

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Policy Board  
**From:** Matt Hart, Executive Director  
**CC:** CRCOG Staff  
**Meeting Date:** February 22, 2023  
**Subject:** Staff Reports

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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, ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

- *Hartford 400* – I would like to congratulate Doug Suisman and Suisman Urban Design, and Jackie Mandycyk and the iQuilt Partnership for receiving the prestigious Witte-Sakamoto Family Medal in City and Regional Planning from UPenn's Stuart Weitzman School of Design for the Hartford400 project. Hartford400 is a comprehensive, river-centered vision plan for our capital city and the Connecticut Valley region. The plan envisions a major reconfiguration of the region's infrastructure—highways, railroads and floodwalls—to remove historic physical and racial barriers between neighborhoods and the largely inaccessible riverfront, and to re-establish the Connecticut River as the heart of the city and region. By removing, reconfiguring or covering the web of interstate highways in the urban core, the plan opens up new land for parks, greenways, public spaces and mixed-use development, all served by new boulevards and bridges supporting transit, biking, and walking. A growing network of transit lines and stations help link and energize the region's nearly 40 historic town centers, serving 1.1 million residents. The overall goal of Hartford400 is to make the Connecticut Valley and its capital city more sustainable, prosperous, equitable, mobile, and vibrant, with substantial completion of the vision by 2035, the 400th anniversary of urban settlement in the region. Kudos to Doug, Jackie, and the other members of the team on this well-deserved recognition!
- *Legislative Agenda* – I would like to extend my appreciation to all who participated in our virtual Legislative Update that we held February 2, 2023. Special thanks are due to Mayor Stewart for presiding, Jason Bowsza for presenting, Speaker Matt Ritter for his remarks, and Kathie Lutz for coordinating the program. We continue to monitor proposed bills and submit testimony on legislation related to CRCOG's Legislative Agenda and related policy matters.

- *CRCOG Website* - CRCOG's new/refreshed website is live, and we welcome your feedback! Please send any comments or questions to Aaliyah Miller at [amiller@crcog.org](mailto:amiller@crcog.org).
- *CRCOG 2023-24 Operating Budget* – Our team is busy preparing the 2023-2024 Budget for Executive Committee and Policy Board review and approval in April/May timeframe.
- *CRCOG Conflict of Interest Form* – Recall that Policy Board members need to file this form on an annual basis. As of February 13, we have only received 17 responses. Please Scan the QR code that Laura has up on the screen to complete the form.

## **BIL/IIJA UPDATE**

- Summary of [Memoranda](#) presented to the Transportation Committee at their February 14, 2023, meeting:
  - CRCOG and City of New Britain's Joint Application was selected to receive a safety action plan grant from U.S. DOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. The \$958,000 federal grant and \$239,500 in local funding will be used to update the [Regional Transportation Safety Plan](#) (RTSP). The RTSP will serve as a basis for future requests for funding. Municipalities are encouraged to review the locations identified in the RTSP to create priority projects.
  - SS4A Round 2 Notice of Funding Opportunity is anticipated to be announced in April 2023. An additional \$1.1 billion is expected to be available for Round 2. CRCOG has developed a [draft strategy](#) to guide the next steps in preparing an application for an Implementation Grant.
  - Recent updates to CRCOG's [BIL/IIJA webpage](#) include:
    - U.S. DOT Application Checklist for FY2023 funding opportunities – a [pdf of the Application Checklist](#), and link to [U.S. DOT's webpage](#), is provided in the General Information section of the BIL Webpage.
    - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) FY2023 Discretionary Grant Program
      - [Memorandum](#) to Transportation Committee (Revised 12/20/2023)
      - Applications are due February 28, 2023. If you would like to request a Letter of Support for an application you are preparing, or would like other assistance, please contact staff as soon as possible.
    - New funding opportunity: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Area of Persistent Poverty (AoPP) Program. \$20 million is available in FY2023 for eligible activities in AoPP and Historically

Disadvantaged Communities (HDC), which include the following municipalities in CRCOG: East Hartford; Enfield; Hartford; Manchester; Mansfield; New Britain.

- U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) announced the Key Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) and anticipated timelines for FY2023. A [Memorandum](#) summarizing the discretionary grant programs that may be most applicable to CRCOG is available for your review. The provided list is not exhaustive, and content is subject to change as more information is provided about each program.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Council (CRPC) is collecting quantities for Swimming Pool Treatment and Chemicals and Bituminous Curb Mix. Quantities are due by February 16<sup>th</sup> and these bids will be issued on February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The CRPC Fuel Bid will close on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Results will be posted no later than February 22<sup>nd</sup> at <https://crcog.org/municipal-services/capitol-region-purchasing-council/#bids> .
- CRCOG has fully executed the contract with EPR Systems for Fire/EMS Records Management Software. If you are interested in participating via a side letter agreement, please contact Kim Bona at [kbona@crcog.org](mailto:kbona@crcog.org) .
- EDA CARES Grants:

