Capitol Region Council of Governments

Andover - Avon - Bloomfield - Bolton - Canton
East Granby - East Hartford - East Windsor
Ellington - Enfield - Farmington - Glastonbury
Grandy - Hebron
Manchester - Marlborough
Newington - Rocky Hill - S-indent - Sores
SOUTH-WINDE - SOUTH-WINDE - SUFFIELD - Tolland
Vernon - West Hartford - Windsor
Windsor - Windsor Locks
Annual Report 2012
CRCOG’S Year at a Glance - 2001-2002

**Regional Leadership** - CRCOG continues to provide leadership and staff support to the Capitol Region Partnership, an alliance of ten regional organizations in Greater Hartford. Last January, the MetroHartford Regional Economic Alliance and the Capitol Region Partnership coordinated the Regional Stewardship Forum, which was successful in establishing a short list of regional priorities for organizations to work together on.

CRCOG also works with the Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership, the Connecticut Regional Institute for the 21st Century, Riverfront Recapture and others to strengthen our region’s economic vitality and quality of life.

**Rapid Transit Projects** - Significant progress is being made on CRCOG’s regional transit strategy, which is comprised of three rapid transit busways, the downtown circulator, and New Haven-Hartford-Springfield commuter rail service.

$12 million in federal funds were earmarked for the Hartford - New Britain busway, enabling the project to advance from the planning to design phase. This will be a bus only transitway providing service between Hartford and New Britain with twelve convenient stops, a rapid transit service schedule, and buildings and other amenities at most stations.

**Civic Participation Project** - In June, CRCOG completed its Civic Participation Project in which five member towns were part of a pilot project aimed at building strong communities by encouraging more civic involvement. A resource guide describing the project’s framework is now available for other communities seeking to strengthen civic participation.

**Bradley Area Transportation** - A study with recommendations for accommodating future growth in and around the airport was completed and approved by the CRCOG Policy Board, the Bradley Airport Board of Directors, and the legislative bodies of all four participating towns. It includes an analysis of current and future traffic conditions and land use in the airport area and identifies transportation improvements that are needed. Bradley Airport is a major economic driver for the region.

**Livable Communities Project** - CRCOG recently completed its two-year livable communities project called *Picture It Better Together: Taking Transportation Goals from Policy to Reality*. A main goal of this project was to listen to the people of the region through intensive outreach and then provide information on development, conservation and preservation practices to achieve what people want. A livable communities toolkit, which includes a video, survey reports and a best practices manual, can be found online at www.crcog.org.

**Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee** - Last fall the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) was created. CREPC acts as a local and regional emergency planning committee. The committee is producing a Regional Emergency Disaster (RED) plan which coordinates the response of emergency workers from throughout the region should a major disaster occur. This is a great example of the importance of regional cooperation.

**Benchmarking Projects** - CRCOG completed its first in a series of public works benchmarking projects. Benchmarking enables participating towns to compare costs and performance in key municipal service areas.
Trends in Our Region

Part of CRCOG’s job is to keep an eye on the big picture and to monitor long term trends that affect the Capitol Region. The release of information from the 2000 Census provides an important opportunity to do this. In analyzing the census information, our goal is to give municipal leaders and business and civic leaders in the region the information and tools they need to proactively shape their future and the future of MetroHartford for the benefit of all the people in the region.

The 2000 Census has revealed some interesting trends which we should all keep our eye on. For example, our region and our state are growing slowly compared to the rest of the nation. And, while the white population in our region declined by nearly 39,000 during that time, the population of people of color or non-whites increased by more than 50,000. Our region is becoming more diverse.

Another significant trend is the aging of our population. Median age went up in all but one town in our region during the 1990’s. Hartford has the youngest median age in the region at 29.7 years old, while Wethersfield has the oldest at 44.1 years old. Overall, the age group that includes people 20-34 years old showed the largest decline.

Journey to Work data documents continued dispersal of jobs throughout the region and as a result a loss of more than 20,000 jobs in Hartford. It also highlights the growing economic interdependence of our towns. Today, three out of four workers in our region commute to other towns for their jobs. For the first time in history more Hartford residents work in jobs outside the City than within City limits.

