

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board

From: Matt Hart, Executive Director

CC: CRCOG Staff

Meeting Date: October 24, 2022

Subject: Staff Report

Below please find a summary report from staff for the Board's information. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

- *Support to Bristol Police Department* – In the wake of the horrible murder of SGT Alex Hamzy and LT Dustin Demonte, our Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council (CREPC) activated its Regional Incident Communications (I-COMM) Team and provided coverage for Bristol's Dispatch Center in the days directly following the shooting as well as during the wakes and the funeral. We were able to fill over 80 shifts with dedicated dispatchers from our region and beyond. Our ESF-2 also assisted with communications and worked with the State Telecommunications System Unit to provide interoperable radios and communication in Bristol for mutual aid. The team's activation has sparked interest among our law enforcement agencies to join our I-COMM team or to re-engage. In addition, other DEMHS regions are now looking at forming a team as a direct result of this operation. My thanks to the I-COMM team, CREPC, and our staff for coordinating this effort; their work is a testament to the strength of our regional mutual aid system.
- *Waste Management Project* – At 2:00PM on Oct. 26, CRCOG's Waste Management and Diversion Steering Committee will meet to discuss the draft Phase 1 Solid Waste Facility Inventory and System Assessment prepared by RRS and Tetra Tech. We will distribute the assessment to the full Policy Board upon completion. Phase II of the project will involve the preparation of short-term disposal options for the region. With MIRA closing its Hartford facility, the steering committee will want to explore an expanded role for the Central CT Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) presently staffed by CRCOG. See meeting agenda at: <https://crcog.org/event/waste-management-steering-committee/>
- *CRCOG Legislative Committee* – Our ad hoc Legislative Committee will meet at 11:00AM on Oct. 27 to begin its work to prepare a proposed Legislative Agenda for the Policy Board's consideration. I would like to thank Jason Bowza and the other committee members for volunteering to assist with this effort on behalf of the region. See meeting agenda at: <https://crcog.org/event/crcog-legislative-committee/>
- *Policy Board Tour of Riverfront Recapture* – We had an informative tour on Oct. 12 of Riverfront Recapture's planned park on the Hartford/Windsor line. This should be a very exciting addition to Riverfront's park system and a real benefit

to our region. My thanks to all the policy board members that participated in the tour, and to Mike Zaleski and his Riverfront Recapture colleagues for their informative presentations.

- *Municipal Services Committee* – The Municipal Services Committee had a productive meeting on Oct. 18. Two items of note coming out of that meeting – we will hold a separate session for interested towns to explore regional options for stormwater management and we will also hold a separate meeting to discuss regional options to resource fair rent commissions. Any interested Policy Board or Municipal Services Committee member is invited to attend either session; we will schedule those meetings shortly.
- *Personnel & Finance Committee* – Our Personnel & Finance Committee will meet at 9:30AM on Nov. 3 to discuss a proposed performance review process for me, along with a handful of other organizational matters. Committee chair Toni Moran will keep the Policy Board informed of the committee’s activities.
- *NAPA Fall Meeting* - The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) will host its fall meeting on Nov. 4 at the Hartford Public Library. The event will focus on public sector workforce development, which is an issue for us all, and will feature two panels with a variety of speakers from state and local government, and other experts, along with a keynote address from the US Department of Labor. The event is sponsored by UConn’s School of Public Policy, CRCOG, and Capitol Workforce Partners and will run from 8:30AM – 1:30PM. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. See program flyer at: <https://crocog.org/2022/10/national-academy-of-public-administration-fall-meeting-2022/>
- *Next Policy Board Meeting* – In light of the Thanksgiving holiday, we will hold the next Policy Board meeting at noon on Nov. 16.

BIL/IIJA Update

- CRCOG staff have reviewed several recent Notice of Funding Opportunities, and updated the BIL/IIJA Featured webpage to add information about the following programs:
 - Thriving Communities by U.S. DOT
 - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) by FEMA
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) by FEMA
 - Climate Resilience Fund by CT DEEP
 - National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration Grant Program (Culvert AOP Program) by U.S. DOT FHWA
 - Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) Program by U.S. DOT
 - Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program by U.S. DOT

- CRCOG staff are collaborating with representatives from multiple state agencies and departments, including BILT, DOT, DEEP, and DEMHS to review funding opportunities and/or coordinate efforts.
- Future BIL/IIJA Programs to keep in mind as budget season approaches:
 - RAISE - FY2023
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All – Round 2/FY2023
 - Bridge Investment Program – Round 2/FY2023
 - Workforce Development Programs

