Capitol Region Update
March 2007
Capitol Region Council of Governments -- Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut’s Capital Region (www.crcoq.org)

Capital Region Partnership Forums Initiated

On March 28 a series of regional forums following up on the CPTV documentary “Commitment to Place” was kicked off at the Enfield library. CRCOG and nine other organizations including the MetroHartford Alliance, CREC, and the Capital Workforce Partnership make up the Capital Region Partnership. At left are Jeff Blodgett, CERC, Valerie Ferro, TPA Design Group, Nick Fyntrilakis, and moderator Al Terzi, WFSB-TV. Many challenges in the region cut across town lines (i.e., traffic congestion, affordable housing, and pollution, etc). That’s why the Capital Region Partnership and the Citizens Network are out to make the most of MetroHartford’s “people, prosperity, and place.” More information is available on the project website at: www.peopleprosperityplace.org/. The following is a list of the upcoming community forums:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>7-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Eno Hall, Simsbury</td>
<td>Arthur House, Senior VP, Webster Bank</td>
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<td>April 10</td>
<td>6:30-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Whiton Library, Manchester</td>
<td>Vincent Michael Valvo, Editor, Htfd Business Journal</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>7-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Joseph College West Hartford</td>
<td>Duby McDowell, Media Consultant &amp; Political Analyst</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>1-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Museum of American Art, New Britain</td>
<td>Tom Condon, Editor, Hartford Courant</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>6:30-8 p.m.</td>
<td>Hartford Public Library</td>
<td>Oz Griebel, President, MetroHartford Alliance</td>
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GIS Web-Based System Demonstrations Scheduled

The Web-based GIS Users Group met on March 9th with CRCOG staff and the GIS consultant, Applied Geographics. All present were enthusiastic about the software and potential uses. The project is on track for a region wide launch at the end of March. Demonstrations will be provided at the April 17th Municipal Services Committee meeting and the April 25th Policy Board meeting.
Purchasing Council Now Has 66 Members

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council is proud to announce the addition of the Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) to its membership! Demonstrating its openness to all municipalities, boards of education, other government agencies and non-profits, CRPC welcomes this valuable addition! This addition brings our membership to 66 municipalities, boards of education, non-profits and agencies. If you know an organization that would benefit from cooperative bidding, please contact Jennifer March-Wackers (jwackers@crcog.org).

Foundation Grant for Regional Smart Growth Design

CRCOG and the University of Hartford Center for Integrated Design have been awarded a grant by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to work on initiatives in the area of “smart growth” and livable communities. Governor Rell proposed state support for two major transit investments in her 2007 budget – the New Britain to Hartford busway and enhanced Springfield to New Haven commuter rail service. When implemented both of these developments will have major design components around “transit-oriented development” (TOD). Similarly, recently reauthorized federal transportation funding (SAFETEA) plans support for transit-oriented design and more closely integrated land use and transportation planning. Meetings with towns in the region relating to the grant will be scheduled before summer, 2007.

Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee Gets National Recognition

CREPC – ESF 8 Public Health Group (Emergency Support Function for Health & Medical Services) received National recognition for Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) February 23 in Washington D.C. PPHR is a collaborative activity between the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In photo from the left: Barbara Worgess, Chair, NACCHO PPHR Workgroup, Jennifer Kertanis, Executive Director CADH, Carmine Centrella, CRCOG Homeland Security Regional Planner, Steve Huleatt, Director, West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District. The overall goal of PPHR is to ensure that local health departments are fully integrated into the response community and prepared to respond to any health and medical emergency in partnership with community-based organizations. The Public Health emergency preparedness criterion was divided into the following goals: emergency preparedness and response planning, workforce competency development, and exercises to evaluate preparedness Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) started as a pilot project to develop preparedness standards for local public health departments. PPHR developed a comprehensive list of criteria for each of its three goals and to
date these criteria remains the only national standards for local public health preparedness. The strength of the CREPC application, and a lesson for future regional applications, was the existence of a strong and well-established regional planning structure. What the PPHR project allowed us to do was evaluate our capacities and capabilities against a set of standards and identify areas of improvement. This gap analysis is helping the CREPC-ESF8 Public Health Group identify planning priorities as a region that will result in improved public health preparedness both for the region and the individual communities our local health departments serve.

**Regional Transportation Plan**

A DRAFT of the 2007 Capitol Region Transportation Plan is available for public comment on the CRCOG website www.crcog.org or by calling CRCOG for a hard copy. This draft plan reaffirms CRCOG’s commitment to policies, responds to several new federal requirements, and incorporates recommendations from studies completed since the adoption of the 2004 Plan. A public information meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on April 9 at the Capitol Community College in Hartford. Adoption of the Plan will be on the agenda of the April 25 Policy Board meeting.

**CRRA Recycles Even More!**

CRRA has several electronic recycling collections planned. CRRA electronics recycling collections are for residents of CRRA-member towns only and proof of residency is required. Bring your broken televisions, old cell phones, computers, stereos, and other electronic devices to recycle for free! There are two area collections planned. The first one is on Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the CRRA Trash Museum, 211 Murphy Road, Hartford. The second collection is planned for Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Stanley Jablonski Public Works Complex, 40 Moody Road, Enfield. Most Connecticut towns collect newspaper, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, glass containers and steel cans for recycling. Whereas some towns collect additional materials, such as corrugated cardboard, junk mail, mixed paper including magazines and catalogs, aluminum foil and aseptic packages such as juice boxes, milk cartons, and macaroni boxes (with the clear portion removed). Have your town call CRRA’s Recycling Coordinator at 860-757-7763 to see what your town can recycle.

**Public Participation Plan for Transportation Planning**

CRCOG's Policy Board adopted a Public Participation Plan for the transportation planning program on February 28, 2007. This Plan built on the previously adopted Public Involvement Policy and was expanded to respond to recent federal public participation
requirements. The Plan states that CRCOG will provide early and continuing public involvement opportunities throughout the transportation planning and programming process. Special emphasis is given to engaging the public in planning studies (e.g., transit strategy, bicycle plan, and arterial corridor studies) that form the basis for later programming decisions. Special outreach is made to specified groups, and meetings are held at convenient and accessible times and places. Draft and final plans are made available on the CRCOG website. CRCOG's Public Participation Plan describes the minimum effort that will be undertaken to engage the public in its transportation planning process; in fact, CRCOG goes well beyond the minimum in developing a far-reaching and flexible public participation program for each study it undertakes.

**Upcoming CRCOG Meetings**

**Municipal Services Committee**, Tuesday, April 17, Noon, CRRA  
**Jobs Access**, Thursday, April 19, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District  
**Regional Planning Commission**, April 19, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall  
**CREPC**, Thursday, April 19, 9:30 a.m. South Church  
**Community Development Committee**, Thursday, April 19, Noon, South Church **Transportation Committee**, Monday, April 23, Noon, CRRA  
**CRCOG Policy Board**, Wednesday, April 25, Noon, CRRA  
**Executive Committee**, Wednesday, May 9, Noon, CRCOG Board room  
**Public Safety Council**, Thursday, June 14, Noon, South 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, Mary Tomolonius, Treasurer, First Selectman of Canton, Susan Karp, Secretary, Chair, Glastonbury Town Council. Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director.