CRCOG Recognizes Service Sharing Champions

Champion Certificates of Excellence were presented to the towns of Wethersfield and Newington for their leadership and efforts to advance new initiatives that will lower costs and improve efficiency within communities. Both Towns will be advancing forward with a Public Works Inter-Town Service Cooperation Pilot Program where public works equipment will be evaluated to determine sharing parameters during both emergency and non-emergency situations. The Towns will be developing an inter-local agreement addressing such items as purpose, duration, compensation, and indemnification provisions, just to name a few. Leadership efforts put forward by Town Managers Bonnie Therrien and John Salomone are the first but critical step to dealing with service sharing regionally. Congratulations!

Top photo: Newington Town Manager, John Salomone, with Highway Superintendent, Frank Sanzo, accepting the award. Bottom photo: Wethersfield Town Manager Bonnie Therrien receives award from Jennifer Carrier, CRCOG.

Capital Region Gains Nonstop Flights to Europe

On July 1 the first regularly scheduled nonstop flight to Amsterdam from the Bradley Hartford Springfield International Airport took off with a trade and tourism delegation from Connecticut and western Massachusetts meeting with officials at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam and other European contacts either now doing business in Connecticut or potentially doing so in the future. In photo at left CT Lieutenant Governor Fidele speaks to media on arrival at Schiphol Airport Amsterdam.
MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program
Notification of Proposed Work Plan

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) has been awarded funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to continue the environmental assessment of potential brownfield sites that may contain hazardous substances or petroleum products. The program will fund assessments in the 35-municipality greater Hartford region at sites which are identified during the term of the project. An informational meeting to describe proposed work for the upcoming phase of the MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program will be held: Monday, August 20, 2007, at 5 p.m., Capital Community College, Community Room, 2nd Floor, 950 Main Street, Hartford.

Written comments and questions on the proposed work plan will be accepted until August 22, 2007 by e-mail at mkowalewski@crcog.org; by fax at 860-724-1274; or by mail at M. Kowalewski, CRCOG, 241 Main Street, 4th Floor, Hartford, CT 06106. A summary of the brownfields assessment program and the proposed work plan is available on CRCOG’s website at www.crcog.org or by calling 860-522-2217 x 37.

The meeting location is accessible to people with disabilities. If you require additional assistance to participate, please contact CRCOG as soon as possible. A Spanish-language translator will be available if sufficient notice is provided. Un traductor estará disponible para estas reuniones si usted lo solicita al 860-522-2217, lo más pronto posible.

Health Responders Briefed on Cities Readiness

At the July CREPC meeting, Heidi Pfeiffer, Centers for Disease Control Region 1 Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). The Cities Readiness Initiative aids cities in increasing their capacity to deliver medicines and medical supplies during an emergency such as a bioterrorism attack or a nuclear accident. The program works to enhance preparedness at all levels of government and to provide a consistent nationwide approach to prepare for a large-scale public health emergency. Ms. Pfeiffer visited Connecticut to meet with public health responders in DEMHS Region 3 as part of a site visit that she was conducting regarding the CRI. She is featured in the picture to the right with (from left) Steve Huleatt, West Hartford Bloomfield Health District; Joseph Marino, Connecticut Department of Public Health; and Chief Austin, West Hartford Fire and CREPC Chairman.
**CRCOG Offers Technical Assistance to Communities**

One resource that CRCOG towns have begun to tap into more recently is – Transportation / Traffic Engineering Technical Assistance. Over the past few years the Transportation group has been able to assist communities with such items as technical reviews of traffic generators, trip generation for select parcels and/or land uses and roadway infrastructure improvements. Our in-house expertise, software capabilities and knowledge of ConnDOT design guidelines has proven to be beneficial to many communities. For further information feel free to contact Mr. Thomas Maziarz, Director of Transportation Planning, at 860 522-2217 x14.

**Important Changes in CT Gross Receipts Tax**

As many of you may already know, the Gross Receipts (or Gross Earnings) Tax has been **discontinued for diesel fuels as of July 1, 2007** (with exceptions noted in the announcement that do not apply to municipalities). CRCOG has a link to the Department of Revenue Services website at: [http://www.crcog.org/publications/purchasing.html](http://www.crcog.org/publications/purchasing.html). It is listed towards the bottom of the page under the heading “Important Links”. Note: **The GRT tax is still in effect for unleaded gasoline and natural gas and has increased** (as of July 1, 2007) to 7%.

Please be aware of these changes as you move forward and review invoices for these commodities.

**Upcoming CRCOG Meetings**

**Executive Committee**, Monday, August 6, Noon, CRCOG Board Room  
**Jobs Access**, Thursday, August 16, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District  
**Public Safety Council**, Thursday, September 13, Noon, South Church  
**Municipal Services Committee**, Tuesday, September 18, Noon, CRRA  
**CREPC**, Thursday, September 20, 9:30 a.m. South Church  
**Community Development Committee**, Thursday, September 20, Noon, South Church  
**Regional Planning Commission**, September 20, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall  
**Transportation Committee**, Monday, September 24, Noon, CRRA  
**CRCOG Policy Board**, Wednesday, September 26, Noon, CRRA
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