



Capitol Region Council of Governments

TESTIMONY TO THE CT COMMISSION ON FISCAL
STABILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

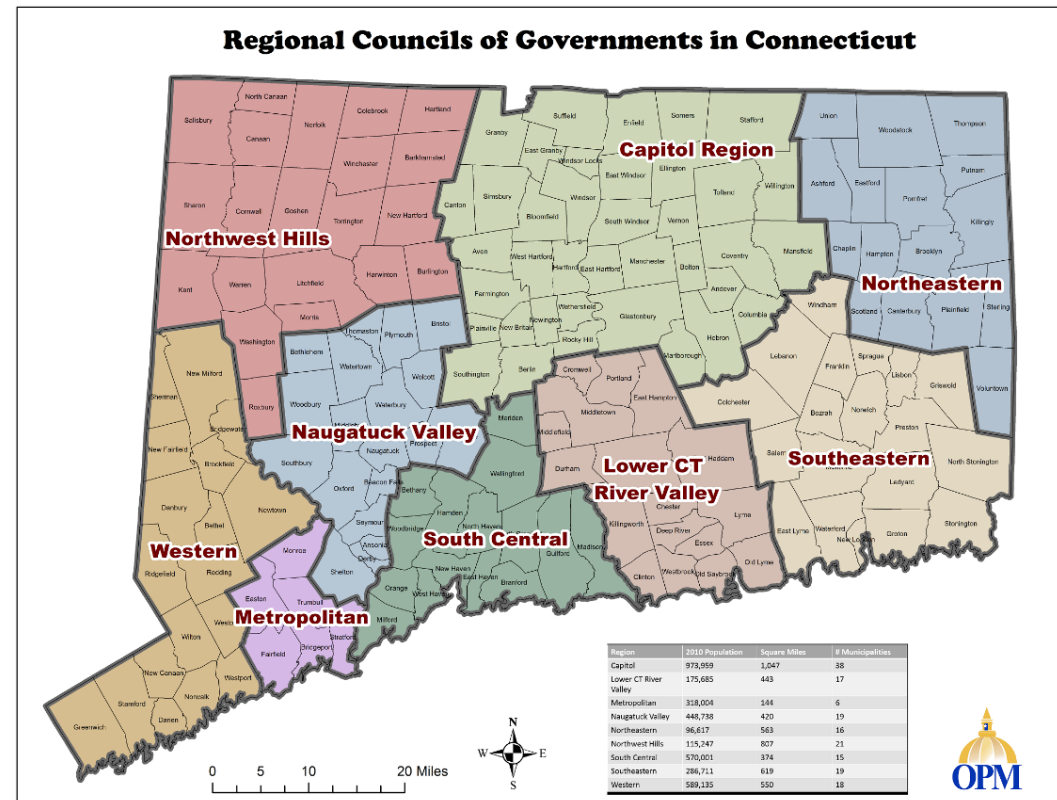
JANUARY 23, 2018

Marcia Leclerc

MAYOR OF EAST HARTFORD AND
CHAIR OF CRCOG POLICY BOARD

About CRCOG

- Serves 38 municipalities in Metro Hartford
- Largest of nine COGs
- Approximately 1 million people
- More than 50 years of cooperative efforts



CRCOG Services

Current Services

- Land-Use Planning
- Public Safety and Homeland Security
- Regional Economic Development
- Capitol Region Purchasing Council
- Regional IT Consortium
- Crumbling Foundations

Potential Expanded Services

- School and town back office consolidation
- Assessing property taxes at a regional level as is done in the Northeast COG
- Enterprise Resource Planning software to replace older finance systems

David Kilbon

MEMBER OF CRCOG POLICY BOARD



Efficiency, Scale, Accountability

Big cities and small towns have to provide comprehensive services

Empowered metropolitan regions can offer scale

Regional scale makes sense for strategic issues

- Better transit
- Better coordination of workforce development

COGs are not another layer of government

- Instruments of local governments
- Board comprised of elected officials
- Answerable to local constituents
- Track record of building relationships

