

Capitol Region Update



November-December 2010

Capitol Region Council of Governments

Serving the 30 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region

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Stafford Becomes 30th Community in CRCOG



The Town of Stafford joined CRCOG in September upon approval from the State of Connecticut, Department of Office and Policy Management, that the Town of Stafford be designated as part of the Capitol Planning Region. Stafford has approximately 11,300 residents and covers 58 square miles, making it the third largest town in land area in Connecticut. Michael P. Krol serves as the First Selectman and as the Policy Board representative. The

Town of Stafford's website is: <http://www.staffordct.org>. CRCOG welcomes the Town of Stafford as part of the capital region.

I-84 Viaduct Study Concludes with Community Summit



Over a hundred members of the community attended the final I-84 Viaduct Study public meeting on October 27. The Study was charged with identifying a range of alternatives to the viaduct structure that divides the City of Hartford today. Residents, major employers, local organizations, the City, ConnDOT, and other stakeholders provided input to establish four options which mix and match a variety of elements; these include an enhanced viaduct structure, lowering the highway with development above, rail line relocation, an at-grade highway segment,

and a tunnel section. The Community Summit included a presentation of these alternatives and statements from the City of Hartford, ConnDOT, CRCOG and the HUB of Hartford Committee expressing satisfaction with the study process and findings and a desire to keep this positive momentum moving forward. For more information on the I-84 Viaduct Study, please visit the project website at <http://www.crcog.org/viaduct.html>.

Route 3 Traffic and Development Study Goes Public



The Route 3 Traffic and Development Study is underway. The public outreach process was initiated on December 8th with a Public Kick-off meeting. The meeting began with a presentation that described the study limits, goals, process, schedule, and efforts to date. Following the presentation, a public comment and visioning session was held. Reaction to the study was positive and feedback was spirited in detailing existing study area traffic

operations, truck traffic, and safety concerns. The second of a total of four Public Meetings is anticipated to take place in mid-Spring 2011.

Following the public meeting, CRCOG and the consultant staff appeared on *The Mayor's Report*, a live televised program, on December 16. The program format gave Rocky Hill Mayor Anthony LaRosa and the study team an opportunity to discuss study issues and further address comments received at the Public Kick-off meeting. The show will be rebroadcast regularly in December and January on the local public access channel. For more information please visit the project website at http://www.crcog.org/transportation/current_stud/Route3.html.

New CREPC Leadership Team



Elections were held at the November Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee meeting. Outgoing Chairman Daniel Vindigni welcomed new Chairman Brian Heavren, Assistant Chief, Hartford Police

Department; First Co-Chair Mark Sirois, Chief, East Hartford Police Department; and Second Co-Chair Laurie Ann Scotti, Assistant Vice President, Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery, Lincoln Financial Group. Shown in the photo from left to right are: Cheryl Assis, Dan Vindigni, Laurie Ann Scotti, Brian Heavren, and Mark Sirois.

Auxiliary Emergency Communications Workshop



The Capitol Region UASI area was selected to be a test site for a newly designed Auxiliary Emergency Communications (AEC) Workshop conducted by the federal Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications. The course was held from December 3rd through 5th at the Regional Coordination Center in Manchester and HAM radio operators from

Region III communities who work with their local emergency operations centers were invited to participate. The workshop was designed for the amateur radio/auxiliary communicator or group providing emergency communications backup support for planned or unplanned events at a State/Territory, Tribal, regional, or local level. Volunteer emergency communications operators/groups in the amateur radio service have been providing back-up communications to public safety for nearly 100 years. The course focused on educating attendees about auxiliary communications interoperability, emergency operation center etiquette, on-the-air etiquette, FCC rules and regulations, auxiliary communications training and planning, certification and accreditation, and emergency communications deployment.

New Staff Join CRCOG



CRCOG is pleased to welcome Pauline Yoder and Rob Aloise to our staff. Pauline joined CRCOG in November as Special Projects Coordinator. Pauline holds a Masters of Business Administration from Yale University with a concentration in strategy and finance. Pauline has over 16 years of experience working in both the financial services and IT fields. She will be working on a variety of special projects, aimed at both internal management issues and supporting CRCOG initiatives.



Rob joined CRCOG in November as a Principal Transportation Engineer. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Connecticut and is a licensed professional engineer. Rob will be working on corridor study planning and assisting with federal funding program management. Prior to joining us, Rob worked as a Transportation Consultant and has over 18 years of experience.

New Interns Join CRCOG



CRCOG has hired two interns to assist with congestion management and other regional planning efforts. Hongmei Zhou (right in photo) joined the transportation team in October. She holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Transportation and Urban Engineering. In addition to assisting CRCOG with our congestion management efforts, Hongmei is also a research scholar at UConn.

Ahmed Ismail (left in photo) is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University who is currently pursuing his master's in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst. Ahmed joined CRCOG in October and brings with him experience working as a Project Manager at the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council.

CRCOG Receives Software Grant for SharePoint

Earlier this year, CRCOG received a grant under the Microsoft Software Donation Program, allowing us to obtain SharePoint and associated software. SharePoint allows both internal and external access to selected project documents, graphics, discussions and calendars. Project managers, additional staff, and consultants can easily collaborate on the development of reports, presentations, and related documents. Using SharePoint, CRCOG will be able to work more efficiently with municipal staff, consultants and the public on a variety of projects including corridor studies. The Route 10 Corridor study was chosen to serve as a pilot deployment of a SharePoint site, and CRCOG staff is currently working with a consultant on its development. The site is 80% complete and will be launched for testing soon. The grant was valued at approximately \$85,000.

Spring 2009 Color Orthophotography Available Now



Under the OPM Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program, CRCOG received a grant to create high-quality Color Orthophotography for the Capitol Region. (The State Capitol is shown at left). Photography from the spring 2009 flight is now ready for distribution to our member municipalities. The vendor is creating a mosaic for each municipality to assist in the use of the data, while the individual tiles are available now. MRSID (compressed) files can be mailed to members on a DVD. GeoTIFFs (uncompressed) will require an external hard disk drive. Please contact our GIS/IT Coordinator Erik Snowden to arrange

for pickup or if you have questions (860-522-2217 ext. 217 or esnowden@crcog.org).

Upcoming Meeting Dates

CRCOG Executive Committee – January 12, 2011, Noon, CRCOG

Public Safety Council – January 13, 2011, Noon, South Church

Municipal Services – January 18, 2011, Noon, CRCOG

Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force – January 20, 2011, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG

CREPC – January 20, 2011, 9:30 a.m., South Church

Regional Planning Commission – January 20, 2011, 7:00 p.m. West Hartford Town Hall

Transportation Committee – January 24, 2011, Noon, CRRA

CRCOG Policy Board – January 26, 2011, Noon, CRRA

CT River Assembly - Thursday, February 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall

Bike/Pedestrian Committee - March 8, 2011, Noon, CRCOG



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