It is important for us to understand why these and other trends are occurring and how local and regional policies as well as decisions made by businesses and civic organizations should be adapted to address these changes. The 2000 Census reveals a great deal of information that we all need to understand and consider as we make decisions in the coming years that will impact our towns and our region.

Our Council of Governments will continue to work on this and other initiatives intended to help leaders in the region to take the long view on the trends which affect us, past and future. We will work with the Capitol Region Partnership and others to help government, business and civic leaders to study these trends and to work proactively to shape our future positively with these trends in mind.

In analyzing the census information, our goal is to give municipal leaders and business and civic leaders in the region the information and tools they need to proactively shape the future of MetroHartford for the benefit of all the people in the region.
Rapid Transit Update

The work being done on several rapid transit projects in the region demonstrates real progress in implementing the Regional Transit Strategy - CRCOG’s vision for transit in the region. This strategy recommends the construction of several transitways and commuter rail service linking New Haven and Springfield including a new connection to Bradley International Airport.

New Britain - Hartford BRT Enters Design Phase

With $12 million in federal transportation funds available to the project, the Connecticut Department of Transportation initiated the design phase for the New Britain - Hartford Bus Rapid Transitway (BRT).

The New Britain - Hartford BRT will require construction of 9.4 miles of exclusive bus transitway connecting New Britain, Newington, West Hartford and Hartford with 12 stations varying in size and description and a multi-use trail through much of the corridor. In addition to meeting the needs of residents living and working in the corridor, this project will serve as a prototype for a new form of rapid transit in Connecticut and across the country.

As part of the design phase, CRCOG staff has worked closely with the DOT and Real Art Ways to develop a design competition for BRT stations. This competition has already generated significant interest in the architectural community nationwide. CRCOG’s role in the design competition is to ensure that local community input is a key part of the process.

CRCOG Works with Communities to Promote Transit Oriented Development

CRCOG is committed to insuring success for the region’s first investment in rapid transit. Therefore, we have taken a lead role in promoting transit oriented development or TOD. TOD refers to development that enhances a transit station area by creating opportunities for living, working, and recreating within walking distance of the station. Not only does this development have the potential to increase transit use, it can create compact, livable spaces - the kinds of spaces citizens told us they want during our Livable Communities project, Picture It Better Together (as demonstrated on graph at right).

CRCOG will work with communities located along the New Britain - Hartford BRT to prepare station area plans that will enable citizen input into land use, economic development, access, and design considerations.

Griffin Corridor BRT and Manchester BRT Update

These two busways are integral parts of the Regional Transit Strategy and feasibility studies for both busway proposals are underway. CRCOG is managing the Griffin Corridor Study. A consultant has been hired and information meetings have been held to begin soliciting public input on the direction of the study. ConnDOT is managing the Manchester Study and CRCOG is participating on the Local Advisory Committee. A public information meeting has been held and two alternative corridor alignments (use of the existing HOV lanes and use of the existing rail right-of-way) are being analyzed.

New Haven - Springfield Rail Update

ConnDOT has initiated the feasibility study of another project proposed in CRCOG’s Regional Transit Strategy: commuter rail service linking New Haven, Hartford and Springfield with a connection to Bradley International Airport. This has generated real excitement in the region about the potential transportation and economic benefits of commuter rail in this corridor.

“We need more places where people can walk from their homes to recreation, shops, and offices instead of having to drive.”

-A quote from a CRCOG survey participant-
Bradley Area Transportation Planning for Future Growth

The Bradley Area Transportation Study was completed and endorsed by the CRCOG Policy Board as well as the newly formed Bradley Airport Board of Directors and the legislative bodies of all four participating towns. These recommendations are designed to promote continued economic growth for the next twenty-five years in and around Bradley, which has clearly become a major economic driver for the region.

Recommendations include improved transit service to the airport, improvements to Route 75 from Route 20 to the airport, and two proposals to improve access to the air cargo facilities at the airport. The first helps facilities on the west side of the airport by extending Bradley Park Road to Russell Road. The second provides a new two-lane road from the north end of the airport to the Route 190 bridge. The latter will divert truck traffic away from Suffield Center.

CRCOG SCORES HIGH IN MPO REVIEW

CRCOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region. Every three years, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration review CRCOG’s transportation planning program for compliance with federal regulations. We successfully passed this review and in fact, the final federal report cited CRCOG’s multi-modal transportation planning work as a model for the nation.

