Capitol Region Update
April 2009
Capitol Region Council of Governments
Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut’s Capital Region
www.crcog.org

CRCOG Thanks Chief Austin for Service

West Hartford Fire Chief Austin was recognized by CRCOG Policy Board Chair Melody Currey at the March meeting for his seven years of service, dedication and significant contributions to CRCOG and its Public Safety Homeland Security Department. As the CREPC Chairman Chief Austin initiated the concept of a Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee and the group held its first meeting in September 2001. Today the group has 41 member communities and typically has up to 80 attendees at each monthly meeting from police, fire, public health, EMS and emergency management disciplines. CRCOG and CREPC are known throughout the State as models for emergency response and homeland security planning due in large part to his efforts. CRCOG thanks and salutes Chief Austin’s service.

Past CRCOG Chair Elected President of the National Association of Regional Councils

At the February 2009 National Conference of Regions, the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) elected Mr. Cassano to be President of NARC until June 2010. He has been very active in the New England Association of Regional Councils. Mr. Cassano is President of the CRCOG Foundation and has served in various capacities for CRCOG since 1977.
Indefinite Quantity of On-Call Construction (formerly Job Order Contracting) on Its Way

CRCOG staff is pleased to announce that we have finalized a contract with The Gordian Group to set up a Job Order Contracting system for our CRCOG and CRPC members. ALL CRCOG and CRPC members will have access to this innovative tool as part of their member benefit. An informational/recruitment meeting was held to give more information on Indefinite Quantity of On-Call Construction and to sign up to participate in this program. We expect this program to be up and running by July 1, 2009. Indefinite quantity of on-call construction typically covers repair, maintenance, and smaller-scale construction/renovation work. A single competitive solicitation is issued covering thousands (or hundreds of thousands) of construction task items that then become a task catalog with line items and pre-set unit prices. Vendors submit two sets of pricing through an adjustment factor (+/-) on these pre-set unit prices for work performed during regular business hours and work performed outside of regular business hours.

Route 305 Corridor Study Hosts Public Meetings

Public involvement and stakeholder input are key components to the successful advancement of our corridor studies and plan development. Public open houses were held on January 29 in Windsor and on February 5 in Bloomfield to present preliminary alternative concepts for Route 305 and to seek comments from the public on these potential options. Attendees were able to review concepts and information boards explaining potential near- and long-term alternatives for the study while discussing benefits and concerns with advisory committee and project team members. Valuable feedback was received at these meetings that will be incorporated into the study recommendations. CRCOG expects the study to be completed in the spring and will be looking for local endorsements upon completion of the draft plan. For more information on the Route 305 Corridor Study, please contact Jennifer Carrier at jcarrier@crcog.org.

Natural Gas Consortium Price Update

Our Natural Gas Consortium now has set prices through June 30, 2010 as outlined below.

**CRCOG Natural Gas Consortium Prices**
**July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010**
CNG Customers: $1.3092/CCF
Yankee Customers: $1.2929/CCF
Totals do not include any applicable taxes or LDC charges which will also be billed through Hess. We are continuing to lock in prices for FY2010-2011 below the numbers seen for FY2009-2010, so you may safely anticipate even lower numbers into FY2010-2011. The consortium contract with Hess expires on June 30, 2011. The Natural Gas Procurement Committee will discuss next steps with regard to contracting this year (2009) in order to prepare for a potential RFP or other procurement process.

**Cities Readiness Initiative Drill**

In the last quarter, CREPC conducted a communications drill in conjunction with the City of Hartford for the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI). The CRI is managed through the Centers for Disease Control and is aimed at preparing metropolitan areas for Mass Dispensing of antibiotic countermeasures specific to an anthrax attack. The drill focused on the City of Hartford’s Health and Human Services Department process for notifying their Emergency Response Team for POD (Points of Dispensing) operations. The city then requested the activation of the region’s RED Plan for assistance through the Regional Integrated Coordination System (RICS) located at the Central CT State University Police Department. Shown in photo: (CRI Communication Drill) Tung Nguyen – City of Hartford HHS Epidemiologist and Jeffery Lim – City of Hartford HHS Public Health Preparedness Coordinator reviewing communication data during drill.