Municipal Services

- CRPC held its annual meeting on October 18th with presentations from DAS, CHRO and Gordian Group.
- Fire/EMS Records Management Systems (RMS) RFP and Auditing Services RFP responses are currently under evaluation.
- Reported to DECD on EDA CARES projects in Long Term Disaster Recovery, CEDS, Digital Transition Technical Assistance and Entrepreneurial Webinars and Networking.
- East Hartford Brownfields project at United Steel beginning the application process for assessment funds; met with the CT Hospital Association about a potential projects' application for RLF funds from the City of Norwich under review by fund manager.
- CRCOG Solid Waste Steering Committee will review the Phase 1 Facility Inventory & System Assessment Report on October 26th

Planning: Community Development

- Conducted outreach visits to East Hartford, Windsor, Enfield and Newington. Scheduled visits to South Windsor and Wethersfield.
- Staff continues to wrap up final Bike/Ped counts and complete data entry. More than 30 count and audit locations were completed.
- Staff is finalizing the close out of Year 4 of the State's Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) grant program. Additionally, staff is preparing a meeting of the Active Living Active Transportation Committee and to solicit projects for Year 5 funding.
- Staff continues to advance the Micromobility Feasibility Study (requesting endorsement this month) and is working to facilitate expansion of the system beyond City limits.
- Staff has identified and created an inventory of CRCOG municipalities Affordable Housing Plans, which has been made available on our website.

- Staff has begun working internally on the region’s 2024 Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) update.
 - Will review implementation progress and status of previous plan
 - Identifying composition of POCD steering committee

Planning: Transportation

- A Special Transportation Sub-Committee meeting was held on October 11th to discuss recommendations on the LOTCIP Project Selection Policy and inflation-based funding adjustments.
- Transportation Committee approved the Selection Policy for the 2023 LOTCIP Project Solicitation. A CRCOG Request for Proposals is anticipated for release in Late November/Early December 2022.
- CTDOT press release of information on new Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) solicitation. CRCOG released an announcement of proposed Request for Proposals, selection policy, and schedule.
- Staff continues to advance the following studies: Capitol Region Roundabout Screening; Routes 190 and 220 Traffic Impact Study, Enfield; Farmington Area Connectivity Study; TOD Roles, Visioning, Viability, and Tools Analysis.
- Executed final contracts and initiated the Route 20 Corridor Study in Windsor Locks.
- The following studies are in the initiation phase: East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study; Route 44 Corridor Study, Canton.
- Staff updated the Transportation Committee on recent trends in traffic deaths, IIJA Funding Opportunities, the Draft Final Report from CRCOG’s Regional Micromobility Feasibility Study, a Draft CRCOG comment letter on the Draft State Rail, a Draft CRCOG Comment Letter on the Draft Statewide Freight Plan Update, and the LOTCIP Quarterly Report
- The Transportation Committee took action on the following:
 - Four (4) TIP Amendments
 - TRIP Guidelines and Solicitation
 - LOTCIP Inflation-Based Funding Adjustments/Funding Hard Caps
 - 2023 LOTCIP Project Solicitation Selection Policy
 - Three (3) LOTCIP Funding Increase / Scope Modification Requests

Public Safety

- Work on the FY 19 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) is well underway. All open grants include funds for training and exercise, contractual support and sustainment and maintenance of regional equipment. There are set asides for the Hartford Bomb Squad, Capitol Region HAZMAT team and Metropolitan Medical Response System.

- The FY 2022 SHSGP Grant Application package was submitted to the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
- The Capitol Region Regional Incident Communications (I-COMM) Team was activated and provided coverage for Bristol's Dispatch Center in the days directly following the shooting as well as during the funerals. We were able to fill over 80 shifts with dedicated dispatchers from our region and beyond.
- CRCOG is proud to host our first Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training Class. All teams in our region were given the opportunity to register members. The class began September 15th and will conclude with a ceremony at the November 3rd class.
- CRCOG's Region 3 Cyber Security Task Force held a Cyber Security tabletop exercise to gauge the preparedness of our communities.
- CRCOG staff continues to work with Tetra Tech on an After-Action Review of the region's response during the Covid pandemic. The final report will be ready this month.
- CRCOG participated in an Active Threat Training session presented by the UConn Police Department.