

# Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update

June 18, 2024

Regional Planning Commission





# Today

1. Reminder of how we got to tonight
2. Updates since March RPC meeting
3. Next steps
4. Set Public Hearing for September 19, 2024





# Reminder of how we got here





# Reminder of how we got here

## State Statutes

- CGS 8-35a
- Prepare at least once every 10 years
- Procedural & notice requirements



## CRCOG

- Bylaws:
  - Charge Regional Planning Commission (RPC) with “development and maintenance” of POCD
- RPC refers to Policy Board for Adoption



## How We Use It

- Referrals
- Letters of support (grant applications)
- Our own grant applications
- CRCOG workplan



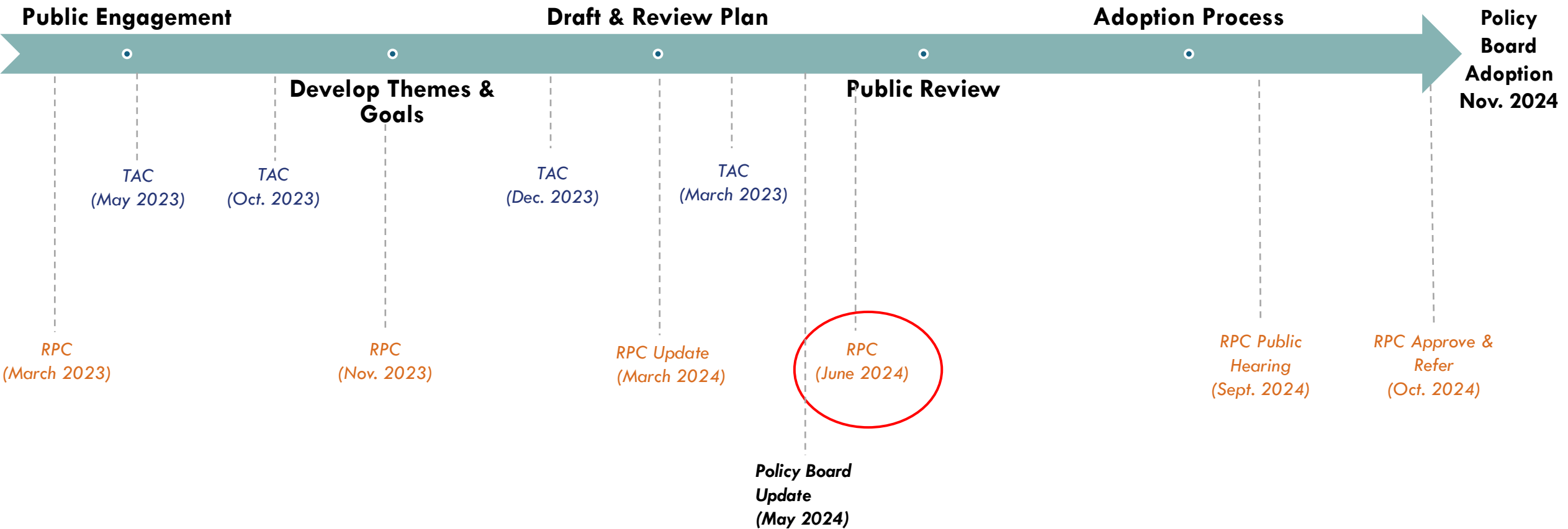
# Reminder of how we got here

## Draft Plan before you based on:

- Public input & technical focus groups
- CRCOG research and analysis
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Regional Planning Commission
- Policy Board input
- CRCOG internal reviews



# Reminder of how we got here



TAC = Technical Advisory Committee



# Updates since March RPC meeting



# Updates since March RPC meeting

## Round 1 of "designed" Plan:

- We are still in the design phase so there will be additional changes to the look, including a new cover and other changes. Consultant is currently making updates.
- [Click here](#) to see the updated plan.