Following the RED Plan, RICS notified the On-Call ESF-5 Duty Officer (Emergency Support Function-5 Emergency Management). After consultation with the requesting authority, the ESF-5 Duty Officer completed a region wide notification of Regional Emergency Support Functions needed to assist a large POD operation. The notification is conducted through a broadcast messaging service whereby all previously identified persons are contacted through their designated contact information. The objective is to notify and prepare the region for support and possible deployment to designate sites or staging areas. Through Global Connect, 149 phone calls were made with a 77% successful live connection (call answered by person directly) rate in less than four minutes.

**Capitol Region and DEMHS Region 3 Exercise**

CRCOG has entered into a contract with Tetra Tech EM Inc. to conduct a series of regional exercises over the next seven months. The exercises will be a series of cascading events based around a severe weather event which not only cripples the region but overwhms the health care system. There will be three exercises in total, a Table Top Exercise, a Functional Exercise and a Full Scale Exercise. Each exercise will produce an After Action Report which will identify gaps in capabilities for the region, local communities and any other organization wishing to flex their Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs). CRCOG, through CREPC, is seeking participation from each
of the CREPC municipalities, the private sector, hospitals, local public health and state agencies responsible for response and recovery efforts.

Carmine Centrella, CRCOG’s Homeland Security Planner, is serving as the Senior Exercise Director responsible for the regional management of this project and overall coordination of the exercises. The integrated Initial Planning Conference (IPC) was held March 3 at the Sheraton Hartford Hotel, 100 East River Drive, East Hartford. The IPC is used to identify goals and objectives for the exercises and is open to planners from not only the region, but local communities wishing to exercise their EOPs.

The Table Top Exercise (TTX), first in the series, will be conducted on April 28, the Functional Exercise (FX) will be scheduled for a June/July timeframe and the Full Scale Exercise (FSE) is tentatively scheduled for September 23, 2009. Exercise dates; 3-3-2009 Initial Planning Conference, 4-14-09 TTX Final Planning Conference, 4-28-09 Table Top Exercise. Organizations/individuals need to RSVP to Carmine Centrella at ccentrella@preparednessplanners.com or by calling 860-522-2217 x 225, as soon as possible to register for the planning conferences. Final venue locations will be emailed and posted.

“5 Years Later – Measuring the Impact” FEMA Grants Conference

The December National Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) Conference, titled “5 Years Later – Measuring the Impact,” provided valuable lessons that will enhance the quality of CRCOG’s homeland security grant applications. GPD has restructured and is making changes in the grant assessment process in response to Congressional desires to understand the impact of grant funding since 9/11. The premise is there should be a measurable impact of grant funding dollars on making the American people safe. Programs briefed at the conference will be implemented in the coming years to capture data for this purpose. Many of those attending from the Capitol Region felt our Urban Area Security Initiative strategy is on track to build the right capabilities. In addition to FEMA leadership presentations and peer discussions on grant implementation lessons learned, the CREPC group attending the conference learned much from their experienced peers. In addition, DEMHS Commissioner James “Skip” Thomas and DEMHS Manager of Strategic Planning and Grant Management Libby Graham also attended the conference and the CRCOG staff was able to network with them on how we can effectively develop and execute homeland security grants.
Upcoming CRCOG Meetings
Bike/Pedestrian Committee – June 9, Noon, CRCOG
Executive Committee – May 13, Noon, CRCOG
Community Development Committee — May 14, Noon, CRCOG
Public Safety – June 11, Noon, South Church
CT River Assembly – May 14 – 7:30 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall
Municipal Services Committee – April 21, Noon, CRCOG
CREPC – May 21, 9:30 a.m., South Church
Jobs Access – April 16, 9:30 a.m., GHTD
Regional Planning Commission – April 16, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
Transportation Committee – April 20, Noon, CRRA
Policy Board – April 22, Noon, CRRA.

Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main Street 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106
860-522-2217
www.crcog.org

Capitol Region Update is published ten times per year by of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (www.crcog.org). The February/March 2009 issue is Volume 41 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, Vice Chair John Adams, 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.