

Agenda Item Summary

To: Transportation Committee, acting as Policy Board

From: Kyle Shiel, Principal Planner

CC: Matt Hart, Executive Director; Caitlin Palmer, Director of Regional Planning & Development

Meeting Date: June 26th, 2023

Subject: Authorizing Resolution: Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

Background: The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program providing grants to states and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. CRCOG is the lead agency for the Hartford MSA and has been awarded \$1 million in noncompetitive CPRG planning funds to develop regional climate action plans – the first of which is a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and a second, more detailed Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).

Benefit to Member Towns/CRCOG: The CPRG planning grants are intended to help municipalities develop an actionable roadmap towards reducing their carbon emissions. The second phase of the CPRG program includes \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. Municipalities with potential implementation projects must have those projects identified in the PCAP. Participation in this program will make CRCOG member municipalities eligible applicants for CPRG implementation funds.

Financial/Operational Impact: CPRG-related activities will be conducted at no cost to member towns. Planning-related activities are fully funded through the EPA's CPRG noncompetitive planning grants. Approximately \$185,400 of the funds will cover CRCOG staff time over the 4-year grant period.

Project Schedule: Work on the PCAP is expected to start July 2023, with final submittal to EPA by March 2024. The CCAP is expected to be submitted in summer/ fall of 2025. The final deliverable is a Status Report, due at the close of the 4-year grant period (summer-fall 2027).

Recommendation: CRCOG staff recommends the committee approve the attached resolution authorizing CRCOG Conduct Appropriate and Necessary Activities Related to Administration of a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

Attachments:

- Resolution attached.

Resolution Authorizing the Capitol Region Council of Governments to Conduct Appropriate and Necessary Activities Related to Administration of a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program

WHEREAS, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 appropriated \$5 billion to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRGP), to be administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2023, EPA announced availability of \$250 million for the first phase of the program, which will issue non-competitive planning grants, administered as cooperative agreements, to fund development and expansion of climate action plans (Plans) that will include programs, policies, measures, and projects that will achieve or facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) air pollution; and

WHEREAS, a second phase of the program, expected to be announced later in 2023, will issue \$4.6 billion in competitive implementation grants to fund putting the Plans into action; and

WHEREAS, three Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Connecticut, including the Hartford-East Hartford-Middletown, CT Metro Area (Hartford MSA), as defined by 2020 U.S. Census data, are eligible for \$1 million each for planning grants; and

WHEREAS, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), in its capacity as the Regional Planning Organization (RPO) for two-thirds of the municipalities within the Hartford MSA, has the programmatic capacity to serve as the lead organization for the cooperative agreement with EPA; and

WHEREAS, CRCOG will coordinate and collaborate with municipalities and/or other Councils of Government within the Hartford MSA to facilitate a regional approach to the grant;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT, The Capitol Region Council of Governments Executive Director, or the individual authorized to act in that capacity, is authorized to act on behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments in negotiating, executing, administering, and amending all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments associated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRGP); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT, The Capitol Region Council of Governments authorizes staff to prepare the necessary application materials associated with the CPRGP.

CERTIFICATE

I certify the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the CRCOG Transportation Committee, acting as the Policy Board, at its meeting on June 26, 2023.

BY: _____

Jason Bowsza, Secretary

DATE: _____