

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106  
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**Policy Board Meeting**  
**Former MIRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT**  
**Wednesday, May 30, 2018**  
**12:00 pm**  
**DRAFT**

## Members and Alternates

Joe Higgins  
Brandon Robertson  
Jack Healy  
Jon Colman  
Joyce Stille  
Robert Skinner  
Mark Walter  
Dave Kilbon  
Marcia Leclerc  
Lori Spielman  
Peter Falk  
Nancy Nickerson  
Joan Gamble  
Chip Beckett  
John Ward  
Alex Beaudoin  
Luke Bronin  
Andrew Tierney  
Paul Shapiro  
Derrick Kennedy  
Scott Shanley  
Roy Zaratarian  
Robert Lee  
Robert Phillips  
Melissa Mack  
Steve Werbner  
Jeff Bridges  
Chris Kervick

## Town/Organization

Andover  
Avon  
Berlin  
Bloomfield  
Bolton  
Canton  
Columbia  
East Granby  
East Hartford  
Ellington  
Enfield  
Farmington  
GHTD  
Glastonbury  
Granby  
Hartford  
Hartford  
Hebron  
Mansfield  
Mansfield  
Manchester  
Newington  
Plainville  
Southington  
Suffield  
Tolland  
Wethersfield  
Windsor Locks

## Staff

Cheryl Assis  
Winsome Barnaby  
Kimberly Bona  
Jennifer Carrier  
Jane Culkin

CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG Intern

Mary Ellen Kowalewski  
Cara Radzins  
Lyle Wray  
Pauline Yoder

CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG  
CRCOG

**Guests**

Rebecca Nolan  
Alicia Leite  
Grayson Wright

Metro Hartford Alliance  
CTDOT  
CTDOT Dept. Coordinator

**1. Call to Order:** With a quorum present, Chairperson Marcia Leclerc called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.

Mayor Leclerc welcomed and introduced Mansfield’s new Town Manager Derrik Kennedy and Berlin’s new Town Manager, Jack Healy.

Mayor Leclerc informed the Board that Enfield Town Manager, Bryan Chadkowski has resigned, and the acting Town Manager is now Christopher Bromson.

**2. Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

Mayor Leclerc welcomed Robert Patricelli, co-chair of the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth to the meeting. She thanked him for attending and requested addressing his presentation as the first item of business.

Robert Patricelli stated that the Commission will possibly be presenting a modified report in December 2018. He then discussed the Commissions key recommendations to help improve the state’s economic growth and well-being. These recommendations include:

- A pro-growth, revenue neutral rebalancing of state taxes
- Raising minimum wage
- Creating a Joint Budget Committee of the legislature with the power to set limits on revenues and expenses
- Develop and implement a plan to cut 1 billion out of annual operating expenses
- Have legislature assume responsibility to define state employee fringe benefits by removing them from collective bargaining for new contracts
- Reform the Teachers’ Retirement System to lower costs and to make it sustainable by paying down unfunded liabilities by 7 billion through concession of state Lottery revenues
- Raise the gas tax by seven cents to fund transportation projects and produce a plan for implementation of electronic tolls. Prioritize projects that impact growth
- Reinvest in cities – extend CRDA model from Hartford to two other cities, and build a new STEM campus in a city in partnership with a major research university
- Undertake a series of growth initiatives, led by the executive branch, with the funding and support from the legislature to:
  - (1) develop and retain the workforce Connecticut needs,
  - (2) support the growth of Connecticut’s highest-potential economic sectors,

- (3) transform the business environment for entrepreneurship and innovation
- Diversify municipal revenue streams beyond the property tax through power to levy fees and fund capital projects through referenda. Authorize COGS to levy 0.5% sales tax only for regional economic development and shared services projects. Amend binding arbitration laws to permit award of compromise outcomes and to facilitate multi-town projects

Mr. Patricelli discussed the results to date, as well as limited action thus far. He expressed that he is very grateful in terms of the municipal level of response to this issue, and is seeking feedback as to what should be done next. Specifically, for input on making this issue a theme of the 2018 campaigns.

A lengthy discussion ensued among the Board.

Mayor Leclerc asked if the next proposal could consist of a long-term plan that contains different aspects/outcomes, in a “step-by-step” manner. Robert Patricelli explained that the risk with phasing or breaking down the plan is bipartisan consensus.

Dr. Chip Beckett feels that it is critical that the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) is brought up. He stated local businesses must take a stand.

