Town of Windsor Surveys Residents on Budget

In hopes to involve residents earlier and to a greater extent in the budget development process the Town of Windsor initiated a citizen survey process this fall. A survey was sent to 4,000 randomly selected households in late October. The survey is designed to gain initial information about residents’ satisfaction with services, their budget priorities and their willingness to pay for services. The survey’s results may help staff and the Town Council to identify issues that require additional consideration during the budget development process. The survey is one of several ways that the town hopes to involve residents earlier and to a greater extent in the budget development process. In addition to the survey, Town and Board of Education staff will host a series of workshops in December and early 2007 to outline the budget preparation process, as well as an opportunity for participants to discuss the challenges and goals of the fiscal year 2008 budget.

Capitol Region Purchasing Council Grows Again

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council just added its 62nd member, the City of Norwich, CT. As the CRPC continues to grow, we are looking for innovative ways to service the membership. CRPC leadership is currently exploring Job Order Contracting and an e-Procurement system. Membership for CRPC is open to any municipality or non-profit. If you know someone who would like to join, have them contact Jennifer March-Wackers at jwackers@crcog.org or (860) 522-2217 x39.

Sign Up Now for Service Sharing Symposium

January 10, 2007 at CCSU

Registration is now open for the January 10, 2007 symposium, "Service Sharing in Connecticut." Price of Government author David Osborne (photo at left) will be the keynote speaker and guests from Maine and New Jersey will present case studies on their service sharing efforts. The first in a series of regional service sharing symposia, "Service Sharing in Connecticut” will discuss what service sharing is and how it can help municipalities overcome the state of "permanent fiscal crisis" in local government. Chief Elected Officials and Chief Administrative Officers as well as Department Heads are encouraged to attend! Download the registration form today at: www.crcog.org.
More 20-44 Year Olds Moving Into the Region

For the last few years CRCOG has been analyzing population trends by age group, focusing most on the 20- to 44-year-olds who are needed to keep our communities and economy strong. The analysis, a “cohort retention” investigation helps us better understand whether we are experiencing net in or out migration among various age groups. The good news is that the region is back on a positive trend. In 2005, the 20-29 age group was about 4,000 persons smaller than it was in 1995. But this does not mean 4,000 people moved out of the area. In reality, more than 5,600 20- to 29-year-olds age moved in – not out – of the metropolitan region. People aged 20-29 in 2005 were 10-19 years old in 1995. In order to say whether or not people are moving out, we need to compare this same group of people at two points in time. In 1995 there were 138,700 of them but in 2005 there were 144,300—more people than we started with! This means that more people who were 10-19 years old in 1995 and are 20-29 today are choosing to move into our region than are choosing to leave it. Once a group is born, the only way the same group of people can grow over time is by people moving in. In addition, the number of children ages 0-19 today exceeds (by 20,000) those ages 0-19 in 1990. In-migration and a larger youth contingent are the untold facts of our population trends. Both will help fill the baby boom birthrate gap though we do need more people to close the gap. Knowing the real nature of the problem will suggest the appropriate solutions needed to do so successfully. For more see: http://www.crcog.org/Publications/Community_Development/Demographic_Reports_Documents/90-05MSAAgeData.pdf

Regional Emergency Operation Centers Toured

Earlier this month, a committee consisting of CREPC members toured sites slated to be regional emergency operation centers. The sites are located in Manchester, New Britain, and Windsor Locks and vary in terms of their current operational status. The goal of the project is to develop these three sites to nearly identical capabilities. They will be used as regional emergency operation centers as well as training and meeting space for various CREPC committees. This project is funded through fiscal year 2005 homeland security funds.

Clean and Green: Executive Order 14

State agencies in the executive branch are buying and using environmentally and health friendly cleaners as a result of Executive Order 14 signed by the Governor on April 17, 2006. The order cites exposure to harmful chemicals contained in cleaning and sanitizing products as well as releases into the environment from their wastes and byproducts as reasons to go green.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS), with Public Health and DEP, will publish policy and guidelines to provide direction to state agencies in carrying out the green cleaning initiative. Municipal governments, political subdivisions, and
school districts are not required to adhere to E.O. 14. However, they are encouraged to review their purchasing and use of cleaning products and/or sanitizing products.

