

# **Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan 2025-30**

Kick-Off with Continuing Legislative  
Committee on State Planning and  
Development

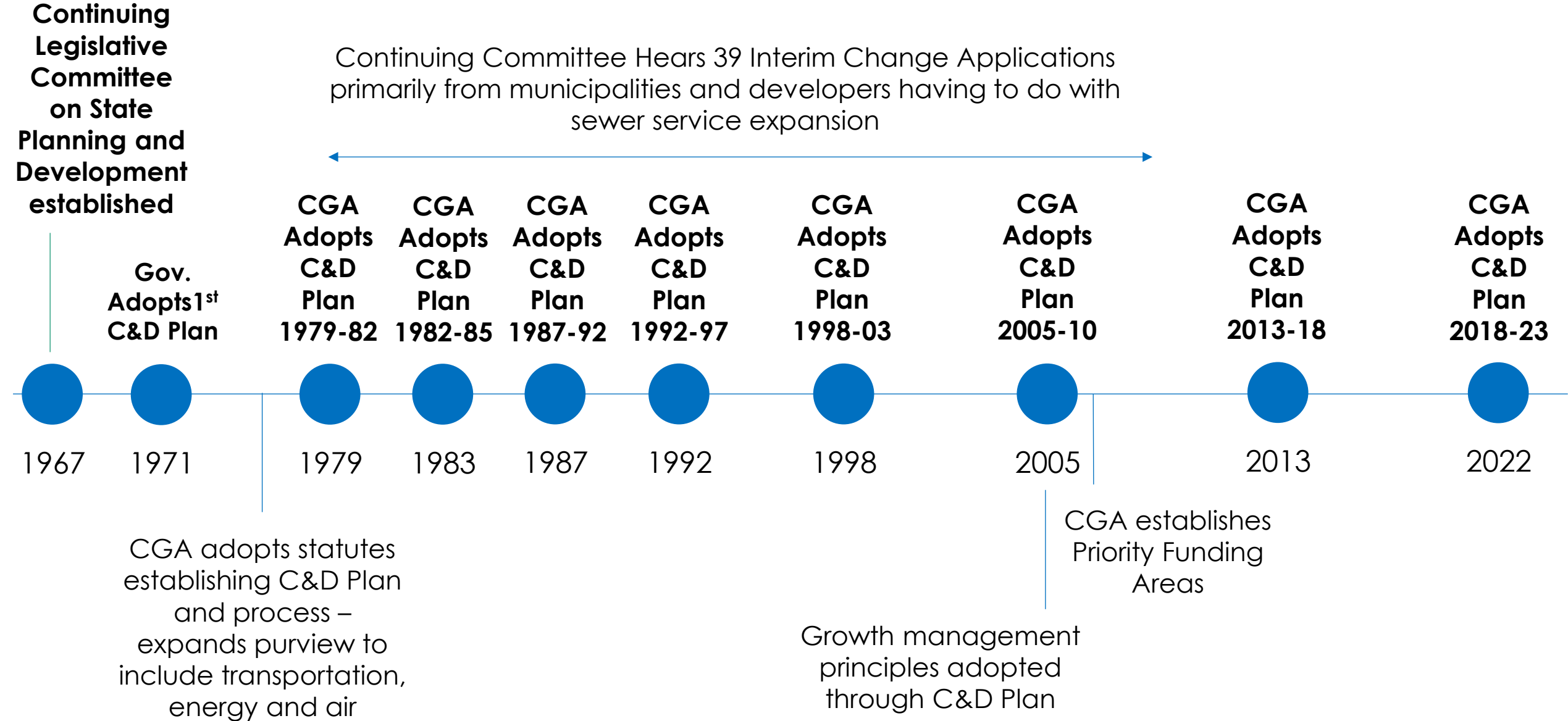


April 27, 2023

## **Purpose Today: Understand Committee Expectations for 2025-30 C&D Plan**

- Brief history of C&D Plan
- Current Plan and Priority Funding Area law
- CCDF Working Group recommendations/  
HB 6647
- Work to date
- Discussion topics
  - Growth management principles
  - Integrating state and regional plans
  - Plan consistency and Priority Funding Areas
  - Implementation monitoring

# C&D Plan History



# Current Law - C&D Plan

CGS 16a-24 through 16a-33a











- 5-year plan with mandatory milestones in revision cycle
- Consider numerous issues delineated in series of amendments, generally revolving around sustainable conservation and development
- Continuing Committee holds public hearing prior to sending to General Assembly
- State agencies are required to be consistent with the Plan when undertaking or authorizing/ funding any projects using more than \$200,000 in state or federal funds for:
  - The acquisition of real property
  - The development or improvement of real property
  - The acquisition of public transportation equipment or facilities

