Citizen Preparedness Program Pays Off, Continues to Grow

The Get Ready Capitol Region program, which includes the web site getreadycapitolregion.org and its related Facebook and Twitter (@r3ready) accounts, continues to grow. The program is using the latest social media tools to build awareness and make our communities more resilient. As of January 23, our Facebook page has 3,129 “Likes” since the account was established in 2012 and the campaign to promote the use of Facebook was started in September. Statistics demonstrate the information available from this program is used a lot when disasters threaten us; use of the site spiked during the winter storm and picked up significantly in early January as we began to post warnings about the flu. On January 15 CRCOG staff working the Get Ready Capitol Region program held our first quarterly Citizen Preparedness Coalition meeting with a group of local leaders in the Hartford community to discuss how to make Connecticut more prepared. The two pilot programs (Bristol Special Needs and East Hartford Neighborhood Emergency Team) are scheduled to complete their initial phases of operation and hope to be able to provide meaningful information for you to start programs in your communities by the end of the summer.

That’s a Wrap: Lead by Example Video Series Features CRCOG Towns

After nearly a year of planning, filming, interviewing and editing work, an exciting video series is now available to municipalities, state agencies and community groups alike to help spread the word about building more vibrant and sustainable communities. Thanks to a generous grant from the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation, CRCOG, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and Middlesex Community College’s Corporate Media Center partnered to produce the series. The videos are designed to “bring to life” the success stories of CT communities and their progressive work on energy and sustainability and inspire additional municipalities to do more of the same. The project was conceived to support both the DEEP’s Lead by Example municipal outreach and marketing campaign, and CRCOG’s own Sustainable Capitol Region initiative. The five short segments (2-5 minutes each) cover a broad spectrum of topics.
and projects, including: energy savings performance contracting; building healthy communities; sustainable land use regulations; local energy champions; and creating a sustainable region. They can be accessed on DEEP’s Lead by Example webpage at http://www.ct.gov/deep/leadbyexample and on CRCOG’s soon-to-be-launched Green Clearinghouse micro-site (www.GreenRegionCt.org). We encourage you to view the videos, link to them on your own sites, and share them at upcoming municipal and community meetings to encourage thoughtful discussion. For more information on the project or to arrange for a CRCOG presentation to accompany a showing, please contact Hedy Ayers at hayers@crcog.org.

**Sustainability Workshops Define Model Regulatory Tools for Towns**

On January 17th and 18th, CRCOG municipal leaders and stakeholders involved in the Sustainable Land Use Regulation project – part of the larger Sustainable Knowledge Corridor effort – met during a series of workshops to determine which topics will be the focus of future model regulations. Involved in the meetings with project consultants from Clarion Associates and CRCOG staff were planners and stakeholders from urban, suburban and rural towns, as well as other regional stakeholders including state agency representatives, partner non-profit and advocacy groups, elected officials and regional planning commission members. A focus group of Connecticut homebuilders also discussed sustainable regulation development.

The models developed in this project will become tools for towns that wish to move toward implementing more sustainable development. Thus far, the general topic areas that have been the focus of this effort are energy efficiency and alternative energy, local food systems and food security, housing diversity and affordable housing, and mixed used compact development which can support transit oriented development. As a result of the January Workshops, model codes will likely be generated on a more refined range topic including small-scale solar and ground source heat pump installation, community garden incentives, accessory dwelling unit regulations and infill development standards. The model regulations will likely be available for potential implementation by communities starting in the fall of 2013 when another public meeting will take place. A video on this project and other sustainability topics can be found on the Sustainable Capitol Region YouTube Channel at: http://www.youtube.com/user/TheSustainableCR

**H.E.L.P. Signage Installed for Incident Management**

More than 300 highway emergency location placards (H.E.L.P.) have been installed on the ramp systems serving I-84, I-384 and I-291 near the Buckland Hills Mall. These location reference signs are being installed mostly on streetlight poles, and will assist in identifying the exact location of an incident to emergency responders. Since the reference numbers on the signs have been programmed into the emergency services computer-aided dispatch systems, they will give the first responders not only the location of the caller, but also the most efficient route to reach the incident. This federally-funded
Downtown Hartford Bus Circulation Study