Joan Gamble expressed concern with the amount of land that is being consumed by non-tax paying entities.

Jon Colman feels the challenge is finding a public figure, leading legislature or in the Governor’s Office, that will champion the proposals being set forth.

Luke Bronin feels all the candidates have read the report and are aware of the situation. However, does not feel it is a good idea to bring this forward during the campaign. He recommends reaching out to the business community, and then having the CEO’s speak to the Governor elect.

Peter Falk stated the unions are a very large voting bloc in this state, and that this is a major issue. He feels that they need a basic structure change on how unions and governments operate.

Steve Werbner feels that under the current municipal structure, the chance for change is slim to none.

Mark Walter stated eliminating the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR) would help immensely.

Paul Shapiro spoke about labor being strongly opposed to the report.

Discussion followed.

Mayor Leclerc asked what the next steps will be for the Committee. Mr. Patricelli explained they will make efforts to brief the gubernatorial candidates privately in addition

to working on more tax proposals. Mayor Leclerc thanked Robert Patricelli for his time and presentation.

To view the full presentation, please click [here](#).

### **3. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2018:**

Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adopt the minutes.

**Dave Kilbon made a motion to approve the Policy Board Meeting minutes from April 25, 2018. Jon Colman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

### **4. Correspondence/Handouts:**

- Governor Malloy Announces Cybersecurity Action Plan for Connecticut
- Letter from Secretary of State Denise Merrill to Lyle Wray re: appointment as Vice Chair of CT Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

### **5. Monthly Reports:**

#### **a. Chair and Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Dr. Lyle Wray provided this update to the Board. He asked if the Board had any questions regarding his monthly report. There were no questions.

Dr. Wray stated there will be another Communications Strategy Focus Group following the Policy Board Meeting.

Dr. Wray stated that the Annual Meeting on June 13<sup>th</sup> is filling up quickly, and encouraged Board members to attend.

Dr. Wray provided an update on CEDS, and stated the project is coming along very well and encouraged Board member involvement.

Dr. Wray stated he met with a group from Shanghai last month at CRCOG, which produced a very interested meeting.

## **b. Opportunities and Resources**

### **c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council**

Pauline Yoder stated the RFI for the timekeeping software will go out on Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. If any town is interested in participating, please contact Maureen Goulet at CRCOG.

### **d. Policy and Planning**

Mary Ellen Kowalewski provided this update to the Board.

#### **CRCOG Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

- Staff and our consultant, Millone and MacBroom, held 5 public meetings this past month to gather input on the regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- The meetings were held throughout the region in Columbia, Ellington, Hartford, Simsbury and Plainville
- Received good input on the natural hazards of most concern to our member communities, and also what types of mitigation measures make the most sense in our region
- The natural hazards focused on in the plan are: floods, high winds and tornados, hurricanes and tropical storms, winter storms, drought, forest and wildfires, earthquakes and dam failures
- Additional public input was obtained through an on-line survey (over 100 responses) and a presentation to the CRCOG Regional Planning Commission

#### **Next Steps:**

- A draft plan is being developed, and will be distributed to municipal points of contract in late June
- Municipalities will have an opportunity to review the plan over the summer, after which it will be submitted to FEMA for its review
- The target date for adoption of the plan is Spring, 2019

**e. Public Safety and Homeland Security**

Joyce Stille provided this update to the Board.

The 2018 Statewide EPPI Exercise will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. The scenario will be a tropical storm. CRCOG will be participating.

CRCOG completed a surge coalition test for the Healthcare Coalition. Bristol Hospital volunteered to be the site. DPH conducted the full day activity and it went extremely well.

Work is complete on the original FY 2015 grant and CRCOG is completing a supplemental FY 2015 grant received in November. Work has begun on the FY 2016 grant and the FY 2017 grant will be open as soon as all municipal MOA's are returned. All open grants include funds for training and exercise, contractual support and sustainment and maintenance of regional equipment. There are also set asides for the Hartford Bomb Squad, Capitol Region HAZMAT team and Metropolitan Medical Response System.

CRCOG has been involved in the statewide Puerto Rico and Islands Evacuee Relief effort and have been participating in conference calls on this effort and assisting as necessary. Report outs have been provided at Policy Board meetings and to the CREPC Emergency Support Function Chairs. In addition, the City of Hartford established a workgroup on displaced residents comprised of the cities most affected. The CREC Welcome Center has closed and Catholic Charities will continue this work.

Working on finalizing the After-Action Review for the West Farms Mall Table Top Exercise. Held several meetings with the principles.

