

February 11, 2025

The Honorable Senator MD Rahman
The Honorable Representative Eleni Kavros DeGraw
Members of the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development

Re: 2026 Report on State Conservation and Development Policies Plan Implementation

Dear Senators and Representatives:

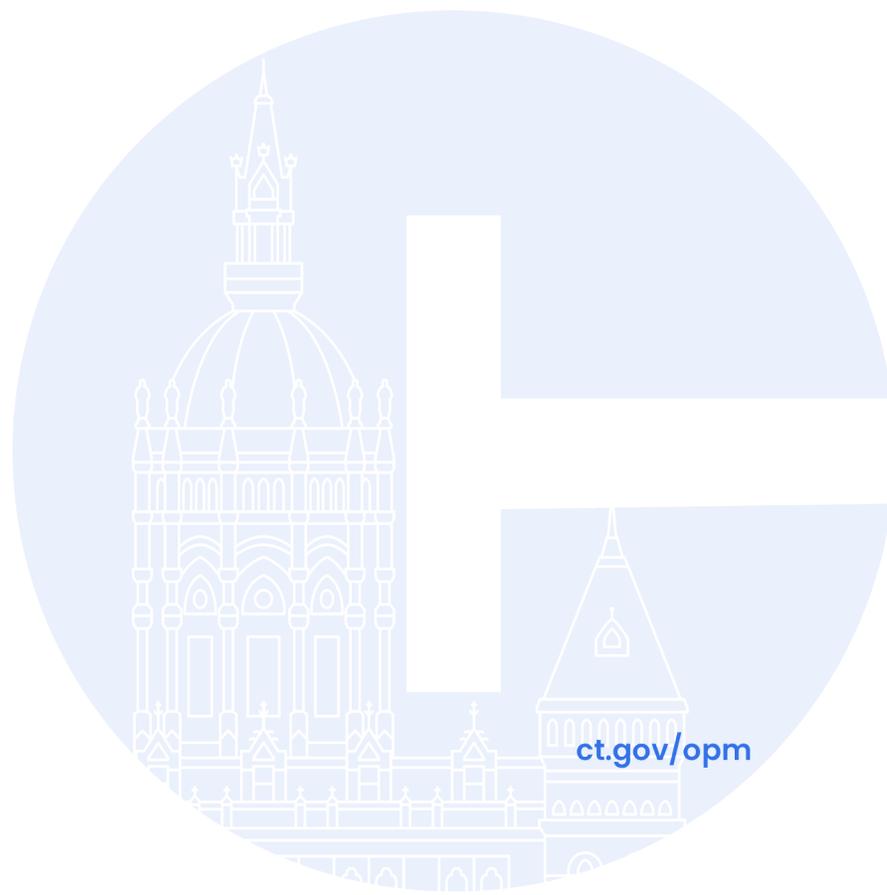
Pursuant to Section 16a-32(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Office of Policy and Management hereby submits its report on the implementation of the *Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan, 2025-2030* (State C&D Plan).

Please contact Rebecca Augur at 860.418.6343 or Rebecca.Augur@ct.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Martin L. Heft
Undersecretary



2026 Report on the Implementation of the Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan, 2025–2030

Prepared by the Office of Policy and Management, Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division, Office of Responsible Growth, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 16a-32(c)

[The Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan, 2025-2030](#) (State C&D Plan) establishes overarching state policies on the conservation and development of land and water resources to guide the actions of state agencies. Further background on laws pertaining to the development, adoption and implementation of the State C&D Plan is available in the last section of this report.

The 2025–2030 State C&D Plan was adopted by [House Joint Resolution No. 67](#) on March 5, 2025.

Implementation

The 2025–2030 State C&D Plan recommended several changes to the Plan’s implementation process, including statutory amendments. The House passed [HB 7000](#) in 2025 to enact those recommendations; however, the Senate did not call the bill. In this first year of implementation, the Office of Responsible Growth within the Office of Policy and Management (OPM-ORG) has proceeded to implement the State C&D Plan in accordance with the recommendations of the Plan. In addition, OPM-ORG has focused on collaboratively developing new processes and procedures with other state agencies to support implementation. Therefore, this annual report differs from previous, and anticipated future reports, on implementation progress.

Following are updates relative to the Plan’s implementation recommendations.

