

April 3, 2024

Mr. Paul Teicher, Safe Streets and Roads for All Program Manager
Office of Policy Development, Strategic Planning, and Performance
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: SS4A Supplemental Planning Grant for Town of Canton Complete Streets and
Vision Zero Action Plan

Dear Mr. Teicher:

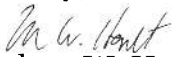
On behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), I write to support the Town of Canton's application for a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Supplemental Planning Grant. The Town is seeking funding to develop a local Complete Streets and Vision Zero Action Plan (the Project), which will complement and supplement the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan that serves the region.

The Project will include public outreach, data collection, local inventorying, and other activities that will promote Town goals and visions to make streets safe and convenient for road users of all ages and abilities.

CRCOG was awarded SS4A funding in FY2022 to update and expand the existing Comprehensive Safety Action Plan with enhanced data analysis and a focus on equity. The Town of Canton's Project will complement and build on these efforts to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on roads. CRCOG and Town of Canton will coordinate to ensure efforts are not duplicative.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this application, and am happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Sincerely,


Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: CRCOG Policy Board & Transportation Committee
Kevin Witkos, Canton First Selectman

April 11, 2024

The Honorable Senator Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FY2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Request – Town of Plainville Robertson Airport

Dear Senator Murphy:

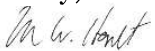
The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is pleased to support the Town of Plainville's application for FY2025 Congressionally Directed Spending (Community Project Funding) for a \$3 million grant to construct a 15,000 SF Box Hangar for Robertson Airport. Hangar expansion is identified in the Airport Layout Plan, adopted by the Town's Aviation Commission and approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Robertson Airport is a well-equipped municipal airport that provides support for several regional businesses, over 600 jobs, and approximately \$40 million in wages. The airport covers 77 acres of land, and it has one runway and one helipad. Designated by the FAA as a reliever airport, a primary function of Robertson Airport is to provide relief and additional capacity to the region when a commercial airport, such as Bradley International Airport, requires support for general aviation activities, either on a long-term or temporary basis. The new Box Hangar will strengthen Robertson Airport's function, providing space for aviation industry businesses (such as avionics, propeller, mechanics, or paint shops), creating new jobs and increasing economic development benefits in the region. Additionally, this will diversify the airport's revenue stream and further enhance the long-term viability of operations.

Bradley International Airport (BDL) is the primary commercial airport within the Capitol Region, and CRCOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan notes that "passenger traffic is showing promising signs of recovery" following the pandemic and demand related to cargo and distribution facilities is expected to grow. CRCOG's Regional Plan of Conservation and Development also notes the critical link between air access and economic vitality. As a reliever airport, Robertson Airport plays a vital role in ensuring that air access is maintained in the event that Bradley International Airport requires support. As such, increasing Robertson Airport's capacity and capabilities is of great importance to the region.

If awarded, we have every confidence that this project will offer meaningful benefits for the region and its future generations. We fully support this project's consideration for Community Project Funding, and urge you to award Plainville's application for funding to construct a new Box Hangar at Robertson Airport.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart, Executive Director

CC: Christopher Wazorko, Plainville Town Council Chair

April 12, 2024

The Honorable Senator Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: FY2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Request – Town of Ellington Sewer Main Replacement

Dear Senator Murphy:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is committed to fostering regional cooperation and supporting projects that enhance the quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic vitality within our communities. It is in this spirit that we express our support for the Ellington Water Pollution Control Authority's request for funding for the Ellington Sewer Main Replacement project.

The existing sanitary sewer infrastructure in the area of Farmstead Lane has reached a critical state of disrepair. The lateral services are experiencing a high rate of failure which imposes significant financial and logistical burdens on residents and the community. Under current policy, the responsibility for maintenance and repair of the piping extending from individual houses to the sewer main rests with the residents. This policy, while standard, places an undue financial strain on the homeowners.

The proposed Ellington Sewer Main Replacement project will enhance the reliability and efficiency of the sewer system but also substantially reduce the financial and physical burden on the affected residents. By allowing residents the option to complete the connection to their houses, the project also provides flexibility and eases the overall impact of roadway failures associated with the sewer system.

CRCOG recognizes the importance of modern, reliable infrastructure in ensuring the well-being of our communities and the environment. The Ellington Sewer Main Replacement project aligns with our goals of promoting sustainable development and enhancing the quality of municipal services across the region. We encourage you to fully fund the request.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: Lori Spielman, Ellington First Selectman
CRCOG Policy Board and Transportation Committee

April 12, 2024

The Honorable Senator Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: FY2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Request – Town of Ellington WPCA I&I Reduction Project

Dear Senator Murphy:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is committed to fostering sustainable infrastructure development and environmental stewardship within our member municipalities. It is in this spirit of commitment that we extend our full support to the Ellington Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) for their critical Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Reduction Project.

The Ellington WPCA is seeking funding to reduce the infiltration of groundwater into the sanitary sewer system. The I&I Reduction Project uses comprehensive research, including information captured from a recent Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) study to identify issues and classify the severity of the necessary repairs. Proposed corrective measures, including CCIP pipe lining, point joint repair, and chemical grout injection, are targeted to significantly diminish unwanted water flows.

