Conservation and Development Policies: The Plan for Connecticut

2018-2023 Draft Revision

www.ct.gov/opm/cdplan

CONTINUING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON STATE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

JUNE 28, 2017

PRESENTED BY:
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
State C&D Plan Revision and Adoption Process

The State C&D Plan is developed by OPM, adopted by the General Assembly, and implemented by state agencies (CGS Sec. 16a-24 thru Sec. 16a-33)
2018-2023 C&D Plan Revision Timeline

- **September 15, 2016** — OPM submitted an initial draft of the State C&D Plan to the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development for a 90-day review. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(a))

- **May 12, 2017** — OPM published a revised draft C&D Plan based on feedback from the Continuing Committee and informal public workshops. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(b))

- **May 12, 2017 – October 16, 2017** — OPM conducts public hearings and solicits comments on the draft C&D Plan. (CGS Sec. 16a-28(c))

- **December 1, 2017** — OPM submits a recommended draft State C&D Plan to the Continuing Committee for consideration. (CGS Sec. 16a-29)

- **2018 Legislative Session** — Continuing Committee holds a public hearing on the draft State C&D Plan, prior to making its own recommendation to the General Assembly for approval or disapproval. (CGS Sec. 16a-30(a))
CGS Sec. 16a-31(a) requires agencies to be consistent with the C&D Plan whenever they undertake, or authorize grants for, any of the following actions using more than $200,000 in state or federal funds:

- The acquisition of real property
- The development or improvement of real property
- The acquisition of public transportation equipment or facilities
CGS Sec. 16a-31(b) requires agencies to request an advisory statement from OPM commenting on the extent to which any proposed action is in conformity to the C&D Plan.

CGS Sec. 16a-31(c) requires OPM to submit an advisory statement commenting on the extent to which Bond Commission agenda items are in conformity with the C&D Plan.

CGS Sec. 16a-31(e) requires agencies to submit a draft of any plan prepared under state or federal law to OPM for a review of consistency with the C&D Plan.
Growth Management Principles (GMP)

- GMP #1: Develop within Areas of Existing and Planned Infrastructure
- GMP #2: Expand Housing Opportunities for all Household Types
- GMP #3: Develop Around Transportation Nodes and Corridors
- GMP #4: Conserve and Restore the Natural Environment
- GMP #5: Protect Environmental Assets Critical to Health and Safety
- GMP #6: Integrate Planning Across all Levels of Government
Determining Consistency: Finding the Right Balance in Managing Conflicts

- **Importance of Municipal POCD**
  - Timely adoption ensures eligibility for discretionary state funding
  - Key role in Priority Funding Area exception process
  - Conduit for consistency among local land use commissions

- **Role of Regional Councils of Governments (COGs), with regard to Regional POCD and GIS data coordination**

- **Improving transparency between State C&D Plan and CEPA statutory requirements (i.e., why vs. how)**
Measuring Progress

- CGS Sec. 16a-27(e)
  - For each policy in the C&D Plan, (A) assign a priority; (B) estimate funding for implementation and identify potential funding sources; (C) identify each entity responsible for implementation; and (D) establish a schedule for implementation.
  - For each Growth Management Principle, determine three benchmarks to measure progress in implementation of the principles, one of which shall be a financial benchmark.

- CGS Sec. 16a-32(c)
  - OPM required to report annually to the Continuing Committee on the progress made in implementing the C&D Plan, and the extent to which state actions are in conformity with the plan.
Priority Funding Areas (PFAs) Delineated on the Locational Guide Map (LGM) (CGS Sec. 16a-35c — 16a-35h)
Continuing Committee Endorsement & Role of LGM (May 2013)

- State agencies shall not use the LGM by itself to determine consistency with the text of the C&D Plan.
  - LGM shall only be used to determine whether a growth-related project is located within a priority funding area.
- Priority funding area requirements of CGS Sec. 16a-35d allow for a PFA exception process that is weighted toward consistency with the municipal POCD.
  - Ensures local support for projects located outside of PFAs.
  - Reduces the need for interim map changes.
  - Encourages municipalities to develop robust POCDs.
Priority Funding Area Criteria:

- Designation as an Urban Area or Urban Cluster in 2010 Census
- Boundaries that intersect a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass-transit stations (busway or passenger rail)
- Existing or planned sewer service
- Existing or planned water service
- Local bus routes when service is provided 7 days a week
Conservation Criteria:

- Core forest areas greater than 250 acres
- Drinking water supply watersheds
- Aquifer protection areas
- Wetland soils greater than 25 acres
- Undeveloped prime, statewide important, and locally important agricultural soils greater than 25 acres
- Hurricane inundation zones
- 100-year flood zones
- Critical wildlife habitats
- Locally important conservation areas (data submitted by municipalities)
PFA Delineation Options for 2018-2023

- Geographic unit (i.e., Census Block), PFA Criteria, and Conservation Criteria remain unchanged

- Public input being sought on whether to change methodology for delineating the boundaries of PFAs from Census Blocks containing one to any two or more of the following criteria:
  - Designation as an Urban Area or Urban Cluster in 2010 Census
  - Boundaries that intersect a ½ mile buffer surrounding existing or planned mass-transit stations (busway or passenger rail)
  - Existing or planned sewer service
  - Existing or planned water service
  - Local bus routes when service is provided 7 days a week
Priority Funding Areas

Larger Census Blocks in less populated areas

Smaller Census Blocks in highly populated areas
Water Service Area passes through one corner of Census Block:

Results in entire Census Block being designated as a Priority Funding Area (PFA):

Critical habitat area (conservation factor)

Balanced PFA designation only where conservation factors exist
## Application of the LGM for 2018-2023

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Funding Areas</th>
<th>Balanced Priority Funding Areas</th>
<th>Village Priority Funding Areas</th>
<th>Conservation Areas</th>
<th>Undesignated Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception</td>
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<td>Growth-related projects may proceed without an exception, if the sponsoring agency documents how it will help sustain village character</td>
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* Exception Process Requires a State Growth-Related Project to be Consistent with the Municipality’s POCD
Check OPM’s website for information and updates:

www.ct.gov/opm/cdplan

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