Environmental Justice / Citizen Participation

CRCOG was one of four agencies nationwide to be awarded a competitive Environmental Justice Challenge Grant by the Federal Transit Administration. In June 2002, we completed the study and provided documentation of our efforts to involve more members of low-income and minority groups in the transportation decision-making process. The final report, now being written, will be distributed nationally to assist other agencies in their efforts to engage disadvantaged groups in transportation planning programs around the nation. Through this process we have developed an Environmental Justice Advisory Board. Two of its members are being nominated to serve on CRCOG’s Transportation Committee.

State Transportation Strategy Board and CRCOG

In an effort to broaden input in transportation decision-making, the State created the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) and five regional Transportation Investment Areas (TIAs). Each TIA must develop a transportation plan for its respective corridor. CRCOG has participated significantly in the development of the plans for the I-91 and I-84 corridors.

CRCOG Chairman Stephen Cassano was appointed to the Transportation Strategy Board, and Executive Director Richard Porth and Transportation Director Tom Maziarz participated in the I-91 and I-84 deliberations as well as the working groups formed by the TSB. Preliminary regional plans were submitted to the TSB last fall and a report was made to the legislature early this year. Work is now underway on the full report to be delivered to the legislature early in 2003.

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Livable Communities: Tools for Communities and Citizens

We have recently completed several products from a two-year livable communities project called Picture It Better Together: Taking Transportation Goals From Policy To Reality. The Federal Highway Administration funded the project through its Transportation and Community and System Preservation (TCSP) program.

Our regional goal is to promote good growth, conservation, and preservation practices and contribute to the discussion of social equity as it relates to local, regional, and state development policies.

The project provided us with the opportunity to talk directly with hundreds of citizens. We found that “Where do we grow from here?” is a topic on many people’s minds. One of the surprises was the strength of the public’s desire for more choices—whether in development patterns in general or specific areas such as our transportation system. The work products (described below) help clarify the issues we face as individual communities and a region and begin to define actions we can take to provide more choices to our citizens. The work products are available on our website www.crcog.org/publications or by contacting CRCOG.

Video
Together We Can Grow Better. This 12-minute video introduces topics associated with growth and livable communities. It has aired on public access cable throughout the region. Every municipality in the Capitol Region has the video in its library and town hall.

Survey Reports
Regional Development Issues Survey. This brief report presents the results of the survey on growth/conservation issues and policies conducted by the UConn Center For Survey Research and Analysis. The survey was a statistically valid random sample of residents from Suffield, West Hartford, and Hartford. It provides excellent insight into the views of the citizens of these three communities. And because these communities were chosen as examples of rural, suburban, and urban municipalities, the responses also provide an indication of citizens’ views from throughout the region.

Smart Growth Planning and Zoning Recommendations from the Visual Preference Survey. A Visual Preference Survey is a planning tool that enables us to ask questions about our communities by using pictures. This report provides recommendations on development policies as well as planning and zoning standards to implement these policies.

Best Practices Manual
Livable Communities Toolkit: A Best Practices Manual For Metropolitan Regions. This toolkit presents practical approaches to regional and local development. The toolkit has two sections: A Region In Balance and Tools For Towns. A Region In Balance relays what other regions around the country are doing and provides some steps we might take toward a broader statewide approach to build balanced, livable communities.

Tools For Towns covers eight topics. For each topic, we provide a quick and easy-to-read Fact Sheet to introduce the topic and a Technical Analysis that provides more detail on the “how-tos” of the tool. The Technical Analyses provide information on what the tool can do, what some of the challenges may be, information on the tools used in other places, and a model or sample zoning ordinance for easier implementation.

