



CRCOG News

January-April 2011

Capitol Region Council of Governments www.crcog.org

Serving the 30 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region

CRCOG Past Chair Melody Currey Honored



In January 2011, Governor Dannel Malloy appointed then CRCOG Chair Melody Currey as Commissioner of the CT Department of Motor Vehicles. First Selectman John Adams of Granby served as interim Chair of CRCOG until the election of First Selectman Mary Glassman of Simsbury. The photo shows Commissioner Currey receiving a plaque of appreciation from First Selectmen Adams and Glassman at the January 26, 2011 Board meeting. Commissioner Currey served as CRCOG Chair from 2008 to 2011.

Governor Green Lights Bus Rapid Transit Project



On April 4, 2011, Governor Dannel Malloy announced his intention to “aggressively pursue construction of the New Britain-Hartford Bus Rapid Transit project”. The Governor pledged to work “towards a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system that will not only move people and goods more efficiently, but more critically, foster economic growth and an improved quality of life for Connecticut residents”. CRCOG has supported this project since it was first proposed in the late 1990’s. Expected benefits include: reducing congestion on Interstate 84, improving mobility, providing opportunities for

transit oriented development, and creating the first rapid transit in the region. Construction on the project is expected to begin in the summer of 2011, with operation commencing in 2014.

Simsbury Route 10 Corridor Study Underway



CRCOG, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) and the Town of Simsbury have begun work on a study to address safety, access management and development potential/growth along the Route 10 corridor. The Simsbury Route 10 Corridor Study is examining a seven mile stretch of Route 10 running between the Simsbury/Avon border and Wolcott Road. CRCOG is working with town officials, the project Steering Committee, the public and the consulting firm of Fuss & O’Neill over a ten month period to make

recommendations for future roadway improvements throughout the corridor. This study has incorporated a new public outreach component in the form of the Route 10 Corridor Charrette. Held from February 7–February 10, 2011 at the Simsbury Public Library, this transportation corridor charrette was the first of its kind to be held in the Capitol Region and it brought in hundreds of Simsbury residents over four days to participate through an opening public workshop, work progress “pin-up” sessions, open studio hours and a closing presentation. For more information on this Route 10 Corridor Study, please visit the project webpage at www.crcog.org or contact Emily Moos, the project manager at emoos@crcog.org.

CRCOG Facilitates Storm Central After Action Review



The After Action Review focused on the winter snow events in the City of Hartford and identified what worked well, what did not, and how all appropriate stakeholders can better communicate to deliver the best services for the residents of Hartford and the Capitol Region. This past winter the City of Hartford had over 80 inches of snow, a majority of which fell in a three week period. The average snowfall amount in a typical winter in Hartford is 26.7 inches. Shown in the photo from the left are Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra, Assistant

Police Chief Brian Heavren and Police Chief Daryl Roberts. Hartford Mayor Segarra was joined by more than 25 local, state and regional officials, including staff from CRCOG, DEMHS, SCAN, CT Transit, ConnDOT; and city staff from the Police and Fire Departments, Department of Public Works, Health and Human Services and Emergency Services and Telecommunications. According to Mayor Segarra, meeting outcomes included a clear sense of when the City of Hartford’s Emergency Operations Center will be opened and operational, how the City’s decision-making is impacted by state operations, and relationship-building between the relevant authorities to better facilitate communication in the future.

CRCOG Orthophotography Project a Success



In 2008, the Capitol Region Council of Governments received nearly \$5.2 million from the CT Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to carry out ten Regional Performance Initiative (RPI) Grants. The RPI grants were designed to take advantage of economies of scale that can be realized by regional cooperation and coordination of projects. One request funded was a \$357,000 GIS Flight and Mapping project. The capture and processing of aerial imagery provided a large cost savings as compared to individual municipalities contracting for the imagery themselves.

The entire Capitol Region and the Town of Plainville participated in this project for a total of 30 municipalities. This particular aerial survey provided detailed data including curb lines, edge of paved surfaces or edge of traveled way, utility poles, street signs, highway lane and traffic safety markings, and general feature details as building footprints, decks, pools, reservoirs, tanks, docks, piers, airports, bridges, overpasses, underpasses, railroads, parking

lots, driveways, other impervious surfaces, streams, lakes, drainage courses, holding basins, shorelines, other watercourses, vegetation outlines, fence lines, drainage, and other similar construction or terrain features.

Vernon used the imagery to map and calculate the area of roofs of their schools and other large buildings. This allowed engineers to determine if the weight of this winter's epic snowfall on these buildings was over their structural capacity. Vernon and Manchester were also able to locate and uncover buried fire hydrants using the data. Manchester is also updating their building footprints, edge of pavement, trail maps and sign inventory using the imagery. The U.S Army at the Hartford Armory will also be utilizing the data to update their facilities mapping. The project was managed by CRCOG, with generous assistance from municipal GIS professionals in the region.

