

October 25, 2022

David Elder, Assistant Planning Director
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

RE: CRCOG Feedback on Draft Connecticut Statewide Freight Plan Update

Dear Mr. Elder,

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has reviewed the draft Connecticut Statewide Freight Plan, prepared by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT), and CRCOG staff has solicited internal and Transportation Committee feedback on the document. We urge you to consider the following points:

- The plan's discussion and recommendations regarding warehousing and land use seem to be reactive. Given anticipated growth in warehousing and last-mile deliveries, it would be prudent to take a more proactive stance regarding land use, potentially including coordination with COGs, DECD, Municipalities, etc. to develop preferred future locations for distribution and warehousing facilities.
- The plan states that one of CTDOT's policy recommendations is to "Continue to coordinate regional freight planning and freight-supportive land uses with MPOs and COGs." While it is a step in the right direction to recommend continued coordination related to freight, it seems pertinent to outline expectations for how this coordination will be conducted and maintained over time. As such, CRCOG recommends that the Statewide Freight Plan incorporate more concrete recommendations related to future coordination efforts. Potential coordination approaches could include the creation of a Statewide Freight Committee and/or the establishment of a recurrent Statewide Freight Summit.
- Given the geographic size and freight travel patterns of Connecticut, it is critical for freight coordination efforts to extend beyond state boundaries. CRCOG appreciates CTDOT's involvement in the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum and encourages the continued coordination with this multi-state group.
- We look forward the final results of the Connecticut Statewide Truck Parking Study to help better guide the state's approach to truck parking. In the interim, staff encourages CTDOT to collaborate with town stakeholders to create new truck parking options along I-91 north of Hartford. Towns have mentioned that on-ramp and street truck parking has become a safety issue, and this will only get

worse as truck traffic increases as forecasted. Options for dedicated truck parking will allow for increased safety for motorists and drivers along this corridor.

- Within the Statewide Truck Parking Study, we encourage you also to consider needs related to the parking of truck cabs that are not in use. Towns have indicated that this is a challenge as well.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns. We look forward to your responses to and incorporation of CRCOG's feedback.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: CRCOG Policy Board
CRCOG Transportation Committee
Robert Aloise, CRCOG Director of Planning
Cara Radzins, CRCOG Transportation Deputy
Christopher Henchey, CRCOG Transportation Planner
Grayson Wright, CTDOT Intergovernmental Affairs Unit