1 The Parkville component of the project was a very successful neighborhood-led community planning effort. For more information on the Parkville component of the TSCP project, contact Gerry Maine, Hartford Planning Department (757-9044).
Census 2000

The gradual release of 2000 Census data has begun to paint a picture of how the Capitol Region has changed over the past decade. With each release, CRCOG prepared summaries for our region that illustrate how these trends have affected our individual communities and the region. Several trends have emerged:

- **We are a slow-growth region.** From 1990 to 2000, the Capitol Region population grew 1.7%, as compared to 3.6% for Connecticut and 13.2% for the U.S.
- **We are becoming more ethnically and racially diverse.** Minority population as a percent of total increased from 20.8% to 27.5% during the 1990-2000 decade, and minority population made gains in all Capitol Region communities, even those with overall population loss.
- **Our population is aging.** In 1990, 49.3% of our population was aged 35 and older. In 2000, persons of this age made up 54.6% of our population. The 85+ age group experienced the largest increase in the last decade, while the 20-34 age group showed the largest decline.
- **The characteristics of our households are changing.** Approximately 65.6% of all households owned their own home in 2000, as compared to 63.9% in 1990. Average household size declined slightly over the past decade, falling from 2.56 to 2.54 persons per household. While non-family households increased more quickly than family households—+13.3% as compared to +.3%—family households still made up 67% of all households in 2000. Approximately 34.3% of all Capitol Region households had children 18 or younger (+1.1%).

We will work with the Capitol Region Partnership to help government, business and civic leaders study these trends and work proactively to shape our future in light of these changes.

Regional Plan of Development Update

The most recent update of the Capitol Region Plan of Conservation and Development is nearing completion. This plan will establish regional goals and policies for growth and resource protection over the next decade. The CRCOG Regional Planning Commission and Policy Board are guiding the update. Topics covered in the plan include:

- Demographics
- Economic Development
- Natural Resource Conservation
- Open Space and Farmland Preservation
- Watersheds and Water Quality
- Food System
- Land Use and Zoning
- Transportation
- Public Water and Sewer
- Housing

A Regional Conservation and Development Guide Map, based on the Plan’s goals and policies, is being drafted. It is being reviewed by the Region’s Town Planners to ensure consistency with local plans of conservation and development. The final regional plan, along with an implementation guide, is scheduled for completion by December 2002.
Working Together for the Safety of the Region!

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee

The Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) was officially named as a standing committee of the Public Safety Council in November of 2001 and is chaired by West Hartford Fire Chief William Austin. CREPC serves two purposes; the first is to act as a consolidated local emergency planning committee (LEPC), and the second is for regional emergency planning.

The group has produced a Regional Emergency Disaster (RED) plan, which will be unveiled at the September 2002 meeting. This plan will serve to complement state and federal plans already in existence.

The City of Hartford successfully applied for a federal Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) grant and is working with CREPC to follow through on that initiative. There are eight CREPC sub-committees modeled after the emergency support functions in the Federal Response Plan as follows: Communications; Public Works and Engineering; Fire and Urban Search and Rescue; Information and Planning; Mass Care; Health and Medical Services; Hazardous Materials; and Law Enforcement. Regular meeting attendees include local police and fire officials, emergency managers, and representatives from area hospitals, private industry and the State of Connecticut.

CAPTAIN Mobile Data Communication System

In its fourth year of operation, the statewide CAPTAIN Mobile Data Communication System continues to improve and expand. It is now home to 1,125 laptop computers in seventy-eight police organizations, which link them to local, state and national criminal information files. Enhancement work recently began and many new features including a leased vehicle query, easier interface for CAD/RMS vendors, and in-field ability to print reports at headquarters are set to roll out shortly.

Other Public Safety Projects

- Physical Ability testing programs administered by CRCOG, Complete Health and Injury Prevention, Inc. and the State of Connecticut’s Commission on Fire Prevention and Control continue to physically assess police and fire recruits for Capitol Region departments based on state and national standards. Since the initiation of these tests, 3,350 individuals have utilized them.

- Work continues on two Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) consolidation projects the first involving Avon, Bloomfield, Canton, Farmington, Granby and Simsbury and the second East Windsor, Glastonbury, Manchester and South Windsor.
The Civic Participation Project

In response to the need for greater citizen involvement in civic and government activities, CRCOG applied for and received a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving for a pilot project to build strong communities by encouraging more civic participation. Five towns participated in this pilot - Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, Wethersfield, and Windsor.

Completed in June, this pilot spanned about a year. In each town several stakeholder meetings, facilitated by the National Civic League, were held and an action plan was produced. The action plan identifies the areas in which citizens want to strengthen civic participation and describes, step by step, how to do it. Areas identified include volunteerism, government and citizens, education and sharing information, and diversity. The five communities that participated in the project are currently working on implementing their action plans.