Working with the Department of Public Health to act as the fiduciary agent for hospital and local public health emergency preparedness funds. Completed Standard Operating Procedures for the Healthcare Coalition and made the first round of payments to hospitals and health departments/districts. Attended several budget meetings, a surge collation test meeting and an HCC Co-Chair meeting.

Various training courses were held.

**f. Transportation Committee**

Mr. Colman updated the Policy Board as it relates to the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grant application, the CTrail Hartford Line and the Special Transportation Fund. Mr. Colman commented that CRCOG staff will be putting resources toward preparing an application for the Plainville Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Gap Closure and New Britain CTfastrak Connection project. He

mentioned that he was interested in seeing a rural BUILD projects however, given our defined urbanized areas, it has been challenging to identify one. Mr. Colman told the Policy Board that there will be an opening ceremony for CTrail Hartford Line on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at noon at Union Station in Hartford. There is limited seating on special inaugural trains from select stations north and south of Hartford, CTDOT is coordinating the specific invites and train availability. Finally, Mr. Colman relayed that we have a solution to the Special Transportation Fund (STF) and we are waiting for CTDOT to provide us with guidance as it relates to the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)

#### **g. Metro Hartford Alliance**

Becky Nolan stated a data resource has been purchased by MetroHartford Alliance: [Chmura's JobsEQ platform](#) provides detailed labor data and economic trend insights to help with business retention/attraction initiatives, proposal writing, economic impact studies, strategic planning, labor market feasibility analysis, etc.

She spoke to the Board regarding an upcoming Economic Development Training, an offering of the New England Economic Development course. Details are as follows:

#### **MetroHartford Alliance Economic Development Training, an offering of the New England Economic Development Course**

The MetroHartford Alliance will provide a Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC) that is accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). The training provides a solid foundation for entry-level economic development practitioners, and serves as the equivalent to [IEDC's - Introduction to Economic Development course](#) in preparation for the [IEDC Certification exam](#). Accreditation by IEDC ensures that each BEDC covers subject areas determined to be the core building blocks in any economic development organization.

Date: September 10-13, 2018 (Pending IEDC approval)

Location: Goodwin College *Business and Manufacturing Center, a former Pratt and Whitney site*

#### **6. Presentation/Updates:**

- **Fiscal Stability Presentation**

This item was addressed at the start of the meeting.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **7. Action: FY 2018-2019 CRCOG Budget Presentation and Approval**

Dr. Wray explained that this is a balanced budget recommendation that is in balance several years out and that the Executive Committee recommends approval from the Board.

Pauline Yoder explained that the budget presented includes an estimated amount for the Regional Services Grant which is not yet final from the state government. Depending on what the final number is, budget amendments will be brought to the Board. She reviewed FY 2018-2019 goals and accomplishments as well as a summary of revenues and expenditures and long-term projections. She stated that CROG is stable for at least the next couple of years.

**Jon Colman made a motion to approve the FY 2018-2019 CROG Budget as presented. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **8. Action: Resolution Authorizing the Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board**

**Scott Shanley made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing the Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board. Lori Spielman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **Metropolitan Planning Organization Items:**

##### **9. Action: TIP Amendments**

**Jon Colman made a motion to approve the TIP Amendments as presented. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **Information/Opportunity/Resource Items**

##### **10. Legislative Update**

Dr. Wray expressed that it would be a good idea to begin preparing for the next session.

##### **11. New Britain/Bristol Transit Study**

Jennifer Carrier and Cara Radzins spoke to the Board about the New Britain/Bristol Transit Study. The Comprehensive Transit Service Analysis (CSA) of the New Britain/Bristol Division of CT *transit* is near completion. The full DRAFT Final Report may be found [here](#).

##### **12. CROG 2018 Annual Meeting DRAFT Agenda**

##### **13. 911 Regional Dispatch Center**

Dr. Wray stated the next steps will be to learn more about the operation of the Northwest Safety Communications Center and to create a Public Safety/Communications survey to gather information regarding purchases of public safety equipment in the region.

**14. Extension of Agreement with Rome, Smith and Lutz**

**Jon Colman made a motion to approve the extension of Agreement with Rome, Smith and Lutz as presented. Dave Kilbon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**15. Other Business:** None.

**16. Adjournment:**

With no further discussion items, Chairperson Marcia Leclerc requested a motion to adjourn.

**Jon Colman moved adjourn meeting. Dave Kilbon seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.**