## Comments on Draft POCD and CRCOG Staff Responses

Includes:

- Regional Planning Commission (RPC) comments at or after March 21 meeting
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comments submitted prior to, during, or after March 21 meeting
- Comments from Policy Board (PB) at special workshop on May 22.
- Staff comments from internal review (CRCOG)

Page numbers below reference the document page number of the current draft plan.

### Substantive Changes

| Chapter # | Commenter | Comment   | Status / Staff Response  |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|
| --        | CRCOG     | We are still working on info-graphics for each theme so ignore what is in there now – most are placeholder pages.   |  |
| 1         | CRCOG     | Add more information about CRCOG Strategic Playbook   | <i>See pages 10-11</i>   |
| 3         | CRCOG     | Missing paragraph about zoning.   | <i>Will add paragraph back in (see page 31 in previous version)</i>                                    |
| 4         | CRCOG     | Re-organize last two paragraphs to flow better.   | <i>Will slightly edit for flow.</i>  |
| 4         | RPC       | Vision - Can we really say " By 2034, EVERYONE in the Capitol Region WILL have the opportunity to live healthy and fulfilling lives? Consider using phrases that are hopeful, but are more realistic and not overly promising; such as "increased opportunity, access to... etc." | <i>We want the vision to be aspirational, so no edits were made. Page 57.</i>                          |
| 5         | TAC       | Can we provide percentage of land in Aquifer Protection Areas that is commercial or industrial?   | <i>We will add to page 70: Eight percent of land designated as an Aquifer Protection Area is zoned</i> |

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|-----------|-----------|--|--|
|           |           |  | <i>for industrial use, while six percent is currently used for industry.</i>   |
| 5         | TAC       | A mention of Alternative septic systems may help reduce the construction of new/expensive sewer systems in some areas  | <i>We discuss alternative systems on page 79 under “Work with other partners to advocate for innovative septic systems in CT”. We also mention in Chapter 6 for water/sewer goal to consider smaller, on-site systems.</i> |
| 5         | CRCOG     | Include sidebar on stormwater parks  | <i>Added – page 77.</i>  |
| 5         | CRCOG     | Mention work done by CT Urban Forest Council   | <i>Add “Partners such as CT Urban Forest Council – which focuses on urban community forestry through education, advocacy, and policy – can play a key role in undertaking this action” to 3rd action on page 81</i>        |
| 5         | CRCOG     | On page 85, that second paragraph is part of first action, not a separate action.  | <i>Remove that second action arrow on page 85.</i>   |
| 5         | TAC       | Add mention of continuation of Beeline Trail project – building multi-use east-west trail connection between greater Hartford metro area and Farmington Valley   | <i>Added to second action on page 88.</i>  |
| 5         | TAC       | Losing tree cover due to solar farms; farmland too. Solar farms are development.   | <i>Added an Action based on CRCOG testimony on bill relating to this in Climate Change section (see page 92).</i>  |
| 5         | RPC       | Should the plan mention something about large solar projects and municipal input into applications to Siting Council?  |  |
| 5         | CRCOG     | Add sidebar for pay-as-you-throw programs.   | <i>Added on page 95.</i>   |
| 5         | CRCOG     | US Census of Agriculture numbers for 2022 were just released. Replaced 2017 data with 2022 data.   | <i>Completed. Pages 102-103</i>  |
| 5         | TAC       | The greenhouse gas emission map shows high levels of emissions in rural areas and associates that with car dependent land use patterns. While I believe that to be generally correct, production agricultural facilities (i.e. | <i>Edited caption to change “areas” to “households” and added second sentence to caption. Added information in text about methodology. See page 128 (note that legend is wrong and will be fixed).</i>                     |