A Resource Guide that describes the process was also produced. Its purpose is to encourage and enable other towns to go through the same process to foster greater civic participation in their communities. This guide can be found on CRCOG’s website at www.crcog.org

Through the Implementation of their Action Plans, Citizens in the Five Towns are Working Towards:

- Local government that actively encourages people to volunteer
- An abundant pool of volunteers from a cross-section of the community
- Active involvement of young people in civic activities
- Ongoing development of community leadership
- Flexibility and creativity in developing roles for citizens, local governments, nonprofits and businesses
- Neighborhoods where people know and are involved with each other
- High voter turnout and informed voters

A Regional Citizen’s Network

This project focuses on creating a forum, or network, for citizens from all walks of life to come together on a regional level to discuss and act on issues important to the Greater Hartford region. This efforts stems from the growing awareness among many citizens that in order for the region to thrive, its residents must work together across racial, cultural, economic, political, and geographical lines on a number of issues such as the environment, transportation, urban sprawl, jobs, housing, access to opportunity, education and crime.

Regional Citizen Networks have been created and are thriving across the country. In the Greater Hartford region, citizens and leaders from a number of organizations are involved in a process that is investigating how a regional citizens network can work in our region. The framework that this process seeks to establish will enable the people of our region to work more effectively together to make positive changes on challenges that require regional solutions.
2002 Legislative Session

Led by Legislative Chair Linda Roberts, CRCOG continued to “speak with one voice” at the Capitol. This year’s efforts focused on maintaining municipal and education funding at the levels originally authorized in the two-year budget.

In the end, the budget agreement reached on June 30th provided a small increase in Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funding and Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) for state property and colleges and hospitals. Over $28 million in cuts were made to municipal aid, the largest in the areas of special education, school transportation, and town aid to roads.

Progress was made during the legislative session on other fronts including:

- Passage of the CRRA reform law. This act makes sweeping changes to the operations and structure of the CRRA, including increasing municipal representation on the CRRA Board from two to five members. CRCOG, along with CCM, advocated aggressively for this as well as against the proposed increase in tipping fees.

- Passage of An Act Concerning Periodic Revaluation of Real Property by Towns. This act allows municipalities to forego conducting their next scheduled revaluation if they can show that the fair market values of real property have remained relatively stable since the implementation of their last revaluation. It provides towns with some relief from unnecessary revaluations.

- Passage of an Act establishing a Blue Ribbon Commission on Property Tax Reform and Smart Growth Incentives. The Commission must evaluate property tax burdens in this state compared to other states and among the state’s municipalities, consider modifications and alternatives to the current system of property taxation, and evaluate disincentives and incentives for smart growth.

Capitol Region Partnership

Over the past year, the Capitol Region Partnership expanded its membership, and is now comprised of ten regional organizations. These members bring new energy to the group and help to broaden the work that the Partnership does to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in the Greater Hartford Region.

Last January, the MetroHartford Regional Economic Alliance and the Capitol Region Partnership held a Regional Stewardship Forum which was successful in securing commitments from regional organizations to work together to achieve measurable progress on a short list of regional priorities. These priorities are: create a unified marketing plan for the region, secure funding for the second phase of the downtown circuit line feasibility study, construct the Job Corps Center, and evaluate whether to submit legislation for the General Assembly’s 2003 session on regional assets investments.

In April, the Partnership held a legislative reception where the members participated in a signing ceremony that committed them to the Partnership and to its work plan. More than 150 people attended the reception, including over 20 legislators. State Senator Kevin Sullivan and State Representative Melody Currey hosted the event.

The following organizations are members of the Partnership:
- Capital Region Workforce Development Board
- Capitol Region Council of Governments
- Capitol Region Education Council
- Greater Hartford Arts Council
- Greater Hartford Transit District
- Hartford Consortium for Higher Education
- Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
- Metropolitan District Commission
- MetroHartford Regional Economic Alliance
- United Way of the Capital Area

Senator Sullivan addresses the reception.
CRCOG’s Annual Dinner, held on June 18, 2002 at the Manchester Country Club, drew over 100 local and regional leaders.

Special recognition was given to leadership of the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee as well as those who helped launch the Municipal Services Benchmarking Initiative. The towns of Andover, Bloomfield, Bolton, East Hartford, Ellington, Glastonbury, Hartford, Hebron, South Windsor, Vernon, West Hartford, and Windsor were acknowledged for providing mutual aid assistance to Manchester during the Namco incident. The towns of Avon, Canton, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Simsbury, and Suffield were recognized for their efforts to have a biodiversity study conducted in the Farmington Valley.

