CRCOG Signs Contract for Regional Permitting

CRCOG’s efforts to help towns improve customer service and reduce costs achieved a major milestone with the signing of a contract for an on-line system for building permits. Building permit applicants will apply, pay for, and receive many of their permits on-line, and track the status of their permits as they move through the approval process. Towns will use the system to manage the permit review, approval, and inspections process electronically. Eight towns have agreed to pilot the regional initiative launched on November 12. Additional towns are eligible to join the regional system. The vendor, ViewPoint GIS, was selected through a rigorous Request for Proposal process involving IT directors, Building Officials, and administrators from CRCOG towns. More information is available from Jocelyn Mathiasen, jmathiasen@crcog.org.

Osten Boulevard Named in Hartford for Former CRCOG Employee

On October 30, 2009, the City of Hartford held a dedication ceremony and street sign unveiling by Mayor Eddie Perez for Osten Boulevard, the eastern-most street in the Dutch Point neighborhood. Osten Boulevard was named for Linda Osten, a former CRCOG employee, urban planner and Hartford advocate who passed away December 2007. Among Linda’s many accomplishments was assisting in the redevelopment of the Dutch Point Public Housing Project, a neighborhood that was rebuilt using a $20 million federal Hope VI grant. A resident of the Sheldon-Charter Oak Neighborhood, Linda worked to create and implement a strategic plan for this area. Speakers stressed Linda’s passion, energy, intellect and determination, all qualities which helped her work tirelessly toward creating a better and stronger City of Hartford. The dedication of Osten Boulevard is a fitting tribute to Linda who never let us forget that to have a strong, vital region, we must have a strong and vital central city.
**CRCOG Adopts 2009 Regional Plan of Conservation and Development**

On October 21st, the 2009 update of the CRCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development was formally adopted by the CRCOG Policy Board. State statutes required that our regional plan be updated this year to incorporate six growth management principles, established in the State Conservation and Development Policies Plan for 2005-2010. As CRCOG’s regional plan had been updated in 2003 and already contained within its goals and policies many of the same concepts as are in the State Plan’s Growth management principles, this update focused largely on an update of the Land Use Policy Map and the development of a Land Use Policy Matrix and Municipal Focus Area Map, Matrix and Narrative. The update involved an extensive iterative process between CRCOG Community Development staff, municipal planners and the CRCOG Regional Planning Commission. The public comment period from July to September 2009 produced additional valuable input from municipalities and other agencies in the region. The updated plan is currently being finalized for publication, and will be available shortly online and in hardcopy.

**Purchasing Council Holds Annual Meeting**

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council held its Annual Meeting on October 23, 2009 at the West Hartford Town Hall. Forty-one members were present for the meeting and actively discussed the main topic of “Getting Your Money’s Worth”. Carol Wilson, Procurement Director for the Department of Administrative Services gave a comprehensive updated of agency activities over the past year. Mike Madsen was present from the Purchasing Council’s e-Procurement software vendor, Bid Sync. He described the many ways that CRPC members can use Bid Sync on their own to maximize their savings in solicitations. Tools include any kind of solicitation (including reverse auction), as well as a spec library and piggybacking opportunities with communities in our cooperative as well as nationwide. Also discussed were the EZIQC program and ways to allow Purchasing Council members to piggyback off of each other’s solicitations. A working committee was formed to look further into piggybacking language for towns.

**CRCOG Recruits Solid Waste Partners**

CRCOG is pleased to announce that 41 municipalities have returned preliminary interest forms to CRCOG to help form a new solid waste authority. An additional 10 have expressed interest in joining this effort. The next step is to create a solid waste management authority. CRCOG staff is still accepting forms, so please contact Jennifer March-Wackers with an estimate of your ability to be involved as soon as possible.

Additional information on the new solid waste authority is available on our website at: [http://www.crcog.org/municipal_ser/sw.html](http://www.crcog.org/municipal_ser/sw.html).
Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

CT River Assembly – December 10 – 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall
Jobs Access – January 21, 2010, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG
Bike/Pedestrian Committee – December 8, Noon, CROCG
Community Development Committee — January 14, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
Public Safety – December 10, Noon, South Church
Municipal Services Committee – December 15, Noon, CRCOG
CREPC – December 17, 9:30 a.m., South Church
Regional Planning Commission – December 17, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
Transportation Committee – December 7, Noon, CRRA Trash Museum Board Room
CRCOG Policy Board – December 16, Noon, CRRA Trash Museum Board Room