

Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
9:00 AM, November 21, 2023
This meeting was virtual

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Members and Alternates

Chris Edge
Lisa Thomas
Steve Stephanou
Toni Moran
Ryan Aylesworth
Brock Weber
Wendy Mackstutis
Fred Presley
Peter Souza

Town/Organization

Berlin
Coventry
Manchester
Mansfield
Mansfield
New Britain
Simsbury
Wethersfield
Windsor

Staff

Matt Hart
Rob Aloise
Caitlin Palmer

CRCOG
CRCOG
CRCOG

Guests

Kathie Lutz

Rome Smith Lutz & Kowalski

1. Welcome and Introductions

Matt Hart began the meeting at 9:07 AM and welcomed everyone present.

2. Review Committee Charge

Matt Hart reviewed the committee charge, explaining that the committee's task is to develop a proposed Legislative Agenda for the full Policy Board's review and action in January 2024.

3. Development of FY2024 CRCOG Legislative Agenda

Kathie Lutz began the discussion with an overview of the distinction between the long and short sessions of the General Assembly, which are organized around the state's biennial budget. This year is the short session, which is intended primarily for budget adjustments. The deadline for bill submissions will be short, as will the schedule for public hearings. Regardless, we will still see numerous bills submitted on a wide range of topics.

In response to requests from the committee, Ms. Lutz will provide the legislative calendar as well as a list of House and Senate leadership positions, including committee co-chairs.

At Mr. Hart's recommendation, the Committee reviewed the previous year's Legislative Agenda to identify items that should be included again in the coming year. The consensus opinion was to keep the following items from the previous year:

- Funding for stormwater management infrastructure
- Amendments to state law to remove any barriers to service sharing
- State funding in the form of an infrastructure bank or similar concept to assist municipalities with the non-federal match for infrastructure grants
- Ability to establish a regional fair rent commission by local option
- Increasing the state's Medicaid ambulance reimbursement rate
- Fully funding the PILOT grant for state property
- Continued funding for CFSIC to assist homeowners with crumbling foundations
- Support for local government workforce development and reciprocity for out-of-state licensure and certifications
- Continued funding to remediate PFAS-contaminated wells and drinking water sources

The committee also flagged the following items for investigation or further review:

- Regulation of solar facilities
- Status of the state's position on residential organics collection
- Meeting with the House Speaker to discuss housing proposals
- Status of CTDOT guidance on speed and red-light cameras
- Status of task force on motor vehicle tax
- Local revenue options (suggested for a future Policy Board policy discussion)

Mr. Aloise reported that he is in communication with CTDOT and has requested the department's legislative priorities for next year. He hopes to have that information in time for the committee's next meeting.

4. Next Meeting

The next Legislative Committee meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on December 6, 2023.

5. Adjournment

Matt Hart adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM.