



Capitol Region Update

December 2009

Capitol Region Council of Governments

Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region

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ARRA Update on Transportation



CRCOG is pleased to report that of the initial seven American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects, three projects are nearing construction completion (Rocky Hill - Old Main Street, Windsor - Day Hill Road, South Windsor - Buckland Road) and one project in Manchester has been awarded to a contractor. Construction plans and specifications for the remaining three projects in East Hartford, Hartford and Canton are undergoing final Connecticut Department of Transportation review and advertising is expected in either December 2009 or January 2010. All of CRCOG's \$17.6 million allotment will be obligated by late

February 2010 which is just over the one-year mark enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Natural Gas Consortium Saves \$2.1 Million



The 33 members of the Natural Gas Consortium now have a complete price picture of the 2010-2011 fiscal year. As a result of our trigger strategy, these members will experience year-to-year savings of approximately 28 cents per CCF, or 22%. For CNG customers, the price will be \$1.0144/CCF and for Yankee Gas customers, the price will be \$0.9989/CCF. These are fixed prices, and do not include transportation charges issued by the utilities. This 22% in savings totals to over \$2.1 million in year-over-year savings for FY2010-2011 as compared to FY2009-2010. This is especially significant during unprecedented budget

constraints faced by our Consortium members.

I-84 Viaduct Study Holds First Public Workshop



Garnering attention from the Hartford Courant and WFSB News, the first Viaduct Study Public Open House and Workshop attracted over 50 people from the Capitol Region on November 19, 2009. An Open House session provided attendees the opportunity to review maps, diagrams, and photographs of the study area; to illustrate their own ideas on table maps; and to discuss the study with project team members. The Workshop included an introduction to the study; breakout sessions to discuss economic development, urban design, and

transportation issues; and a facilitated discussion on the future of the Viaduct. Valuable feedback was received at this workshop that will help shape alternatives developed in the next phase of the study. A second workshop will be held in February 2010. For more information on the I-84 Viaduct Study, please contact Tom Maziarz at tmaziarz@crcog.org.

Public Safety Council Welcomes Skip Thomas as Chair and Honors Terry Schnure



James M. "Skip" Thomas received a warm welcome as he chaired his first CRCOG Public Safety Council meeting on December 10th. Photo at left shows Cheryl Assis, Jim Donnelly, Terry Schnure and Skip Thomas. Skip brings to the council 40 years of experience in criminal justice, including 14 years as a police chief in the Capitol Region towns of Glastonbury and Vernon, six years as Director of Justice Planning for OPM, and, most recently, almost six years as the Commissioner of the CT

Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). In addition to hearing updates on the CAPTAIN system, E-Citation, CREPC's long term care facility mutual aid plan, CJIS and the H1N1 and seasonal flu viruses, the Council presented an appreciation award to Theron "Terry" Schnure for his role as an advocate for the CAPTAIN mobile data system. Terry worked with Skip in OPM's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division, and he understood and appreciated the need for better systems for law enforcement information and data sharing. Because of his efforts, the region's CAPTAIN system was implemented and has become a model for the state.

DEMHS Commissioner Boynton as CREPC Speaker



DEMHS Commissioner Peter J. Boynton addressed a well-attended CREPC meeting on November 19th. He provided a description of his background including 28 years in the Coast Guard and as top federal security official at Bradley International Airport. He also introduced his new Deputy Commissioner (and former Bloomfield Police Chief and CREPC member), Betsy J.S. Hard. While the agency's budget reductions have been difficult and cut-backs necessary, Commissioner Boynton expressed his belief that DEMHS will continue to be able to meet both federal mandates and the expectations of CT residents and other state agencies for emergency preparedness. To guide the agency's

policies and programs, he has put in place a three-person leadership team consisting of himself, Deputy Commissioner Hard and Emergency Operations Director Bill Hackett, so that both police and fire concerns are well represented. He recognized CREPC's leadership in its recent capabilities assessment and the need for a similar assessment statewide to better target scarce financial resources for emergency preparedness.

Annual Medical Reserve Corps Summit Held



The US Department of Health & Human Services, Regions I & II convened its annual Medical Reserve Corps Training Summit November 19th and 20th at the Grand Pequot Tower Hotel, Ledyard, CT. Shown in photo from left are: Derrick May from the Northeast Health District and Linda Gallick from the Milford Health Department and West Hartford Fire Chief William Austin. Captain Rob Tosatto, Director of the Office of Civilian Volunteers (OCVMRC), in the Department of Health and

Human Services, attended along with other OCVMRC staff members. Katherine McCormack, Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps Commander, was a member of the Planning Committee. The Summit opened with a New England Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday evening, focusing on H1N1. The Regional Summit continues to be a vital part of MRC engagement and learning, as it leverages the diverse experiences and practices to create a more robust knowledgebase for MRC leaders. Chief William Austin, West Hartford Fire and Chair of CT Citizen Corps Council led a session, ***The Power of Partnership: Cross-Training with CERT & MRC***, intended to continue the CERT/MRC conversation started at the 2009 Citizen Corps annual meeting.

Jennifer March-Wackers Earns Credential



Jennifer March-Wackers, Senior Program Manager of Municipal Services at the Capitol Region Council of Governments, was recently notified by the Universal Public Purchasing Certification Council (UPPCC) that she has received the Certified Public Purchasing Officer (CPPO) credential. Among Jennifer's responsibilities is management of the CRCOG Capitol Region Purchasing Council, a cooperative with over 81 members. Jennifer was among 65 professionals in the United States and the only person in Connecticut who successfully completed the CPPO examination held October 26-31, 2009. Jennifer is now one

of only five public purchasing professionals in Connecticut who have earned this credential to date. Congratulations to Jen on this achievement!

CT-3 IMT Attends National AHIMT Conference



"All Hazard Incident Management Teams have changed the face of emergency response..."

This is how Tom Boggus, Interim Director, Texas Forrest Service, characterized the impact of developing IMTs in Texas as he opened the 2009 All Hazard Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Training and Education Conference. Boggus thanked the 350+ individuals at the conference for

their hard work and professional manner in which they went about their business. For members of CT-IMT 3 (CT Region 3 Incident Management Team), it was all about learning from the speakers and our peers. Seven members of the CT-3 IMT and two from Southeast CT IMT 4 went to Houston, Texas to attend the 2009 Conference November 4-6 to learn how to be more effective in protecting citizens and property when faced with a large-scale natural or man-made incident.

The conference was designed to “link local, state and national responders and policy makers together with the goal of integrating and coordinating responses to events and incidents in our communities.” Keynote speakers, general sessions, and breakout sessions on a variety of Incident Management topics provided excellent training for the team on a variety of training including; lessons learned from incidents and funding and procurement. CT IMT-3 wishes to thank CRCOG for the on going support for building the team.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

CRCOG Executive Committee – January 13, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
Connecticut River Assembly – January 14, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall
Municipal Services Committee – January 19, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
CRCOG Transportation Committee – January 25, 2010, Noon, CRRA
CRCOG Policy Board – January 27, 2010, Noon, CRRA
CREPC – January 21, 2010, 9:30 a.m., South Church
Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force – January 21, 2010, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG
Regional Planning Commission – February 18, 2010, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford
Bike/Pedestrian Committee – March 9, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
Public Safety Council – March 11, Noon, South Church



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