**State Awards CRCOG Towns $5.2 in Shared Services Grants**

In February CRCOG was awarded almost $5.2 million in service sharing grants under OPM’s Regional Performance Incentives program. CRCOG has long advocated service sharing as one way that towns can provide better, more efficient services while controlling costs, and worked intensively with our member towns to identify projects and prepare grant applications under the extremely tight time-frame of the OPM grants process. Of the $8.6 million in funds available to Connecticut regional planning agencies, CRCOG was awarded $5.2 million for 10 projects. These included:

- Enhancement of the regional geospatial information (GIS) system
- Purchase of equipment to be shared among towns for maintaining the Farmington Valley greenway
- Creation of regional traffic enforcement and accident investigation teams
- Development of a standardized, regional computer system for data collection and management among municipal health departments
- Regional orthophotography for use in GIS systems
- Establishment of a regional emergency operations coordination center
- Establishment of a regional animal control facility
- Establishment of a regional approach for procuring, developing, and sharing information technology systems among towns
- Construction of a regional police training facility
- Regional law enforcement data system.

CRCOG greatly appreciates the hard work of all member towns in helping to prepare grant applications under an extremely tight time-frame, and we look forward to assisting in the implementation of these projects.

**Region Publishes Congestion Monitoring Report**

CRCOG published its first congestion monitoring report in December 2007. The report provides a profile of traffic conditions on the region’s freeway system and on key arterial roadways as well. It reveals some interesting insights into the location, extent, and intensity of congestion in the Hartford metropolitan area. For example, about 85 percent of all congestion on our freeways occur in just two corridors: I-84 west of the I-84/I-91 junction and I-91 north of the I-84/I-91 junction. I-84 west is by far our most congested corridor with over 1180 hours of vehicle delays on a daily basis. This single corridor accounts for 53 percent of the delays recorded on our freeways.
The freeway portion of the report is based on data extracted from the regional traffic management system operated by ConnDOT’s Highway Operations Center in Newington. The system includes cameras, electronic message signs, and traffic flow monitors that record traffic speed and volume. There are over 144 monitoring stations covering 50 miles of freeway in the area. They record data 24 hours per day everyday of the year and provide an excellent database for CRCOG’s congestion report. You can view the report at the link below.


**Congressman Larson and CT Biodiesel Present at CREPC Meeting**

CREPC’s February meeting featured two exciting presentations. Congressman Larson, pictured at left, spoke to the group about various current issues, including the fire act grant and tax abatements for volunteer firefighters. He also provided an update on the President’s current budget and fielded questions from CREPC members.

Garth Klimchuk, CT Biodiesel President and CEO, and Wayne Moore, Executive Vice President, gave a presentation on their biodiesel production facility, slated to be in operation late next year in Suffield. They provided an overview of the project’s development and the team working on it. A lengthy and informative question and answer period followed.

**EMS Training Pilot Program Conducted**

On February 5 CREPC’s Regional Emergency Support Function 8, Public Health and Medical Services (RESF 8) conducted a pilot program at St. Francis Hospital for an EMS Hazardous Response Program. Program development began in April of 2007 to enhance our capability to effectively respond to HAZMAT and CBRNE events. The program consists of a two-day EMS Seminar and a 40-hour Medical Response to WMD/HAZMAT Events course. The February 5 pilot consisted of one day of training to test the viability of the EMS Seminar schedule. The Medical Response to HAZMAT/CBRNE Events course will be evaluated during a similar pilot program later this spring. The program attains efficiency by use of performance based training where students demonstrate mastery of skills to graduate.

The pilot program was attended by 24 subject matter experts from the local EMS community. The training session was hosted by John Quinlavin, St. Francis EMS Coordinator. Instructors included...
Dan Scace, CRCOG Training Coordinator, Kevin Brown of CT DPH, John Pickert, UCONN Health Center Paramedic, and Gary Allyn, our CREPC HAZMAT expert. The capabilities and training provided by this program are widely recognized as desirable to enhance our overall emergency medical response capability, not just add capability to respond to HAZMAT or CBRNE events.

**Regional Emergency Deployment (RED) Plan Training Now on Web**

Training on CREPC’s Regional Emergency Deployment Plan or RED Plan is now readily available to all DEMHS Region 3 communities. Training entails viewing a RED Plan training video and taking a simple 20 question exam. Both of these can be done by going to TRAIN Connecticut (https://ct.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx) and searching for Course ID 1011508. Just click on “RED Plan Training – On Line Version”, register, launch the video and you’ll learn everything you need to know to get regional resources for an emergency that exceeds the capability of your local resources. The exam is completed by taking the post training assessment, and documented on TRAIN Connecticut so we can monitor our progress in training our communities. Completion of the training in a classroom environment is another option. For additional information go to http://www.crcog.org/homeland_sec/drills_red_plan.html. TRAIN Connecticut is a powerful web based program maintained by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. It requires a simple registration process and provides a window to important training for Public Health personnel, first responders, emergency management officials, and appointed and elected public officials.

**Upcoming CRCOG Meetings**

- **Executive Committee**, Wednesday, March 12, Noon, CRCOG Board Room
- **Public Safety Council**, Thursday, March 13, Noon, South Church
- **Municipal Services Committee**, Tuesday, March 18, Noon, CRRA
- **CREPC**, Thursday, March 20, 9:30 a.m. South Church
- **Jobs Access**, Thursday, March 20, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District
- **Regional Planning Commission**, March 20, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
- **Transportation Committee**, Monday, March 24, Noon, CRRA
- **CRCOG Policy Board**, Wednesday, March 26, CRRA
- **Community Development Committee**, Thursday, April 10, Noon, South Church
Capitol Region Update is published ten times per year by of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (www.crcog.org). The February 2008 issue is Volume 40 Number 2. CRCOG was formed January 28, 1968 and organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut. Member municipalities of CRCOG are: Andover, Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks. The officers of the CRCOG Policy Board are: Melody A. Currey, Chair, Mayor of East Hartford, Eddie Perez, Vice Chair, Mayor of Hartford, John Adams, Vice Chair, First Selectman of Granby, Mary Glassman, Treasurer, First Selectman of Simsbury, and Susan Karp, Secretary, Chair, Glastonbury Town Council. Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director.