

CRCOG POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

12:00 NOON

This was a hybrid meeting.

For more information, email or call [Laura Rosenbluth](mailto:Laura.Rosenbluth@crcog.org) at 860-724-4283

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Town/Organization</u>
Eric Anderson	Andover
Brandon Roberston	Avon
Jon Colman	Bloomfield
Jim Rupert	Bolton
Robert Skinner	Canton
Mark Walter	Columbia
Jim Drumm	Coventry
Jason Bowsza	East Windsor
Lori Spielman	Ellington
Matt Reed	Ellington
Joseph Capodiferro	Farmington
Jonathan Luiz	Glastonbury
Raúl De Jesús	Hartford
Steve Stephanou	Manchester
Ryan Aylesworth	Mansfield
David Porter	Marlborough
Brock Weber	New Britain
Marc Nelson	Simsbury
Paul Chaplinsky	Southington
Mark Sciota	Southington
Audrey Delnicki	South Windsor
Colin Moll	Suffield
Katie Stargardter	Tolland
Shari Cantor	West Hartford
Rick Ledwith	West Hartford
Ken Lesser	Wethersfield
Nuchette Black-Burke	Windsor
Peter Souza	Windsor

Staff

Aaliyah Miller	CRCOG
Cara Radzins	CRCOG
Caitlin Palmer	CRCOG
Cheryl Assis	CRCOG
Chris Seeger	CRCOG
Elizabeth Sanderson	CRCOG
Jill Swenson	CRCOG
Laura Rosenbluth	CRCOG
Lily Schneider	CRCOG
Matt Hart	CRCOG
Maureen Goulet	CRCOG
Heidi Samokar	CRCOG
Pauline Yoder	CRCOG
Rob Aloise	CRCOG
Roger Krahn	CRCOG
Tracey Malenfant	CRCOG

Guests

Erin McBride	Congressman Murphy
Greyson Wright	CTDOT
John Harkins	Rome, Smith, Lutz, Kowalski

1. **Call to Order**

Lori Spielman called meeting to order at 12:00 PM

2. **Public Comment**

No Public comment was offered.

3. **Approval of Minutes from December 20, 2023**

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the minutes of December 20, 2023 as presented. Eric Anderson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. **MONTHLY REPORTS**

- a. **Chair and Executive Director** - Mr. Hart provided an overview of his report. Mr. Hart's full report can be found [HERE](#)
- b. BIL/IIJA Update
- c. Municipal Services and Purchasing Council
- d. Planning - Transportation
- e. Public Safety Homeland Security
- f. Planning - Community Development

5. **Legislative Update**

Discussed under Action items: Legislative Agenda.

6. **Presentations**

Progress on Federal discretionary grants awarded to our region

Elizabeth Sanderson discussed recent updates and progress on the awarded grants.

ACTION ITEMS

7. **Approval of 2024 Legislative Agenda,**

(Begins at 43 seconds into the meeting.) Jason Bowsza and Matt Hart discussed the proposed legislative agenda that CRCOG will advocate for on behalf of the region. Peter Souza commented on the importance of EMS stability and the Motor Vehicle (MV) property tax. First Selectman Bowsza mentioned that the proposed agenda is intended to give power to the municipalities to work together. Eric Anderson discussed the MV tax and affordable housing tax breaks and credits. John Harkins mentioned that people can expect to see affordable housing on the agenda at the session. Jason Bowsza made a motion to approve, and Steve Stephanou seconded. Motion passed. [2024 Summary CRCOG Legislative Agenda](#)

8. **Resolution to accept funds from DECD for a Brownfield project**

Maureen Goulet presented the resolution. The key aspects are that CRCOG would manage the grant funds of \$178,800 for the development team and ensure that DECD requirements are fulfilled. CRCOG would receive approximately 5% or \$8,940 for administrative expenses. Jon Colman made a motion to approve, and Steve Stephanou seconded. Motion passed.

9. **Resolution authorizing submittal of a Berlin Turnpike transportation study for RAISE grant application**

Elizabeth Sanderson presented the resolution and explained how CRCOG is collaborating with CTDOT and the Towns of Berlin, Newington, and Wethersfield on a Planning Grant application under the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program. CRCOG proposes to conduct a Transportation Study of the Berlin Turnpike to improve road safety and connectivity. Eric Anderson made a motion to approve, and Steve Stephanou seconded. Motion passed.

10. **Resolution authorizing agreement with All Clear Emergency Management Group**

Cheryl Assis presented the resolution and explained that the grant funding will serve to enhance the capability of the training design team to support the CR-MRC field operations. CRCOG will expand training offerings for long-term care clinical support and BLS/First Aid. This training capacity for CR-MRC volunteers will be an asset to all CRCOG member communities. Steve Stephanou made a motion to approve, and Jon Colman seconded. Motion passed.

11. **TIP Amendments**

Jon Colman provided an overview of the proposed TIP amendments and made a motion to approve the following projects:

1. Mansfield—Various—Downtown Pedestrian Loop Closure
2. Stafford—CT 19—Culvert Replacement under East Street
3. Columbia/Coventry—Trail—Hop River State Park Trail
4. District 2—Various—Replace Highway Illumination at Various Locations

All items were endorsed by the CRCOG Transportation Committee on 1/22. Mark Walter seconded; motion passed unanimously.

12. **East Coast Greenway Study – Simsbury Recommendations Report**

Jon Colman made a motion to approve the study to identify a preferred alignment for the gap in the East Coast Greenway (ECG) through the Town of Simsbury using a collaborative process informed by coordination with Town officials, stakeholder involvement, and public engagement. Steve Stephanou seconded; motion passed unanimously.

13. **Task-Based Travel Demand Modeling and Data Management Consultant**

Jon Colman provided a background explanation and made a motion that CRCOG use a consultant to assist with travel demand modeling and data management activities. Eric Anderson seconded; motion passed unanimously.

14. **Correspondence/ Handouts**

None.

15. **Other Business**

Grayson Wright from the Connecticut Department of Transportation introduced himself and explained that he was the CTDOT liaison to CRCOG and the member towns.

16. **Adjournment**

Jon Colman motioned to adjourn. Eric Anderson seconded. Lori Spielman adjourned the meeting at 12:58pm.