

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Policy Board  
**From:** Matt Hart, Executive Director  
**CC:** CRCOG Staff  
**Meeting Date:** May 22, 2024  
**Subject:** Staff Reports

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Below please find our staff report for the Board's information. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- *CRCOG Annual Meeting* – As a reminder, we are hosting our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Wednesday, June 5, from 2:00-5:00PM. This year we will hold the event at BLDG 4 on 642 Hilliard St. in Manchester and Anthony Anthony, the state's Chief Marketing Officer, will be our guest speaker. We hope to see you at the event! [Get tickets: HERE](#)
- *Outreach visits* – Over the past month I have been able to join members of our team at a site visit with the staff in Southington, and attend board/council meetings in Manchester, Bloomfield, and Coventry. I also had the opportunity to attend the opening of New Britain's new public works facility and tour a couple of project sites in the city. I appreciate the opportunity to visit our communities to lend our support for projects and to discuss how we can best serve our members.
- *ACIR workgroup* – As you may know, I serve on the state's Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR). Ron Thomas, CCM's Deputy Director, is also a member of ACIR and he and I will be cochairing a workgroup charged with reviewing municipal workforce development needs. This topic has been a focus of CRCOG's for many of us over past few years, given the recruitment and retention challenges facing our member municipalities. I am optimistic that the workgroup will be able to identify some realistic strategies and policy proposals to benefit our cities and towns. I will periodically keep the Board updated on our progress.
- *June 26, 2024 Policy Board Meeting* –CRCOG's Policy Board will hold its next regular meeting at 12PM on June 26. This will be a virtual meeting featuring staff's review of the Greater Hartford Mobility Planning & Environmental Linkages Study. The Policy Board does not have regular meetings scheduled for July and August. I hope that many of you can attend the June meeting.

### **BIL/IIJA UPDATE**

- *Discretionary Grant Awards in CRCOG* – With support from CRCOG staff, our member towns have secured 20 discretionary awards totaling over \$56 million in Federal funding. View the [interactive online map of discretionary grant awards](#), prepared by CRCOG's GIS Staff, for more information.

- *New Funding Opportunities* - highlights from the [May Edition](#) of CRCOG's Funding Opportunities Newsletter are below; archived issues are available [here](#).
- U.S. DOT [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) – Applications for FY2024 are now being accepted. The program funds projects that will prevent deaths and serious injuries on roadways. Applications for Planning and Demonstration Grants will be accepted until **August 29, 2024**, if funding remains following the first two cohorts. CRCOG has provided letters of support for **five applications** so far: Towns of Canton, Manchester, Southington, West Hartford, and the University of Connecticut.
- U.S. DOT [Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program](#) – the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) last week and will accept online applications via Grants.gov by **June 17**.
- U.S. DOT [Bridge Investment Program](#) – Applications for this funding opportunity will be accepted on a **rolling basis**. Bridges/culverts must be listed on the National Bridge Inventory to be eligible for this funding source, which seeks to improve bridges rated in poor or fair condition.
- Tools for Rural communities:
  - [U.S. DOT Funding Opportunities for Rural Projects](#)
  - [National Center for Rural Road Safety Key Funding Opportunities](#)
- *Project Screening* - CRCOG is seeking to learn more about **priority projects in your municipality** so we may assist with connecting projects with available federal funding opportunities. This [memorandum](#), which was distributed to the Transportation Committee at its April 24 meeting, provides more information about this Project Screening effort. Contact [Elizabeth Sanderson](#).
- *Collaboration with Other Agencies* - CRCOG staff continue to collaborate with representatives Federal and State agencies and departments to review funding opportunities and/or coordinate efforts.
- *Additional Resources* - Visit CRCOG's [BIL/IIJA webpage](#) for information about federal programs and general information, including:
  - Registering with SAM.gov and obtaining a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) necessary for applying for Federal assistance (formerly DUNS) (see the General Information section)
  - CRCOG's [Memorandum](#) summarizing discretionary grant programs that may be most applicable in our region. The provided list is not exhaustive, and content is subject to change as more information is provided about each program.
  - U.S. DOT Application Checklist for FY2023 funding opportunities – a [pdf of the Application Checklist](#), and link to [U.S. DOT's webpage](#), is provided in the General

Information section of the BIL Webpage. An updated checklist is now available – visit the [updated webpage](#) or [view the new pdf](#).