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|-----------|-----------|--|--|
|           |           | dairy farms) can have a large influence on these emission levels in rural agricultural areas   |  |
| 6         | TAC       | Some numbers in Hartford POCD have target numbers. Careful of market rate phrasing – affordable and available to all residents (not “affordable” nec). Also focus on neighborhoods. Infill lot development.  | <i>Added reference to neighborhoods on pg. 143. Target was 10% for entire city.</i>  |
| 6         | TAC       | Any connection between office jobs decline and pop decline in Hartford?  | <i>We have not analyzed this so no edits were made.</i>  |
| 6         | TAC       | Regarding the concept of establishing greater connection of Hartford and New Britain, the CT Fastrack and the Regional Brand idea, pursuing something similar to the Raise grant that is in the works for the municipalities that have similar synergies with the Berlin T-Pike should be explored.                    | <i>No edits made based on comment.</i>   |
| 6         | CRCOG     | Add placemaking sidebar.   | <i>Added. Page 153</i>   |
| 6         | TAC       | Development in reluctant towns depends even more on form.  | <i>See edits to Rural Strategy on page 158.</i>  |
| 6         | TAC       | Public sewer bigger issue than water in rural areas  | <i>Made minor edits to include sewer in first sentence of action. Page 159</i>   |
| 6         | TAC       | Mention how time consuming DEEP approvals are for septic so developers scale back.   | <i>New action added to Chapter 6, goal regarding water and sewer. See last action, page 161.</i>                             |
|           |           |  |  |
| 6         | TAC       | Historic districts seem undermapped.   | <i>Added a caveat to the map that the map does not cover individual designated properties outside of districts. Page 167</i> |
| 7         | TAC       | Regarding the actions related to local gov't. and building professional capacity - How about considering recruitment incentives like offering municipal employee housing options or implementing 4-day work weeks? Additionally, we could address the broader challenge of attracting professionals in these fields by | <i>Text updated to address this.</i>   |

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|           |                                    | collaborating with school systems to educate students about opportunities in local government and the various career paths available.   |  |
| 7         | TAC                                | Is a goal needed that addressed the lack of trust in local government / perceived lack of transparency?   | <i>Added sentence to intro for this Goal on page 193.</i>  |
| 7         | TAC                                | When it comes to diversifying local boards/commissions, the same challenge persists, particularly in some municipalities like ours, where appointments are managed by political parties. This limitation hinders efforts to achieve diversity and inclusion within these bodies, as qualified individuals from diverse backgrounds may be overlooked solely because of their lack of political affiliation. | <i>We do include this but added a statistic about % of registered voters not affiliated with either the Democratic or Republican parties (see page 195)</i>      |
| 8         | CRCOG                              | Reword introduction to chapter.   | <i>Staff reworded/edited.</i>  |
| 9         | Policy Board                       | Have we considered that climate change may drive people from the south to move north? And impacts on housing especially since these likely would be wealthier people  | <i>We will add language in the Chapter 9 introduction regarding this and add an Action to explore the possible implications on housing demand in the region.</i> |
| 9         | RPC                                | South Windsor is doing its part allowing more housing, but cost of infrastructure is a challenge (schools, senior services, parks). Need to discuss implications of more housing.   | <i>Added language and an Action to Strategy 4 regarding roadblocks. See page 255</i>   |
| 9         | TAC                                | Consider how to make transit a bit more flexible too. Would provide more areas for housing development.   | <i>Page 157 box on High Quality Bus Service does somewhat address this. Page 264 re-iterates importance of good service.</i>                                     |
| --        | Policy Board                       | Affirms that our aging population impacts all aspects of the Plan.  | <i>We discuss that throughout the Plan including in the Introduction.</i>  |
| --        | TAC Member at Policy Board meeting | Feels intro should personalize and connect to the individual – individuals depend upon region and vice versa  | <i>We are working on the best approach to convey this. It might become a focus of our outreach on the draft Plan and /or become a new graphic in the Plan.</i>   |



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|-----------|------------------------------------|--|--|
| --        | TAC Member at Policy Board meeting | Feels we should re-order the themes with Housing and Transportation ahead of the others. | <i>We did not address this comment because the Plan's design is almost complete.</i> |

