Purchasing Council Gains Six Member Towns

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) recently welcomed six new members, bringing the cooperative’s purchasing power to 55 communities. All six towns, which include Brookfield, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding and Sherman, came on board as a result of an agreement signed directly with the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials. And on the technology front, the CRPC recently revamped its web pages to include sections for posting new bids and RFP’s, as well as results packages from previous bidding efforts. Now, members and vendors alike can easily access a library of product and service offerings at www.crcog.org/purchasing.htm.

CRCOG’s Livable Communities Project Draws Attention

Though CRCOG completed this FHWA-funded project in 2002, there is continued interest in the project. Recently, there have been two references of note: First, FHWA has put together a website featuring some of the projects they funded and included our work. FHWA promotes their website as a tool kit for integrating land use and transportation decision-making. Their objective is to provide a user-friendly, web-based source for integrating land use and transportation planning, decision-making, and project implementation. CRCOG’s project is featured in two places on this website. Overall aspects of the project are highlighted at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/landuse/index.htm. In addition, the work in Suffield was the subject of a special case study that provides a detailed look at how land use and planning tools have been effectively applied in practice. The Suffield case study can be found at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/landuse/index.htm#studies. Second, the Urban Land Institute has requested copyright permission for one of the topics from CRCOG’s Tool Kit (which can be found on the CRCOG website at http://www.crcog.org/publications.htm#-%20TOOLKIT%20-%20). The ULI compiles materials they find to be particularly well done by issue area. The topic that they
selected from our work is on transfer of development rights. (The compilation is not yet posted; when it is, it will be found at: www.uli.org. Once there select "Bookstore" at the top of the page, click on "Browse by Category", then choose "INFO PACK" under categories.)

**New Staff Training Course Offered**

Interested in creating a more dynamic organizational culture in your town hall? Need help fostering communication, developing talent or encouraging teamwork in your workforce? Watch your mail for a registration form for CRCOG’s new hybrid course on *Motivating Employees* that will be offered this fall. Using on-line software provided by the Connecticut Consortium for Distance Learning, this hybrid approach to training will combine traditional face-to-face meetings and a textbook with on-line discussions and web-based instruction. There is no cost to members to participate. Space will be limited, so be sure to register early. For more information, please contact Hedy Ayers at hayers@crcog.org.

**CRCOG Hosts Traffic Calming Web Seminar**

CRCOG recently sponsored an American Public Works Association (APWA) web seminar on Traffic Calming. Approximately 35 people attended, representing municipal, state and regional agencies. The seminar was broken into three separate presentations addressing traffic calming tools and legal issues; traffic calming examples with lessons learned; and the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program / process taking place in the City of Sacramento, California. Copies of the meeting handouts are available from Karen Stewartson at CRCOG at kstewartson@crcog.org.

**Terrorism Incident Preparedness Seminar September 30 for Chief Elected Officials**

CRCOG, in conjunction with the City of Middletown will host a seminar for Chief Elected Officials in Terrorism Incident Preparedness on September 30th from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm at Middlesex Mutual. Provided by the Mayoral Institute for CBRNE and Terrorism Incident Preparedness of Texas A & M University, the seminar purpose is to discuss strategic and regional level issues and challenges related to CBRNE /terrorism preparedness and share proven strategies and practices. Participating CEO's will be reimbursed for the costs associated with this seminar through a training grant provided by the Office of Domestic Preparedness.
Bulletin Board Pilot Launched

Last month, CRCOG rolled-out a new Bulletin Board feature as an extension of the agency’s website. Located at www.crcog.org/bb, the Board allows registered members to easily post questions, share announcements and formally poll other town officials. The Municipal Services Committee is currently piloting the site with a dedicated forum of its own, and once the kinks are worked out, new user groups will be added to facilitate on-line “conversations” covering a broad spectrum of CRCOG-related program areas. Interested in setting up a forum? Contact Erik Snowden at esnowden@crcog.org for more information. Many thanks to the Town of Manchester for its help in bringing this FREE service to CRCOG members!

CRCOG to Help with Help America Vote Act Outreach

The CT Secretary of the State's Office has targeted CRCOG to serve as one of a handful of agencies to assist in its efforts to educate municipal leaders about the voting machine requirements outlined in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). As part of that effort, the agency has agreed to host a special HAVA workshop in early fall. Dates and times are still to be determined, so watch for more information in August.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

Executive Committee, Wednesday, August 10, 2005, 12 Noon
Public Safety Council, Thursday, September 8, 2005, 12 Noon
Housing Committee, Monday, September 12, 2005, 12 Noon
Regional Planning Commission, Thursday, September 15, 2005, 7:00 p.m.
Municipal Services Committee, Tuesday, September 20, 2005, 12 Noon
Transportation Committee, Monday, September 26, 2005, 12 Noon
Policy Board, Wednesday, September 28, 12 Noon
New CRCOG Board Member Welcome, November 16, 12:00 –3:00 p.m.