An informative presentation on Adriaen’s Landing and the Governor’s Six Pillars was given by Matt Fleury, Director of Marketing/Communications at the Capital City Economic Development Authority (CCEDA).

From left, Richard Porth, CRCOG Executive Director, presents Fire Chief William Austin of West Hartford with an award for his commitment to the formation of the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee.

From left, Jon Colman of Bloomfield, Mayor Barbara Surwilo of Rocky Hill, and First Selectman David Kilbon of East Granby.

From left, Nancy Riddle Scirocco, Vice President of the MetroHartford Economic Growth Council and George Bahamonde, President of the United Way of the Capital Area.

Stephen T. Cassano, CRCOG Chairman and Mayor of Manchester, gives the Annual Progress Report.
Municipal Services

Bigger and Better Than Ever
Building on the “Bigger and Better Than Ever” theme that came to define the Purchasing Council’s scope of activities during FY 2001, CRCOG’s Municipal Services Division enjoyed another year of exciting program results and the expansion of its “bread and butter” services. While cooperative purchasing and expertise exchange programs remained the Division’s primary focus, highly-specialized technical assistance projects were added to the mix to help member towns (and the Council itself) evaluate their internal operations and make targeted improvements. Here’s a look at the year’s most noteworthy achievements.

COOPERATIVE PURCHASING - SAVING TAX $

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) continued to capitalize on the benefits of volume purchasing. Through the nearly 20 bids it coordinated this year, the Council estimates that its members collectively realized some $786,828 in savings in FY 2002 — a 191% return on dues and assessments!

And Next Year…
In September, CRCOG will signal the official launch of its Telecommunications Auditing Program with the release of an RFP for auditing and efficiency review services. Membership in the Consortium is currently being solicited.

BENCHMARKING PROJECTS

The results of CRCOG’s groundbreaking benchmarking study on snow and ice removal were presented to the twenty-two participating communities this winter with extremely positive feedback. Leon Churchill, Chairman of the Municipal Services Committee and Windsor’s Town Manager stated, “the information presented to us was incredibly useful. In fact, the Town of Windsor is examining the best chemical mix for snow and ice removal, and we are taking a hard look at reconfiguring plow routes to gain optimum efficiency.”

And Next Year…
Based on the success of the snow and ice study, the Municipal Services Committee has already commissioned a second benchmarking project, this time concentrating on municipal vehicle maintenance operations. A survey instrument has been distributed and a findings report will be generated before the end of the calendar year.

EXPERTISE EXCHANGE

Local, state and private-sector officials alike generously donated their time to participate in CRCOG’s Expertise Exchange Program—an informal venue designed to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise and to help local managers learn from those that have already “been there or done that.” Featured presentation topics included: Manchester’s nationally-recognized lead abatement program, the success of Hartford’s Operation Clean Sweep, and a look at what’s new at the state Department of Information Technology (DOIT).

Three new issues of the agency’s Grants Flash newsletter were also released under the auspices of the Exchange, highlighting governmental, corporate and foundation funding sources. Several bonus features were added this year, including proposal writing tips, scholarship opportunity announcements and a “surfing guide” to help local officials search the web for financial support.
Helping People Get to Work
Each day CRCOG and its Jobs Access partners enable 2,900 people to get to jobs at suburban locations underserved by transit. Begun in December 1997 with 355 clients in the first month, this service helps people move from welfare to work and supports the region’s economic vitality.

The demand for this critical program grows but stable long-term funding is needed in order to ensure that it can be sustained.

New Tools for Region and Towns - GIS
CRCOG completed the first phase in developing a regional Geographic Information System (GIS) land use layer. This endeavor will provide a much needed GIS parcel base as well as improving socioeconomic forecasting for the Capitol Region Travel Model. This first phase was completed through a team effort involving CRCOG GIS staff, consultants and data provided by CRCOG member towns. The second phase will result in complete coverage of the region and is currently underway. All participating towns will receive digital and hardcopy land use mapping of their town and the entire region in the format of their choice.

