

MEMORANDUM

To: Policy Board
From: Matt Hart, Executive Director
CC: CRCOG Staff
Meeting Date: January 25, 2023
Subject: Staff Reports

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

- **Legislative Agenda** – We have rescheduled our virtual update for our legislative delegation until noon on February 2, 2023. We will make sure to invite the Policy Board to attend. Kathie Lutz, our lobbyist, and First Selectman Jason Bowsza, our Legislative Committee chair, and I have been monitoring proposed bills and meeting with key legislators to discuss items on [CRCOG's Legislative Agenda](#).
- **RPIP grants** – Recall that we announced at the last meeting that CRCOG has been awarded three grants under the state's Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) totaling approximately \$1.4M. Those applications are for:
 - **Shared Regional Animal Control Officer \$471,250:** This grant will provide funding for shared supplemental support of Animal Control Officers (ACO), as well as shared vehicles. The grant will support ACO backup and coverage to assist residents in need, as well as animals in distress when the town ACO is unavailable.
 - **Shared Assessment/Assessor Services \$462,000:** This grant funding will be used to help to hire staff to provide supplemental assessment services essential to municipal operations of the region, such as collection of revenue through real estate, business property, and motor vehicle assessments. The addition of this staff will create economies of scale by providing supplemental support services to areas lacking essential municipal services or towns facing staffing shortages.
 - **Shared Building and Code Enforcement Services \$446,250:** This grant will help to hire additional staff to provide supplemental building/code enforcement services essential to municipal operations of the region's administration and economic growth.

We will now convene meetings with the participating towns for the Assessment and Building and Code Enforcement Services programs to get those initiatives underway. We will hold on the Animal Control program for approximately six

months due to workload considerations. If you did not sign on as an applicant to any of these programs, please contact Pauline Yoder or me and we will look to get you involved.

BIL/IIJA UPDATE

- CRCOG has provided the letters of support for the following grant applications:
 - Connecticut Department of Transportation's Application to Federal Transit Administration for the FY2022 Advanced Driver Assistance Systems ([ADAS](#)) Discretionary Grant Program for Transit Buses Demonstration and Automated Transit Bus Maintenance and Yard Operations Demonstration.
 - City of Hartford's Application to U.S. DOT for the FY2022 Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation ([SMART](#)) Discretionary Grant Program.

- CRCOG is seeking information from member towns about what federal discretionary grant programs you or other agencies/entities in your town have applied for. Please provide this information so that CRCOG and the State may gain a greater understanding of which federal programs are of most interest to you and the region.

- CRCOG staff have reviewed several Notices of Funding Opportunities, and updated the BIL/IIJA Featured webpage, including adding information about the following programs:
 - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) FY2023 Discretionary Grant Program
 - [Memorandum](#) to Transportation Committee (Revised 12/20/2023)
 - National Culvert Removal, Replacement, and Restoration (a.k.a. Culvert AOP) FY2022 Discretionary Grant Program – Applications are due February 6, 2023
 - [Memorandum](#) to Transportation Committee
 - Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Recycling Education and Outreach (REO) Discretionary Grant Program – Applications are due January 16, 2023, track for Round 2
 - EPA's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Discretionary Grant Program – Applications are due January 16, 2023, track for Round 2.

- 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:
 - Safe Streets and Roads for All – Round 2 anticipated April 2023

- Bridge Investment Program – Round 2 anticipated Summer 2023
- Visit CRCOG’s BIL Webpage for information about these and other programs that may be of interest to you.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- The Capitol Region Purchasing Coalition (CRPC) has issued the Grass Seed and Fertilizer bid. This bid will close on January 26, 2023.
- CRPC is collecting quantities for Fuel. This bid will be issued on February 2nd and is a **NO PIGGYBACK BID SO QUANTITIES MUST BE SUBMITTED!**
- CRCOG is currently negotiating a contract with EPR Systems for Fire/EMS Records Management Software. Once executed, members will be able to piggyback via side letter agreement.
- EDA CARES Grants:
 - CEDS: Provided input on CEDS draft on the subject of business infrastructure supports; provided a couple of leads for private sector CEDS representation. Submitting Annual CEDS Performance Reporting this month.
 - Long Term Recovery: Goman + York is focusing on 15 business corridors in DEMHS Region 3 for economic oriented Long Term Recovery plans.
 - Digital Transition Technical Assistance: HostingCT is working on case studies for businesses who utilized these funds.
 - Webinars: Collaboration of Minority Women Professionals has scheduled business coaching webinars for January 18, April 19, and July 18, 2023.
- Brownfields Assessments: East Hartford – United Steel and Enfield received eligibility approval from EPA. Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF): Capital for Change will sign an NDA for the developer in Norwich, and the developer is submitting additional paperwork to Capital for Change. Once we have a Loan Approval Document from C4C, the RLF Committee will convene to approve and discuss terms & conditions.
- Task II of the Waste Management and Diversion Study, conducted by RRS and TetraTech, will be provided to CRCOG on/around January 17, 2023, for review of short-term (1 to 5 year) waste disposal and waste diversion options and strategies for the Region. Findings will be presented to the CRCOG Waste Management and Diversion Steering Committee on February 14, 2023 for discussion, input, and next steps.