- *Schedule of U.S. DOT Funding Opportunities* - View U.S. Department of Transportation's (U.S. DOT) Key Notice of Funding Opportunities schedule for 2024 [here](#).

## **ADMINISTRATION AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

- The CRPC is accepting **new members for the Energy Consortium**. If interested in participating, please reach out to [kbona@crcog.org](mailto:kbona@crcog.org).
- The CRPC will be issuing the Treated Road Salt bid on June 6, 2024. If you did not submit quantities, please contact [kbona@crcog.org](mailto:kbona@crcog.org) as soon as possible. **NOTE: This is a NON-PIGGYBACKING BID so quantities must be submitted to participate.**
- CRCOG staff members continue in a leadership role to enhance cyber security in DEMHS Region 3. CRCOG staff presented on May 9<sup>th</sup> at a cybersecurity related session at the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) conference.
- The **Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA) Executive Committee and Full Membership** met virtually on April 15, 2024. CCSWA approved proposed amendments to the current CCSWA Bylaws and Concurrent Ordinance to simplify provisions and encourage membership. CCSWA is also beginning work on a food waste/organics diversion project with assistance from CRCOG staff.
- DEEP provided notification that CRCOG has been awarded a Regional Waste Authority (RWA) grant to promote CCSWA priorities, programs, and services. CRCOG and DEEP are finalizing contract terms and anticipate a grant award in the coming months.
- The next meeting of the **Human Services Coordinating Council (HSCC)** is scheduled to meet virtually on June 18, 2024. The HSCC meets as a roundtable discussion; the discussion will focus on housing “un”affordability and insecurity in our region. All CRCOG municipal members are encouraged to appoint a human services municipal representative to the HSCC and to inform CRCOG of their selection. Please contact [rnichols@crcog.org](mailto:rnichols@crcog.org) if you have topics for future discussion.
- CRCOG GIS staff are continuing to develop our Regional Data Portal, which incorporates interactive mapping, data downloads, and project visualization for the public. Please email [GIS@crcog.org](mailto:GIS@crcog.org) for more information.

- CRCOG's GIS team continues to provide project mapping data through the CRCOG Regional Data Portal.
- CRCOG Staff and several municipal volunteers are continuing quality checking on the **CT Aerial Acquisition** Orthoimagery and lidar data was captured in April of 2023. CRCOG staff served on the committee and data delivery is expected by mid-2024.
- CRCOG's IT Shared Services Cooperative Purchasing programs, services, and enhancements welcomed new member municipalities to the expanding online permitting (ICC-CDS (Municipality)/OpenGov – ViewPoint/ViewPermit), fiber optics/broadband (Sertex), and VOIP (IP Genie) services. Municipalities can leverage time, efficiency, and pricing through a Side Letter to the CRCOG Master Agreement. These programs also provide essential services to underserved, EJ, and LIDAC communities. CRCOG is highlighting these shared cooperative service programs through newsletters, ongoing social media campaigns, and website updates. Please contact [rnichols@crcog.org](mailto:rnichols@crcog.org) for additional information on these shared services.
- The Finance Department has submitted the FY 2024-25 Budget for Policy Board approval.
- Staff continues to work on the HUD Gap Funding for Crumbling Foundations and the Crumbling Foundations Testing Program. Please contact Pauline Yoder for additional information on these programs.

## **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

- The **Transportation Committee** met on May 20. Staff updated the Committee on the following: Driving Safely Around Pedestrians and Bicyclists Video; BIL/IIJA Update; Commuter Parking Lot Utilization; and Transportation Alternatives Program Update. The Committee recommended the following items for Policy Board approval: TIP Amendments; Resolution: Route 20 Corridor Study Final Report; Resolution: FFY2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); Resolution: Conformity with the Clean Air Act (Ozone); Resolution: Annual Urban Planning Certification; and Resolution: Authorizing Transportation Committee to Act as Policy Board. Jason Hughes, a Safety Technical Associate from UConn's T2 Center, gave a presentation on the Safety Circuit Rider Program.
- Project applications for the **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Solicitation** were due by May 13, 2024. Eligible projects include: on-and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, multi-use trail projects, and safe routes to school projects. There is **\$9.5 million in federal funding** available for CRCOG projects (\$11.9 million total

project funding). CRCOG staff is reviewing applications, and the Transportation Committee will rank the proposals in June.

