle as a long term goal that will be addressed only after a high degree of confidence has been developed around the baseline data to be collected on the performance indicators.

I appreciate you taking the time to meet with my staff on August 22, 2016, and understand that you discussed some important issues concerning affordable housing, green energy, and state agency implementation of the State C&D Plan. OPM staff is committed to fostering additional discussion on these and other issues during the cross-acceptance process, and will be available during the 2018 session to assist your committee in meeting its requirements under CGS Section 16a-30(a).

Please contact Dan Morley at (860) 418-6343 or [Daniel.Morley@ct.gov](mailto:Daniel.Morley@ct.gov), if you have any questions or would like to arrange for periodic updates.

Sincerely,



Susan Weisselberg  
Deputy Secretary

Enclosure: Initial Draft of the 2018-2023 Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut

Cc: Wade Packer