# Current Law - Priority Funding Areas

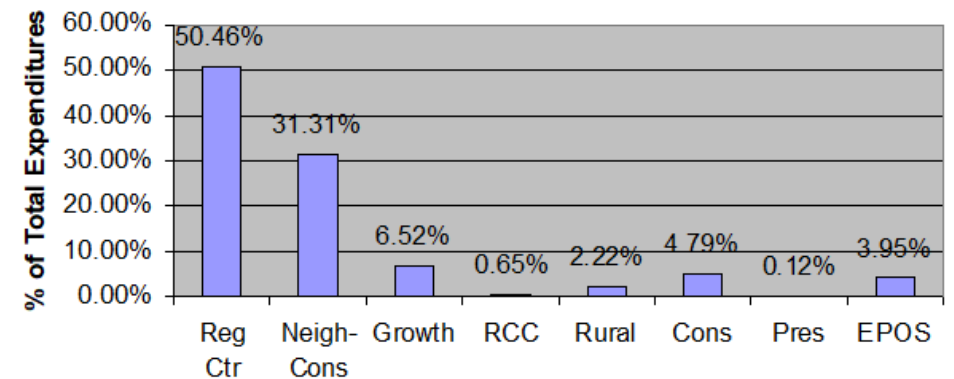
CGS 16a-35c through 16a-35h

- Before PFAs:
  - Frequent applications for map amendments (39 applications between 1979 and 2010)
  - Continuing Committee monitored state spending by Locational Guide Map category
- Law limits “growth-related” projects to PFAs, with exceptions for projects supported by local POCD
- Composite map of conservation and development factors, but development factors outweigh conservation factors

## Prior Locational Guide Map Categories

Development Policies	Conservation Policies
 Regional Center	 Existing Preserved Open Space
 Neighborhood Conservation	 Preservation Area
 Growth Area	 Conservation Area
 Rural Community Center	 Rural Lands
	 Aquifer Protection Area
	 Historic Districts

**2004 Bond Allocation by C&D Plan Map Category  
(\$528,157,533)**



# **CCDF Recommendations (PA 21-29)**

- Transform the C&D Plan into a visionary and objective-setting plan based on current data and analysis
- Maintain the C&D Plan as an Executive Branch plan with its development overseen by the Continuing Legislative Committee and OPM, and ultimate adoption by the CT General Assembly
- Meaningfully engage stakeholders in development of the Plan
- Ensure implementation of the C&D Plan
- Opportunity to enhance role of planning regions/ COGs in implementing statewide objectives through vertical coordination

# Proposed HB 6647

- Incorporate broad intention of CCDF recommendations
- Adjust process timeline:

## Current Law (PA 22-71)

- By Sept. 1, 2023 – OPM presents draft to Cont. Comm.
- After Dec. 1, 2023 – OPM revises draft as necessary
- By March 1, 2024 – OPM posts draft plan to website
- By Aug. 1, 2024 – OPM conducts public hearings in cooperation with COGs
- By Dec. 1, 2024 – OPM presents revised draft to Continuing Committee
- Not later than 45 days after convening of next regularly scheduled Session, Cont. Comm. holds public hearing

## HB 6647

- By Dec. 1, 2023 – OPM presents draft to Cont. Comm.
- After Feb. 1, 2024 – OPM revises draft as necessary
- By May 1, 2024 – OPM posts draft plan to website
- By Aug. 1, 2024 – OPM refers draft to COGs and solicits public input
- By Dec. 1, 2024 – OPM presents revised draft to Continuing Committee
- Not later than 45 days after convening of next regularly scheduled Session, Cont. Comm. holds public hearing

# Work to Date

- Discussions with state agencies – generally supportive of moving to a more data-driven and implementable C&D Plan
- State GIS Office poised to assist
- Plan to use technology to conduct a more transparent planning process and to better solicit input from COGs, municipalities and stakeholder groups
- Brainstorming framework and role of C&D Plan



# Discussion – Revise and/or Use Growth Management Principles Differently

1. Redevelop and Revitalize Regional Centers and Areas with Existing or Currently Planned Physical Infrastructure
2. Expand Housing Opportunities and Design Choices to Accommodate a Variety of Household Types and Needs
3. Concentrate Development Around Transportation Nodes and Along Major Transportation Corridors to Support the Viability of Transportation Options
4. Conserve and Restore the Natural Environment, Cultural and Historical Resources, and Traditional Rural Lands
5. Protect and Ensure the Integrity of Environmental Assets Critical to Public Health and Safety Promote
6. Integrate Planning Across all Levels of Government to Address Issues on a Statewide, Regional and Local Basis

# Discussion – Enhance State and Regional Planning Integration

- CCDF Working Group identified opportunity for COGs to play a role in implementing state policy objectives at a local level
- Currently, OPM reviews regional (COG) Plans of Conservation and Development (POCDs) for comment on consistency with state C&D Plan and Economic Strategic Plan
- COGs review local POCDs for comment on consistency with regional, state and other community plans from within the region – OPM does not review local POCDs

# **Discussion- Redefine/ Refine “Consistency”**

- Enable a system for indexing and mapping of policy objectives more practical than PFAs
- Opportunity to establish measurable objectives for accountability, including review processes for bond funded projects
- Enhance monitoring by Continuing Committee, OPM and others

## **Discussion- Role for Continuing Committee in Implementation**

- Recommendation for regular, informal feedback between agencies and Continuing Committee on implementation
- Annual or semi-annual meetings to receive updates from agencies on progress and/or challenges to implementation
- Provides opportunity for Continuing Committee to better understand and/or respond to potential conflicts and implementation hurdles to address in subsequent Plan

**Next Steps**  
**Note draft plan**  
**currently due Sept.**  
**1<sup>st</sup> unless**  
**extended**