The requested funding is essential to improve the efficiency of wastewater treatment and the environmental well-being of our community. This, in turn, will alleviate the burden on treatment facilities, particularly during significant rain events, thereby reducing the potential for discharges into the waters of Connecticut. The Ellington WPCA's initiative is not only a testament to their proactive approach towards infrastructure maintenance and environmental protection but also aligns with CRCOG's mission to promote regional cooperation and support projects that benefit our communities and natural resources.

The success of the Ellington WPCA I&I Reduction Project will serve as a benchmark for similar initiatives across the region, demonstrating the tangible benefits of investing in our infrastructure and the environment. Thank you for considering our support for this vital project.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: Lori Spielman, Ellington First Selectman
CRCOG Policy Board and Transportation Committee

April 12, 2024

The Honorable Senator Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: FY2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Request – Town of Southington,
Plantsville Center Flooding Study**


Dear Senators Blumenthal & Murphy:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is committed to fostering sustainable and resilient infrastructure within our member municipalities. In keeping with this objective, we fully endorse the Town of Southington’s application seeking funding for its critical Plantsville Center Flooding Study. Plantsville Center is located within the Town of Southington and regularly experiences flooding associated with major storm events. This flooding significantly impacts roads and properties in the vicinity of Main Street, Maple Street, Mark Drive, and surrounding streets. On an annual basis, the flooding regularly reaches levels that block roadway access and results in damage to properties and businesses. CRCOG’s regional resilience study, completed in partnership with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CRCA), identifies Plantsville as a “Resilience Opportunity Area” (ROAR). The ROAR designation signifies vulnerability to flooding and extreme heat.

Funding for this study will identify the required improvements and investment to mitigate or eliminate the flooding, resulting in increased resiliency for the town and its transportation system.

We appreciate your consideration and support for this critical project in our region.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: Mayor Paul Chaplinsky, Jr., Town of Southington
Town Manager Mark Sciota, Town of Southington
CRCOG Policy Board and Transportation Committee

April 12, 2024

The Honorable Senator Richard Blumenthal
706 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Chris Murphy
136 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FY2025 Congressionally Directed Spending Request – the Capital Workforce Partners - SWIFT Healthcare Workforce Hub

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Murphy:

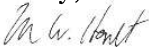
On behalf of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Capital Workforce Partners - SWIFT Healthcare Workforce Hub proposal submitted by Capital Workforce Partners for FY25 Congressionally Directed Spending.

CRCOG is a designated Economic Development District serving the Capitol Region of Connecticut, with responsibility for developing and implementing the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Requested funding will be used to directly advance our CEDS objectives, with explicit alignment to the objective of providing intense, continued attention to economic inclusion, especially regarding neighborhood-based development, and to fix the “broken rung” by increasing workforce participation rates and providing workplace advancement opportunities for women and underrepresented workers.

Congressionally Directed Spending would further such efforts and catalyze strong partnerships throughout the North Hartford community, facilitating the development of a strategy that will enable implementation, and, ultimately, address the current barriers to job and career pathways for working adults that have been marginalized and disconnected from the workforce. This project will advance our priorities to build equitable career pathways for underserved communities and to ensure all jobseekers have access to Good Jobs.

We believe this effort has transformational potential for the entire North Hartford area. We look forward to working hand-in-hand with Capitol Workforce Partners and others to take full advantage of this opportunity to help our workers, employers, and communities to flourish.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: Alex Johnson, Capitol Workforce Partners
CRCOG Policy Board and Transportation Committee

April 18, 2024

Mr. Garrett Eucalitto
Connecticut Department of Transportation
2800 Berlin Turnpike
PO Box 317546
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Subject: I-84 Safety and Operational Improvements in West Hartford

Dear Commissioner Eucalitto:

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) would like to commend the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) on the safety and congestion improvements recently completed under the I-84 Safety and Operational Improvements project in West Hartford. As such, CRCOG enthusiastically supports the CTDOT's submittal of the project for the America's Transportation Award in the Operations Excellence category. The project succeeded in addressing longstanding congestion and safety issues along a nearly two-mile long stretch of I-84 where high traffic volumes and closely spaced interchanges precipitated a high incidence of crashes, including, tragically, multiple fatalities. Consequently, solving the operational and safety issues along this stretch of I-84 has been a longstanding priority for CRCOG.

The project has received widespread support from CRCOG's member municipalities, as it has resulted in the construction of new operational lanes along I-84; increased shoulder widths; improved pavement, signing, and roadside safety systems; and new or upgraded incident management and information technology systems. Amazingly, this work was largely completed within the limits of the existing I-84 right-of-way without significant impacts to adjacent properties.

CRCOG is excited that CTDOT is being considered for recognition and strongly supports this project for consideration for an America's Transportation Award in Operations Excellence.

Sincerely,



Matthew W. Hart
Executive Director

CC: P. Sucato, CTDOT
CRCOG Policy Board
R. Aloise, CRCOG