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council is encouraging green procurement by adding green products to existing bids. CRPC will continue to monitor this issue and relay any information from DAS, DPH and DEP regarding green cleaning products. Please contact Jennifer March-Wackers, CRPC Program Coordinator, if you have any green procurement ideas at jwackers@crcoq.org.

**CRCOG 2007 Legislative Agenda**


**Local Road Highway Safety**

CRCOG was invited to attend a Local Road Highway Safety Focus Group Meeting held in Washington, DC on November 13 and 14. The primary purpose of the meeting was to assist the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) in the development of a guidebook for local agencies on improving highway safety. Over the next few months CRCOG will be evaluating local road safety within the region and looking to sponsor a safety web seminar.

**2006 Shandong Scholars Program Wraps Up**

Executive Director Lyle Wray and Municipal Services Coordinator Jennifer March-Wackers attended the Shandong Scholars Commencement Luncheon at Central Connecticut State University on Monday, November 6, 2006. CRCOG’s interns, An “Alan” Zhou and Wang “Bill” Shoubo, were honored with certificates of achievement from the program and honorary citizenships from the City of New Britain. Wang was also honored with a program leadership award. CRCOG looks forward to continued work with CCSU on strengthening the international ties in public administration.

**Mark Your Calendar for Transit Oriented Development Symposium January 29, 2007**

As a follow up to the transportation finance summit held last year, CRCOG together with the Regional Plan Association, CCM, and CCSU will be hosting a morning half-day working conference on what transit oriented development (TOD) is and how
Connecticut communities can take full advantage of this opportunity in the coming New Britain to Hartford Busway and commuter rail service from Springfield to New Haven. If you would like to be sure to receive an invitation to this event, please email Lyle Wray at lwray@crcog.org or call 860 522 2217 extension 32.

**CRCOG 2007 Meeting Calendar**

With the New Year just around the corner, the following Committees/Boards have put together their meeting schedules for 2007.

The **CRCOG Policy Board** will meet on the following dates at noon at the CRRA Recycling Center and Trash Museum at 211 Murphy Road in Hartford: January 31, (fifth Wednesday), February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, September 26, November 14, and December 12.

The **CRCOG Executive Committee** will meet at the CRCOG Offices, 241 Main Street, 4th Floor, Hartford, on the following dates at noon: January 10, March 14, May 9, August 8, and October 10.

The **CRCOG Transportation Committee** will meet at the CRRA Recycling Center on the following dates at noon: January 22, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 25, July 23, September 24, November 5, and December 10.

The **CRCOG Community Development Committee** will meet at the South Congregational Church on the following dates at noon: February 8, April 12, June 14, September 13, and November 8.

The **CRCOG Municipal Services Committee** will meet on January 16, February 20, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19, September 18, October 16, November 20, and December 18 at noon at CRRA.

**Upcoming CRCOG Meetings**

Transportation Committee, Monday, December 11, Noon, CRRA
CRCOG Policy Board, Wednesday, December 13, Noon, CRRA
Community Development Committee, Thursday, December 14, Noon, CRRA
Municipal Services Committee, Tuesday, December 19, Noon, CRRA
Jobs Access, Thursday, December 21, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District
Regional Planning Commission, December 21, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
Public Safety Council, Thursday, March 8, 2007, Noon, Church

The 2006 Officers of the CRCOG Policy Board are: David K. Kilbon, Chair, First Selectman of East Granby, Eddie Perez, Vice Chair, Mayor of Hartford, Linda Roberts, Vice Chair, First Selectman of East Windsor, Mary Tomolonius, Treasurer, First Selectman of Canton, Susan Karp, Secretary, Chair, Glastonbury Town Council. Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director.