Lack of Resources

COGs have no steady stream of revenue for shared services

No authority to levy taxes or issue bonds

Lack of stable funding undermines trust in shared services

Jon Colman

MEMBER OF CRCOG POLICY BOARD

COGs and Transportation

CRCOG is the Federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region

MPOs provide local leaders with a voice in the transportation planning and funding process

What Needs to be Done

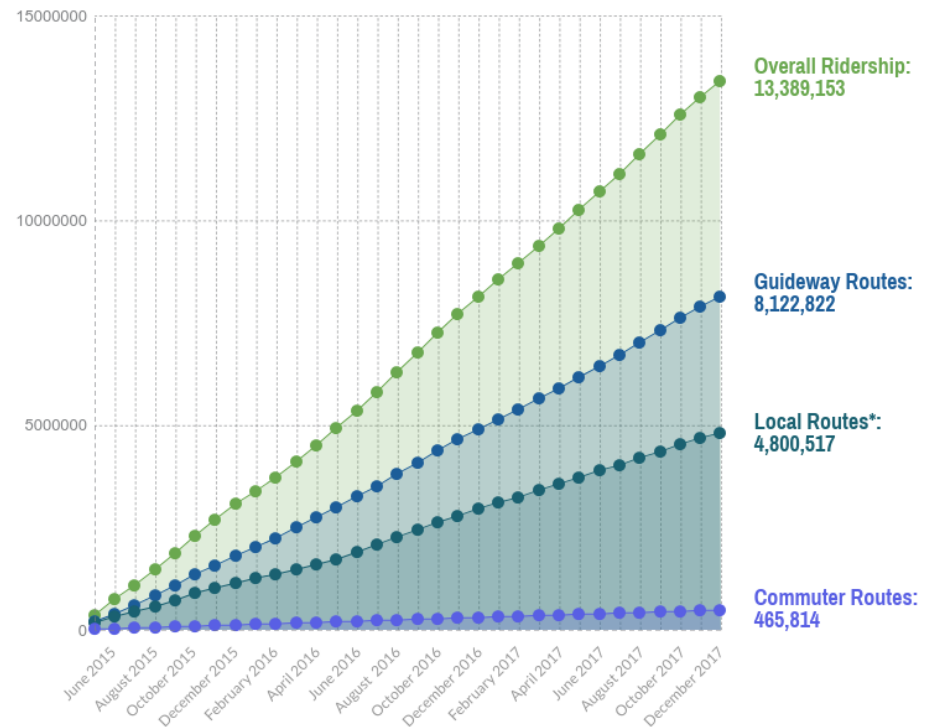
Big picture priorities are largely known from previous reports

Transportation investments are economic development investments

Costs and potential funding sources are also largely known

Track record of achievements and exciting prospects


Cumulative Monthly Ridership
May 2015 - December 2017



Transportation Vision

Big picture priorities for the Capitol Region:

- Finish the Hartford Rail Line
 - Convenient service to New Haven and New York City
- Pursue rail connection to Boston
 - Expand the reach of our economy
- Expand CTfastrak
 - Already increasing access to jobs
 - Increased development in the corridor

Stabilize Funding Sources

- Authorize and implement tolls
- Short-term gas tax fix

Lyle Wray


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CRCOG

Revenues and Economic Development

Review the state revenue portfolio

- Current revenue portfolio is highly volatile
- Need to periodically assess revenues with a goal of increasing stability

Learn from peers

- Amazon HQ2 competition is illuminating
 - Successful regions are investing in transit and workforce development
 - Need to take a hard look at regional situation CEDS plan in process
 - Need a structure for sustained implementation
- 
- A solid blue horizontal bar spanning the width of the slide at the bottom.



Thank you!

For further information please contact:

Lyle Wray, Executive Director, CROCOG

860 724 4232

lwray@crocog.org