DEMHS Recognizes Incident Management Team



On February 10, 2011 the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Coordinating Council voted to recommend the formalization and adoption of the DEMHS Region 3 Incident Management Team (CT-IMT 3). Commissioner Peter Boynton formalized this recommendation on March 1, 2011 when he signed the recognition document officially making CT-IMT 3 Connecticut's first fully functional Type 3 Incident Management Team. CT-IMT 3 was created in 2008 when the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC) determined that the emerging FEMA "All Hazards Type 3 Incident Management" team concept would be a great addition to the regional response network. Then DEMHS Commissioner James "Skip" Thomas blessed the team development with Donald Moore, Commander of Bloomfield Police Department's EMS division, as the team's first leader. Since then CT-IMT 3 has worked diligently to become fully qualified and effective. Team deployments include the Kleen Energy Power Plant explosion and building collapses in Middletown, coverage during firefighter funerals in Bridgeport, and the hostage/barricaded suspect standoff in South Windsor. In addition to supporting local and Region 3 incident commanders, qualified Type 3 teams can also support responses at the State and Federal levels if needed.

The team continues to build skills by participating in exercises with local, state, and federal agencies, type 4 and 5 teams, and other emergency management community members. Connecticut Incident Management Team-3 is available 24/7/365, and deploys with its own cache of equipment. For additional information go to <http://ct3.imtcenter.net> or contact Donald Moore at 860-209-9470.

Region's Incident Management Team Deploys to Texas



At the beginning of this year CT-IMT 3 was one of 10 recognized Type 3 Incident Management Teams selected by the United States Fire Administration to participate in a Type 3 team pilot development program. This program funds team member deployments to large scale incidents for mentoring and training. CT-IMT 3 members bring many years of experience and expertise to incident management across multiple disciplines. Team members have backgrounds in, and are still active in, Fire, Police, Emergency Medical Services, Public Works, Public Health, State and Local Government and the

Military. Our team also receives support from private sector companies with access to technical specialists or employer to employee support. Shown in photo above are team members deployed to Texas (Left to Right): Don Janelle, Manchester Emergency Management, Dave Gofstein, Bloomfield Public Works, Don Moore, Bloomfield Police Department, Bill Perkins, CRCOG, Bill Austin, West Hartford Fire Department, and Sheri Devaux, CT Department of Information Technology.

Like all of our regional teams CT-IMT 3 is empowered by those they support. The IMT concept relies on the written authorization of the authority having jurisdiction to manage an incident, or they may function in a support role to support the local authorities in meeting their incident objectives. This is typically how the team deploys in Connecticut, in support of the local Incident Commanders. In either case, the team's goal is to support and allow for a safe incident conclusion, not to assume command or take over the incident. On March 14, 2011 CT-IMT 3 was activated and deployed six team members under the pilot program to Merkel, Texas to assist the Texas Forest Service (TFS) with incident management of wild-land fires. The TFS has been fighting these fires for over 130 days with the support of IMT members from over 25 states. It is hard for us to envision the magnitude of such disasters with over 160,000 acres burning. Assisting and learning in this environment contributed greatly to the development of CT-IMT 3 and more such deployments to Texas are planned.

CREPC Trains for Improved Regional Response

CREPC has developed a multi-year comprehensive training and exercise program to better prepare the region's first responders, public officials, and public and private organizations for an event involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD). As part of this program, two informational workshops were held in February and March to review and familiarize participants with the various plans that are in place to guide municipal, regional, and state responders. The February workshop looked closely at public health aspects of WMD response and associated plans, identified key roles and responsibilities, and explored multiple what-if scenarios. The March workshop at Goodwin College, provided an overview of how Region 3 is preparing for a WMD event,



and featured a panel representing the points of view of a small town, a mid-size town, a city, and various state and federal agencies. Panel members shown in the above photo are Sgt. Justin Kelly (CT State Police), Michael Firsick (CT DEP), Len Guercia (CT DPH), and Dave Brown and Bob Kenney (CT DEMHS). Local emergency management directors were encouraged to review their local Emergency Operations Plans in the context of other state and regional plans, and to make revisions to provide better coordination. Next in the training and exercise sequence is a tabletop exercise for Operation THREAT, scheduled for April 13, which will explore some elements of the Regional Emergency Support Plan, in greater detail. At the March workshop, CREPC Chairman Brian Heavren presented a plaque to Dan Vindigni, Assistant Town Manager of Enfield, in appreciation of his leadership and his service during his two years as CREPC Chairman.



Upcoming Meeting Dates

CRCOG Policy Board – May 4, 2011, Noon, CRRA – Special Meeting
CRCOG Executive Committee – May 11, 2011, Noon, CRCOG
CT River Assembly – May 12, 2011, at 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall
Municipal Services – May 17, 2011, Noon, CRCOG
Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force – May 19, 2011, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG
CREPC – May 19, 2011, 9:30 a.m., South Church
Regional Planning Commission – May 19, 2011, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
Transportation Committee – May 23, 2011, Noon, CRRA
CRCOG Policy Board – May 25, 2011, Noon, CRRA
CRCOG ANNUAL MEETING – June 9, 2011, Noon, Boat House
Bike/Pedestrian Committee – June 14, 2011, Noon, CRCOG
Public Safety Council – TBA, Noon, South Church



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