- CEDS update: The CEDS Update Committee met on February 14 and is on track to review a draft plan in April.
  - Long Term Recovery: Goman + York is focusing on 16 business corridors in DEMHS Region 3 for economic oriented Long Term Recovery plans, reviewing migration between towns for ALICE populations.
  - Digital Transition Technical Assistance: HostingCT is working on case studies for businesses which utilized these funds.
  - Webinars: Collaboration of Minority Women Professionals has scheduled business coaching webinars for April 19, and July 18, 2023. They are holding a webinar on Capability Statements and Business Certifications on February 15.
- Brownfields Assessments: East Hartford – Staff has received and is reviewing an application for 860 Main Street in East Hartford for mixed use development. Reviewing a Quality Assurance Performance Plan (QAPP) for Enfield Bigelow Carpet site. Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF): Norwich application should receive feedback from Capital for Change by early March. Current approved RLF application for East Hartford Venture may be rescinded as they are potentially selling the site.
  - Task II of the Waste Management and Diversion Study – The consulting team of RRS and TetraTech presented the draft report outlining proposed short-term (1 to 5 ys.) recommendations to the project steering committee at its meeting on February 14. We plan to schedule a separate meeting with the project committee to discuss diversion options. We are making good progress and will schedule a Policy Board briefing for later this spring.
  - CRCOG met with CCM and Novus Insight, LLC to discuss technical capabilities, cost, and viability of CRCOG’s Regional Job Portal Pilot. Next steps include plug-ins and API through job sites, including LinkedIn and Indeed.  
[https://crcog.altrulink.com/auth.cfm?1=1&sign\\_in=1](https://crcog.altrulink.com/auth.cfm?1=1&sign_in=1)
  - RFP for a HUD Consultant was published on February 14, and responses are due March 14 at 2:00 p.m.
  - RPIP Grants for Shared Building Official, Shared Assessment and Shared Animal Control have been fully executed. CRCOG hosted two meetings on the Shared Building Official and Shared Assessment on February 16 and 17.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- Staff is 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. We have had AND excellent response rate with 37 of 38 communities responding.

- Staff is moving forward with Groton, New Britain, Torrington, and Willimantic to scope Year 5 quick-build demonstration projects. Staff is also working with DPH on the new NOFO issued by CDC for another 5-year program to continue these efforts.
- Staff have begun working internally to update the region's 2024 Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) and are holding weekly internal meetings.
  - Reviewing implementation progress and status of previous plan
  - Developing public engagement strategy for POCD
  - Identifying composition of POCD steering committee
  - Exploring key themes and organization
- Staff is participating in the Complete Streets Leadership Academy program led by Smart Growth America (SGA) attending multiple virtual workshops in January and preparing to attend in-person workshops in March.
- Staff continues outreach with interested communities to explore expanding the existing scooter share program. Additionally, CRCOG as well as CTDOT and UConn are preparing to enter into a data sharing agreement with Superpedestrian to enable these organizations to access Mobility Data Specifications (MDS) data and to enable CTDOT to create a platform for sharing the data with specified employees, including those in member communities.
- In partnership with Sustainable CT, CRCOG participated in an informational kick-off meeting for Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) communities on the Affordable Housing Implementation Pathways Pilot project.
  - 11 communities attended the kick-off and an additional community reached out after watching the recording.
- CRCOG has received funds for the Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan update. There will be two resolutions on the February 22 Policy Board agenda, a resolution to accept the grant funds and a second resolution to hire CIRCA to perform the planning work.

## **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

- CRCOG's update of its Metropolitan Transportation Plan is underway, and the draft report will be released for comment by February 23. Hybrid public meetings will be held on March 8 and 9. Details will be available at <https://crcog.org/mtp>.

- The Transportation Committee met on February 14. Staff updated the Committee on the following: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Updates, 60 Seconds for Safety: SS4A Scope Overview, Regional Roundabouts Screening Update, 2023 LOTCIP Solicitation Reminder, CTDOT Microtransit Pilot Project RFP, and CRCOG Comments on CTDOT 2023-2027 Capital Plan. The committee acted on FHWA Performance Targets, FTA Transit Asset Management Targets, and three (3) 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 were due February 10, 2023, with extensions granted to February 24 upon request. CRCOG staff will review the applications and will supply a recommended ranking to the Transportation Committee in March and the Policy Board in April. We anticipate receiving seven (7) applications, and four (4) will be sent to CTDOT.
- 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.
- 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. Consultant interviews are in the process of being scheduled.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Work on the FY 19 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) is nearing completion; DEMHS just gave all regions an extension through June. CRCOG has begun work on 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.
- CRCOG provided a letter of concurrence to DPH for its submission to the CDC for Budget Period 5 of the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) grant. Additionally, CRCOG is preparing correspondence that affirms our interest in remaining as the fiduciary agent/grant manager for the next five-year period beginning in 2024.

- 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.
- 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 and will continue weekly.
- The next CRCOG Regional Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Basic Training Class will be held in March in West Hartford.