1. *Amend the statutes to increase the value threshold of projects that need to be consistent with the C&D Plan and repeal Priority Funding Areas, while also requiring that agencies document and transmit to OPM-ORG their determinations of consistency.*

As mentioned above, [HB 7000](#) from the 2025 regular session made the recommended statutory changes, and was passed by the House, but not taken up by the Senate. OPM-ORG will continue to work with the Planning and Development Committee to advance similar legislation.

In addition, OPM-ORG has worked closely with other state agencies to establish a shared understanding of what is meant by “consistency,” and to develop tools and resources for evaluating plans and activities for consistency.

2. *Establish an ad hoc C&D Plan Advisory Committee of state agency staff to encourage agency collaboration in investment decision-making; provide a forum for discussing consistency of*

agency plans and actions with the State C&D Plan; and, develop new implementation processes and tools.

The ad hoc C&D Plan Advisory Committee has met three times and has discussed efficient and value-added approaches to reviewing agency plans and programs against the State C&D Plan. The Committee has also discussed tools for exchanging ideas and fostering agency collaboration around state investments in conservation and development activities.

OPM-ORG expects to report on plans and programs reviewed for consistency and the role of the Committee in ensuring comprehensive reviews in future iterations of this annual report.

- 3. Engage the Continuing Committee on State Planning and Development in monitoring implementation of the C&D Plan.*

OPM-ORG met with the Continuing Committee in November 2025 and expects to meet again in 2026 to provide updates on implementation and emerging issues.

- 4. Engage stakeholders on a regular basis around C&D Plan implementation issues.*

OPM-ORG has met with planning staff from councils of government (COGs) on a quarterly basis to discuss potential alternatives for better aligning state, regional and local planning. Discussions thus far have focused on current processes, needs, similarities and differences among COGs.

In addition, OPM-ORG conducted one open-office session for any stakeholders and will continue to do so on a semi-annual basis. No issues or concerns were raised; rather, attendees were interested in updates on State C&D Plan implementation.

Legislative Process and Background

As the support agency to the Continuing Committee on State Planning and Development, OPM prepares revisions to the State C&D Plan on a recurring five-year cycle, in accordance with Sections 16a-27 through 16a-29 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS). OPM submits a draft of each five-year revision to the Continuing Committee to facilitate the General Assembly's consideration of adoption, in accordance with CGS Section 16a-30.

Once adopted by the General Assembly, the State C&D Plan is then implemented by state agencies whenever they undertake certain actions. CGS Section 16a-31 outlines the types of actions for which state agencies must be in conformity with the policies of the State C&D Plan, and CGS Section 16a-35d

outlines the Priority Funding Area implementation requirements associated with Plan's Locational Guide Map. The state's quasi-public agencies are not subject to these requirements.

CGS Section 16a-32(c) states that "The secretary shall report annually on or before February fifteenth to the committee progress on the implementation of the plan and the extent to which state actions are in conformity with the plan."

State statutes currently provide the following requirements for State C&D Plan implementation:

- CGS Section 16a-31(a) – Requires that state agency-sponsored activities and grants for the acquisition of real property, the development or improvement of real property, or the acquisition of public transportation equipment or facilities be consistent with the State C&D Plan whenever they involve the use of state or federal funds in excess of \$200,000.
- CGS Section 16a-31(b) – Requires that state agencies request and OPM provide an advisory statement commenting on the extent to which any of the actions specified in CGS Section 16a-31(a) conform to the plan.
- CGS Section 16a-31(c) – Requires that OPM submit an advisory statement to the State Bond Commission commenting on the extent to which certain bond agenda items are in conformity with the plan.
- CGS Section 16a-31(d) – Requires that the University of Connecticut request and OPM provide an advisory statement commenting on the extent to which the projects included in the third phase of UConn 2000 conform to the plan, and that the OPM secretary submit such advisory statement to the State Bond Commission prior to the approval of the master resolution or indenture for securities for the third phase of UConn 2000.
- CGS Section 16a-31(e) – Requires that state agencies submit a draft of any plan they prepare under state or federal law to OPM for review, and that OPM provide the preparer an advisory report commenting on the extent to which the proposed plan conforms to the State C&D Plan.
- CGS Section 16a-35d – Requires that no state agency provide funding for a "growth-related project" unless such project is located within the boundaries of a Priority Funding Area. However, a sponsoring agency may seek OPM's approval for an exception through the process authorized under this section. Agencies must report annually on any grants that were provided through the exception process and the reasons therefor.