### Format, Typos, and other Non-Substantive Changes

Typos which have already been corrected in this version not included here.

| Chapter # | Commenter | Comment   | Status / Staff Response  |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|
| --        | CRCOG     | Cover and Photos  | <i>Will be redoing cover and swapping out photos throughout. Will redo captions for consistency.</i> |
|           | CRCOG     | Formatting of sidebars and quotes   | <i>We are working on this still.</i>   |
| --        | CRCOG     | Tightened up Chapter 1 and introductory paragraphs to various chapters.   |  |
| --        | RPC       | Plan is very text dense consider more concise ways to express thoughts to open pages up.  | <i>Graphic design addresses this</i>   |
| --        | RPC       | Throughout - Section Headers (Blue) are lengthy and can be shortened. IE: What Has Changed Since the Last Plan-shorten to read "Changes Since Last Plan". | <i>We shortened some but kept the longer ones in Chapter 2, Conditions and Trends.</i>               |
| --        | RPC       | Consider use of alternate fonts to draw attention to core thoughts  | <i>Graphic design addresses this</i>   |
| --        | CRCOG     | Spelled out acronyms at first mention and in sidebars.  | <i>Done.</i>   |
| --        | CRCOG     | Add references to tables, charts and maps in text.  | <i>Done.</i>   |
| --        | CRCOG     | Various map updates including adding more context, town names, etc.   | <i>Will be addressed during design process</i>   |
| --        | CRCOG     | Add TAC members   | <i>Will be added.</i>  |
| --        | CRCOG     | Update a few tables and charts.   | <i>Will be reformatting a handful of tables and charts.</i>  |

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|-----------|-----------|---|---|
| 3         | RPC       | Top Ten Findings from Public Engagement - Consider making this more prominent and contained on a single page if possible, as it was a big piece of our discussion on Thursday | <i>Will be addressed during design process (may not be one page but can make prominent)</i> |
| 5         | RPC       | Need more contrast - Streamline text where possible, use bolding, eliminate word redundancy like "Actions" can be reduced to Bullet points or #'s                             | <i>Will be addressed during design process</i>  |
| 5         | CRCOG     | Typo in last action.  | <i>Change "Explore" to "explore".</i>   |
| 5         | CRCOG     | Add dates to Flood and Heat Vulnerability maps  | <i>Done.</i>  |
| 5         | CRCOG     | Typo  | <i>Page 124 remove "ACTION"</i>   |
| 8         | RPC       | Pg. 165 & Throughout plan: Make better use of graphics to reinforce written content (Bigger/Placement)  | <i>Will be addressed during design process</i>  |
| 9         | CRCOG     | Typo  | <i>Paragraph that starts "the best way" is not an action – remove arrow. Page 252.</i>      |
| 9         | CRCOG     | Typo  | <i>Page 266 – need to switch order of Strategy 3 and 2.</i>                                 |
| 10        | CRCOG     | Typo  | <i>Add bullets to 2 lines that begin with "Support" on page 273</i>                         |



# Next Steps



# Next Steps



**June 18:** Review updated draft with RPC; RPC sets public hearing



**July:** Post on-line by July 16 for public review



**September 19:** Public Hearing

RPC approval either September 19 or at special meeting in October



**November:** Policy Board approval



**Post-Adoption:** Implementation Plan, Annual Progress Reports

## State Notice Requirements (CGS 8-35a)

At least 65 days before public hearing:

- Post plan on website
- Submit to CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM)

Additional Notifications between 10 and 20 days prior to public hearing (Aug. 30 – Sept. 9):

- Newspaper notice
- Chief Elected Officials
- Planning & Zoning Commissions



## Next Steps

### Potential Motion:

*Set a hybrid public hearing on the proposed 2024 CRCOG Plan of Conservation and Development for Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.*