Bike to Work
Working with several agencies in the region, CRCOG sponsors monthly Bike to Work events in downtown Hartford to promote bicycling as an alternate means of getting to work. From a very small start in 2000 with a couple of dozen riders, Bike to Work in the Capitol Region has grown in size to include several hundred participants. This year, eight of our CRCOG towns participated by hosting their own Bike to Work events in May. Each month an individual who is particularly dedicated to biking to work is highlighted as the region’s Super Commuter. In addition, this year we initiated the Big Wheel Award, which recognizes towns who are leading the region in making their community safer for bicyclists. Windsor is the first town to receive this award.
Notable Events from Around the Capitol Region

- Rentschler Field, a 40,000-seat stadium being built in East Hartford, is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2003. It will serve as the home field for UConn football and also host other sports and entertainment events. The facility is part of the Governor’s Six Pillars Initiative. Governor Rowland led the ceremonial groundbreaking at Rentschler Field in October 2000.

- The Capital Region Workforce Development Board, the City of Hartford and many other partners made major headway this year working with the U.S. Department of Labor to open a Job Corps Center in Hartford’s Charter Oak neighborhood by early 2004. The $20 million, 22-acre campus will annually serve 300 to 400-year-olds from throughout the region. This alternative education and training model will primarily target young people who have dropped out of school.

- Capital Community College relocated to Downtown Hartford into the historic, and now renovated, G. Fox Building. This new college campus opened in time for the fall 2002 semester. Its central location enables students to walk to arts and cultural facilities and internship opportunities in the area.

- This year the Greater Hartford Arts Council’s Street Banner Program design features the Hartford – New England’s Rising Star campaign along with the dynamic image of United Arts, the Arts Council’s annual fund drive on behalf of more than 100 arts, cultural and heritage organizations.

**About the Hartford - New England’s Rising Star Campaign:**
The Hartford Image Project (HIP) is a collaborative marketing and promotional initiative for Hartford and the Hartford region. HIP’s Hartford - New England’s Rising Star campaign was launched in November of 2001.

The Hartford Image Project (HIP) was founded by the Greater Hartford Arts Council, the City of Hartford, the Hartford Economic Development Commission, the Capital City Economic Development Authority, Waterford Development, Hartford 2000, the MetroHartford Regional Economic Alliance, the Greater Hartford Tourism District, the Greater Hartford Convention & Visitor’s Bureau, the Connecticut Office of Tourism, and the Office of Governor John G. Rowland. In addition to its founders, HIP funders include the City of Hartford, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and leading corporations in the Hartford region.

**Other Notable Events**

- The Bushnell opened the door to its new Belding Theater and performing arts complex in November 2001.

- The Riverfront Community Boathouse at Riverfront Park opened in May 2002.

Sources of Revenues & Expenditures - Program & Operating
For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2001

**Revenues**
Local Government Assessments $400,177
State Grants & Contracts $2,105,598
Federal Grants & Contracts $1,413,827
Interest Income $111,182
Other Grants & Fees $833,954
Miscellaneous Income $1,339

Total Revenues $4,866,077

**Expenditures**
Personnel $969,815
Direct Expenses $271,320
Indirect Costs $481,573
Contractual $3,132,625

Total Expenditures $4,855,333

Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures $10,744

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Kitch Breen Czernicki - Wethersfield
Donald Trinks - Windsor
Edward Ferrari - Windsor Locks

Transportation
Transportation Committee
Bicycle Planning Committee

Public Safety Council
Public Safety Council
Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee
Comprehensive Planning Committee
CAPTAIN Tech. Review Committee
Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Committees

Policy Board Members

CRCOG Committees and Chairs

Transportation
Transportation Committee
David Kilbon
Eric Barz

Public Safety Council
Public Safety Council
Lee Erdmann
William Austin
James Strilliacci
Rudolf Rossmay
Gerald Aponte & Michael Whalen

Community Development
Regional Planning Commission
Sue Erickson
Housing Committee
Faith McMahon & Don Trinks
Municipal Services Committee
Leon Churchill
Connecticut River Assembly
Joseph Smith

Administration
Legislative Committee
Linda Roberts
LEO Steering Committee - Workforce
Stephen Cassano & Eddie Perez
Personnel/Finance Subcommittee
Jon Colman

Connecticut’s Capitol Region