state Launches Regional Performance Incentive Program

OPM announced its Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program on September 11, 2007. Born from Public Act 07-237, which CRCOG lobbied extensively for, the program provides $8.6 million for Regional Planning Organizations to help their members establish shared regional services. An informational session for the CRCOG membership was held on September 19, 2007 to outline the program and CRCOG’s plan for vetting projects to submit. Key dates for proposal preparation include:

- **September 26, 2007.** CRCOG Policy Board Briefing. The Policy Board received a brief presentation at the Board meeting on September 26, and will be asked to authorize the regional application to OPM on November 13, 2007.
- **October 1, 2007.** Proposals for Shared Services due to CRCOG. Proposal ideas from towns and other interested parties will be solicited until October 1st.
- **October 4, 2007.** CRCOG Service Sharing Steering Committee Meeting. The Committee will review and refine project ideas and recommend projects to move forward with on October 4 at 10:00 am at the CRRA Trash Museum Board Room. Any interested parties may attend the meeting and participate in this discussion.
- **October 4-November 13, 2007.** Prepare Applications. CRCOG and towns will work together to flesh out project ideas and prepare complete applications for selected project ideas. Towns will be responsible for obtaining the necessary certifications and drafting proposals initiated by municipalities, but CRCOG will provide technical assistance.
- **October 31, 2007.** Possible Second Service Sharing Steering Committee Meeting. If necessary, the Service Sharing Steering Committee will have a follow-up meeting on October 31 at 10:30 am at the CRRA Trash Museum Board Room to further refine ideas.
- **November 13, 2007.** CRCOG Policy Board Consideration of Proposals. On November 13, the Policy Board will consider and approve a final list of proposals to be submitted to OPM and will authorize application filing.
- **December 3, 2007.** Proposals Submitted to OPM. Proposals will be submitted by close of business December 3, 2007.

Proposal preparation will require significant input from our member municipalities. We hope that everyone will take the time to participate and reap the benefits of this important program!
**Job Order Contracting RFP Results**

CRCOG conducted an RFP for consultant services to set up a pilot Job Order Contracting (JOC) program for its members and members of the Capitol Region Purchasing Council. The one year pilot will give participating municipalities the opportunity to develop a robust system for simplifying their renovation and maintenance activities. The preferred vendor from the RFP solicitation will be coming to CRCOG in October to discuss their proposal. Plans to launch the pilot this fall are still on track. For more information on JOC, please contact Jennifer March-Wackers at jwackers@crcog.org.

**CRCOG Travel Model Featured at National Conference**

CRCOG was invited by the Federal Transit Administration to present a new feature of its travel forecasting model at an FTA conference in St Louis. The new feature was developed to help prepare better ridership and user benefit forecasts for the New Britain Busway project. FTA found the technique to be innovative and asked CRCOG staff to share the enhanced forecasting method with other transit planners from around the country.

**Nine Towns See Decline in Average Home Prices**

The latest Capitol Region Home Sales Price Report is near completion. The report presents residential sales price data and analysis for FY 2007. Evidence of the recent slowdown in the housing market began to emerge in this year’s data. While the Region’s overall median sales price continued to increase, the increase was the lowest seen since fiscal year 2000. Also, nine towns saw declines in their overall median prices this fiscal year. In addition, the number of sales decreased for the second year in a row. The median sales price for all categories of homes sold (single-, two- and three-family and condominiums) increased 2.6% to $244,000. When adjusted for inflation, the increase over the 2006 median price was only 0.3%.

The mix of municipalities with the highest and lowest median sales prices in the Region showed little variation in fiscal year 2007. Nine towns had medians over $300,000 compared to seven last year, while four had medians at or below $200,000. Thirty percent of all sales in the Region were at prices over $300,000. For the second year, a Housing Affordability Index is included. The index measures the affordability of the median sales price by housing type for each municipality and the Region against the regional median household income, under current mortgage conditions. According to the index, the
Region’s overall median sales price is affordable to those earning median income. However, the index highlights the disparities between municipalities and housing types in the availability of affordable housing in the Capitol Region. The complete report will be made available on CRCOG’s website at www.crcog.org, and in hard copy. For further information, contact Rebecca Augur at 860-522-2217 ext. 29.

Capitol Region Purchasing Council Annual Meeting October 30

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council will hold its Annual Meeting on October 30, 2007 from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Glastonbury Recreation Center. All 71 CRPC members are invited to participate in this important once-a-year meeting. Agenda items to be discussed include e-Procurement, Job Order Contracting, and an update from the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services’ Procurement Director as well as the Public Purchasing Association of Connecticut. Be sure to bring your business cards to win fabulous door prizes including tickets to any Hartford TheaterWorks performance! Registration forms have been emailed and can also be found on the CRCOG website under “Purchasing Council”. Please contact Maureen Barton at mbarton@crcog.org if you have any questions.

US Military Academy and CREPC Project Kicks-off

On September 21st, CREPC members met with cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point to kick-off a project aimed at developing a community-based medical surge capacity system. The cadets and their Systems Engineering Professor, Dr. Elkins (pictured at left) are working on this initiative as a capstone project. CREPC is moving forward in identifying sites that will be used to provide medical care to citizens when the traditional health care system, including hospitals, has been exhausted. The West Point project will help CREPC to develop a regional system of support for alternative care facilities, identifying sites in our region, logistical needs, and patient tracking. Once identified, the cadets will assist in designing a means of coordinating operations with local and regional resources to provide community-based medical surge capability.

Annual Conference of APCO Atlantic Chapter Approaching

The Annual Conference of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Atlantic Chapter will be held at the Mystic Marriott from October 29-31, 2007. It promises an exciting agenda, including a presentation from forensic scientist, Dr. Henry Lee. Please visit the “What’s Happening” section of the CRCOG website (www.crcog.org) to learn more.
**CRCOG Municipalities Are Winners!**

The UConn Technology Transfer Center announced the winners of its Creative Solutions Awards on September 13. Four of the 6 winners were from the Capitol Region. The **Town of Bloomfield** for Demolition Debris Tailgate Chute; **Town of Glastonbury** for Creating a Safety Culture; and the **Town of South Windsor** for Public Storm Water Display. The **Town of Hebron** won an honorable mention for Drainage Conversion Chart. The UConn Technology Transfer Center recognizes and identifies municipalities for taking the initiative to increase safety and improve efficiency in the various areas of transportation. The inventive approaches that municipalities continue to develop, extends beyond safety standards and efficiency, but they are also creative ways to lower costs. This award program allows municipalities to not only be recognized for their efforts, but to also encourage other municipalities to duplicate the ideas and implement them. Take a look at the winning ideas ([http://www.t2center.uconn.edu/](http://www.t2center.uconn.edu/)) as they might work in your town also!

**Upcoming CRCOG Meetings**

- **Executive Committee**, Wednesday, October 10, Noon, CRCOG Board Room
- **Municipal Services Committee**, Tuesday, October 16, Noon, CRRA
- **Jobs Access**, Thursday, October 18, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District
- **CREPC**, Thursday, October 18, 9:30 a.m. South Church
- **Regional Planning Commission**, October 18, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
- **Transportation Committee**, Monday, November 5, Noon, CRRA
- **CRCOG Policy Board**, Tuesday, **November 13 following the CRCOG Retreat, to be held in the morning at the Legislative Office Building (LOB) Note date change.**
- **Community Development Committee**, Thursday, November 15, Noon, South Church
- **Public Safety Council**, Thursday, December 13, Noon, South Church

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