- CRCOG staff continue to coordinate with FHWA and the City of New Britain to proceed with the update of the **Regional Transportation Safety Plan**, which will be funded by CRCOG's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant award. Interviews for consultant assistance have been conducted, and negotiations are underway. A meeting of the **Vision Zero Task Force** was held on April 25, and the next meeting is scheduled for June 18.
- CRCOG staff is reviewing consultant responses to an RFQ for the **Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Priority Network Plan**. Consultant interviews will follow.
- An RFQ for the **Regional Warehousing Land Use and Traffic Study** is anticipated for release by the end of May.
- Staff continues to advance the following studies: Capitol Region Roundabout Screening; Farmington Area Connectivity Study; East Coast Greenway Gap Closure Study; and Route 44 Corridor Study, Canton.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

- CRCOG staff members are winding down work on the FY 20 **State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP)** and have begun work on the FY 21 grant. This program includes funds for training and exercise, contractual support, and maintenance of regional equipment. There are set asides for the Hartford Bomb Squad, Capitol Region HAZMAT team, and the Metropolitan Medical Response System.
- CRCOG will host a **FEMA 402 Class – National Incident Management System Overview for Senior Officials** (Executives, Elected and Appointed) specifically targeted for Policy Board members on May 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:30.
- The **Annual SWAT Training Day** was held at the New England Disaster Training Center at Camp Hartell on May 15<sup>th</sup>. All 8 of our regional SWAT teams were represented. There were four training tracts - entry, sniper, medical, and command. Each tract had multiple blocks of instruction or scenarios for the participants.
- CRCOG will host an **(ICS) 300** class for public health professionals at our offices next week and we are planning for additional 300 and 400 classes in the coming months.
- CRCOG kicked off planning for **Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) application process**. To advance this work we have established a Steering

Committee and three working groups, one for each of the 3 PPHR Goals, and have asked our 14 local health departments/districts to assign team members.

- The **Capitol Region Citizen Corps Council** held its bimonthly meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Teams continue to train and build upon their missions. CRCOG conducted its 3<sup>rd</sup> regional CERT class and is planning additional classes for the future.
- The **CTDEMHS Region 3 Cyber Security Task Force** holds bi-monthly meetings providing federal and state cyber briefings, information sharing opportunities, and a forum for IT managers in the region. The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2024.
- CRCOG continues to meet with the Town of Newington about conducting a potential regional **Full-scale exercise involving CTfastrak**.

## **REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- We have hired an **Economic Development Coordinator!** We look forward to welcoming Kim Bishop to CRCOG on May 28.
- CRCOG is preparing to welcome two new Sustainable CT Fellows for the summer, Adrian Huq and Brett Hurley, to work with our communities to help them achieve or renew SCT certifications.
- Staff is making the following progress on the update to the region's **2024 Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD)**:
  - The final draft language was sent to the graphic designer at the end of April.
  - We look forward to hosting a POCD workshop for interested Policy Board members in May.
- CRCOG continues as the lead agency for the Hartford MSA on the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program**.
  - Continue to coordinate with Sustainable CT and the other COGs on a future project with SCT Summer Fellows to identify pathways to implementation of the priority activities identified and/or outreach assistance for the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).
  - Developing an engagement plan with the consultant for the CCAP (due March 31, 2025) including adapting "Table Talk" for CCAP.
  - Drafted a Memorandum of Agreement between all implementation grant coalition members (all COGs and Green Bank) and sent it to legal counsel for review.

- CIRCA and staff continue to work on the **Regional Natural Hazard Mitigation and Climate Action Plan** update as well as **Resilient 2.0**, which are being completed concurrently.
  - CRCOG continues to meet with towns and CIRCA to identify projects to receive additional technical assistance for resilience planning at sites identified as Resilience Opportunity Areas (ROARs).
  - Received comments from FEMA on our submitted NHMP update and require revisions in two sections.
- Staff is developing an RFQ for the **Regional Housing Strategy** is being developed for release later this spring/early summer.
- CRCOG released an RFP for new regional micromobility services on April 29. We worked with the communities of Hartford, New Britain, and New Haven to prepare the RFP. Responses are due May 20.
- CRCOG is working with the CT Department of Housing to identify communities interested in receiving technical assistance from DOH to advance the implementation of their Affordable Housing Plans. If interested, communities should review the [announcement](#) or the [flyer](#).