- CRCOG's Regional Job Portal Pilot continues, with the goal to provide a collaborative applicant recruitment, tracking, and sharing among municipalities, improve the application experience, reduce recruitment-related expenses, and streamline HR processes in the Region. CRCOG staff are meeting with CCM and our consultant, Novus Insight, LLC, to determine cost and viability of additional capabilities and features to offer through the Portal
https://crcog.altrulink.com/auth.cfm?1=1&sign_in=1
- Staff continues to work with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Connecticut Solutions Foundations Indemnity Company (CFSIC) for the \$2MM in Congressionally directed Community Funding for Crumbling Foundations.

PLANNING: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Finalizing a regional survey on municipal responses to Public Act 21-29, focusing on the opt-out provisions relating to Accessory Dwelling Units and parking minimum. The survey also asks for town feedback on the new training requirements for land use commissioners.
- Staff completed data entry for 2022 Bike/Ped counts and has begun to analyze the data. Shared preliminary data with the Bike Pedestrian Subcommittee.
- Staff met with the Active Living Active Transportation Committee and is moving forward with Groton and New Britain to scope Year 5 projects.
- Staff have begun working internally to update the region's 2024 Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD).
 - Reviewing implementation progress and status of previous plan
 - Developing public engagement strategy for POCD
 - Identifying composition of POCD steering committee
- Submitted grant applications to the CT DEEP Climate Resilience Fund for Stormwater Authority (feasibility study) on December 1.
- Staff participated in the first meeting of the Complete Streets Leadership Academy program led by Smart Growth America (SGA).
- Staff have begun coordinating with Sustainable CT for partnering on the Affordable Housing Implementation Pathways Pilot project funded by the Harford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG).
 - Staff and Sustainable CT have identified about a half-dozen communities for potential inclusion in the initiative.

PLANNING: TRANSPORTATION

- CRCOG's update of its Metropolitan Transportation Plan is underway. More information is available at <https://crocog.org/long-range-transportation-plan/>, and a presentation to Policy Board is anticipated for February.
- The Transportation Committee met on January 23. Staff updated the Committee on the following: 60 Seconds for Safety: Nighttime Visibility, Regional Roundabouts Screening Update, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Updates, LOTCIP Quarterly Report, and FFY2022 Obligated Projects List. The committee acted on the 2023 Annual Safety Performance Targets and two (2) LOTCIP Funding Increase / Scope Modification Requests.
- The solicitation for the Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) was distributed to eligible towns on November 4, 2022. Applications are due February 10, 2023.
- CRCOG staff distributed the solicitation for Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) on December 7, 2022 and held a Pre-Application Workshop on January 23, 2023. Applications are due February 22, 2023.
- 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; Route 20 Corridor Study, Windsor Locks; East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study.
- The Route 44 Corridor Study, Canton is in the initiation phase. RFQ responses were due January 3, 2023 and are currently under review.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Work on the FY 19 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) is winding down and will be completed in February when CRCOG will begin the FY 20 grant. 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.
- Dave Koscuk, currently the Director of Security and Emergency Management Services for Trinity Health of New England was recognized at the January quarterly Capitol Region Emergency Planning Council for his 6 years of service as

Chairman. We thank Dave for his leadership, dedication, and subject matter expertise.

- Tetra Tech has completed work on the After-Action Review of the region's response during the Covid pandemic and presented their findings at the quarterly CREPC meeting.
- CRCOG is partnering with the Town of South Windsor on the recent grant from Yale New Haven Health System to train all Medical Reserve Corps members in advanced first aid, CPR and AED use. Classes began at their Emergency Operations Center this past Monday evening.
- The Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council met recently. There are several new teams forming in the region and the next CRCOG Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training Class will be held in March.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

- CRCOG's new/refreshed website is live. CRCOG staff will be trained on how to update the website by the end of January.
- CRCOG's Finance Office is preparing the 2023-2024 Budget for Executive Committee and Policy Board review and approval in April/May timeframe