

## Commission on Connecticut's Development and Future

Regular Commission Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2023

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Room 1E of the Legislative Office Building or Virtual Via Zoom

In attendance: Rep. Jason Rojas (Chair), Martin Heft (Chair), Rep. Eleni Kavros DeGraw, Rebecca Augur, Anika Singh Lemar, Steven Kleppin, Kiley Gosselin, Benjamin Wenograd, Gregory Ugalde, Francis Pickering, Elizabeth Gara, Rep. Cristin McCarthy Vahey, Rep. Roland Lemar, Timothy Hollister, David Barkin, Randi Pincus, David Elder, Sen. MD Rahman, Sen. Ryan Fazio, Rep. Geoff Luxenberg, Rep. Tony Scott, Sen. Christine Cohen, Sen. Tony Hwang, Rep. Kathy Kennedy, Jennifer Perry

- I. Call to Order  
*At 3:05pm Martin Heft called the meeting to order.*
- II. Moment of silence observed for Rep. Q Williams.
- III. Attendance  
*Quorum met.*
- IV. Welcome new and returning members.
- V. Approval of December 12, 2022, minutes  
*Motion to approve minutes by Rep. Lemar. Second by Rep. Rojas. Voice vote. Minutes approved.*
- VI. Working Group Presentations
  - a. State and Municipal Statutory Plan Process recommendations presented by Rebecca Augur - Main recommendations from the subgroup:
    - i. Transform the C&D plan into a visionary and objective-setting plan based on current data and analysis
      1. Establish a long-term vision for policy and investment beyond the five-year span of the plan
      2. Use data analysis to identify and prioritize objectives that incrementally advance toward the long-term vision
      3. Develop specific, measurable objectives/targets for particular elements and/or geographies for the five-year term of the plan
      4. Direct state spending and other actions to support objectives, while encouraging creativity and flexibility
      5. Make policy recommendations to guide decisions at the regional level and seek to obtain consistency through policy and funding
    - ii. 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
      1. OPM should continue to draft the plan

2. The General Assembly should maintain authority to adopt the plan to help foster commitment to its objectives and spending
- iii. Meaningfully engage stakeholders in development of the plan
  1. OPM should engage Continuing Committee, Legislative and Gubernatorial leadership early in the process to establish long-term vision
  2. Collaborate with all state agencies to develop coordinated, prioritized strategies for state action
  3. Use technology to better engage COGs, municipal leaders, advocacy groups and other stakeholders throughout the planning process
- iv. Ensure implementation of the C&D Plan
  1. State agencies' operations, programs and initiatives; administration of discretionary funding; and State Bond Commission actions should be consistent with the plan
  2. Regional POCDs should be formally required to be consistent with the C&D plan
  3. COGs should review local plans for consistency with C&D plan and regional ROCDs
  4. Municipalities and COGs should be able to access state funding only for projects that are consistent with the C&D Plan
  5. Create a regular feedback loop between state agencies and the Continuing Committee on implementation feedback
- v. Related recommendations
  1. Fiscally supporting an enhanced role for COGs in monitoring and implementing statewide planning objectives through non-transportation planning funding
- vi. Option to adopt regional POCD as municipal POCD

## VII. Questions

- a. Francis Pickering—concerned about resources at the state level. Who will make the determination about consistency with the plan? What to do when/if discrepancies occur between plan and other organizations?
  - i. Martin Heft answers: agencies would have to figure this out themselves, but the plan lays out the what and the agencies need to figure out the how/how to make business compliant with C&D plan.
- b. Tim Hollister— is only funding projects that are aligned with the plan a change in practice?
  - i. Answer: change may not be apparent in statutory language but a change in process. State funding really devoted to project funding.
- c. Elizabeth Gara— concerned about funding projects that only align with the plan; must be careful of unintended consequences.
- d. Rep. Rojas—absent of real enforcement mechanism, we're not going to get compliance
- e. Anika Lemar—look to other states that do a better job of allocation. Offered her own time to look at the raw materials WG looked at.

## VIII. Business

- a. Martin Heft thanked Rebecca Augur for update and full group as well for additional presentations.

- b. 2023 Legislative proposals – VOTE
  - i. State and Municipal Statutory Plan Process:
    - 1. Amend section 16a-27 to streamline intent of plan
    - 2. Amend 16a-28 to adjust some planning process milestones; Currently has Sept. 1, 2023, of first draft of plan due; the idea was to add more time for OPM to engage stakeholders.
    - 3. Require action by the CGA on the C&D plan that is formally recommended to them by the continuing committee. If no action is taken, the plan is assumed to be approved.
  - ii. Recommendations will be sent to P&D committee to be included in a bill.
    - 1. Rep. Kavros Degraw moves to put the recommendations in. Second from Rep. Scott.
    - 2. Roll call vote: Rep Rojas, Martin Heft, Anika Lemar, Steven Kleppin, Kylie Gosselin, Ben Wenograd, Greg Ugalde, Francis Pickering, Elizabeth Gara, Sen. MD Rahman, Rep. Kavros DeGraw, Rep. Luxenberg, Rep. Scott, Sen. Cohen, Rep. Lemar. Sen. Hwang, Rep. Kennedy, Timothy Hollister, David Barkin, Jennifer Perry, David Elder, Sen. Fazio.
  - iii. Members approved the above recommendations be made into a P&D bill
- c. Review of Commission Timeline:
  - i. Review all recommendations by July 1, 2023
  - ii. Working group presentations
    - 1. January: State and Municipal Statutory Plan Process
    - 2. February: Model Code and Design Development
    - 3. March: Municipal Affordable Housing Plans
    - 4. April: Sate Consolidate Housing Plan
    - 5. May: Sewerage
  - iii. Draft Report – September 1, 2023
  - iv. Final Report – January 1, 2024
- d. Next Commission Meeting – February 6, 2023

IX. Public Comment  
*No public comment.*

X. Adjournment  
*Chairs thanked everyone. Motion to adjourn. Second by everyone. Meeting adjourned at 4:08pm.*