CRCOG is working with the City of Hartford, CTTransit, the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and the Greater Hartford Transit District to improve downtown Hartford bus circulation. A study involving the redesign of city streets to make the bus system easier to use and understand, provide an efficient route for CTFastrak vehicles into the heart of downtown, and better connect Union Station and Main Street is being finalized. Key changes under consideration include the reopening of State Street and the “Isle of Safety” near the Old State House for CTFastrak vehicles, converting Asylum Street to accommodate two-way CTFastrak traffic, through routing of local and express buses, new bus stop locations, and the creation of a mini-hub at Union Station. The study complements the Intermodal Triangle Project, designed to strengthen the region’s economic and employment core by providing improved intermodal connections. Study recommendations will serve as the foundation for a construction project receiving $10 million in federal TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) funds scheduled to begin in 2014. Additional information on the study may be found at http://www.crcog.org/transportation/studies/downtownbus.html.

New Leadership for the Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee

CREPC Elections were held in December. Bruce Lockwood was elected as the new Chairman and Donald Moore and David Koscuk as the 1st and 2nd Vice-Chairs respectively. At the January meeting, Chairman Brian Heavren, and Vice-Chairs Mark Sirois and Laurie Ann Scotti were presented with plaques to thank them for their leadership and dedication to CREPC over the past several years. Shown in the photo from the left are Chief Mark Sirois, Bruce Lockwood, and Laurie Ann Scotti.

Magic Carpet Flying in Enfield!

In January 2013, Enfield introduced its new Flying Carpet shuttle bus service. Operating Monday through Saturday, the Magic Carpet links the villages of Thompsonville and Hazardville and provides access to retail locations and services along Hazard Avenue and Elm Street. From 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday service operates in both clockwise and counterclockwise loops. From 7 to 11 PM and on Saturdays, a single loop runs. The service is run by the Town Social Services office and is the result of many years of hard work on the part of Enfield staff. CRCOG was able to assist by bringing the need for transit in Enfield to the forefront with our 2007 Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. This enabled the Town to access New Freedom funds for the service. Additionally in 2012, CRCOG used funding from the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant to undertake a planning...
study which developed the final route and operating details. The Town is to be commended for stepping up to create the service. Contact Pam Brown for more details and take a look at the video marketing the new service: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEn-5cCy-K4&feature=youtu.be

Regional Fire Grant Supports Preparedness

On January 18 CRCOG submitted a Fire Grant for a proposed Capitol Region Fire Safety Challenge to complement our Get Ready Capitol Region citizen preparedness program. This grant was completed with support and assistance from RESF-4 (Firefighting) and RESF-16 (Volunteer Management which includes CERT). This project is designed to help combat fires, limit risks to first-responders and improve citizen preparedness by providing resources to test, repair and/or install fire prevention/detection equipment for Capitol Region residents upon their request. Targeted populations include seniors, citizens with functional needs, and disadvantaged communities. In addition to fire safety, resources for general preparedness from the Get Ready Capitol Region program will be provided to citizens involved in the challenge. Program goals are:
- Goal 1 - Enhance fire safety in participating communities in the Region over the course of the one year grant period of performance;
- Goal 2 - Enhance overall citizen preparedness in all communities in the Region; and
- Goal 3 - Using feedback from participants, assess program effectiveness and chart the road ahead for continued community support.

At this point the Cities of Hartford and Bristol and the Towns of East Haddam and Vernon are participating in the program. In the event additional towns indicate a desire to participate, CRCOG will assess resources to determine if resources are available to support additional local programs. Expansion of the program to additional towns may be easily possible with the infrastructure put in place with this grant. As designed, CRCOG will manage/budget funds for planning, training, equipment, supplies and outreach, and participating fire departments and CERT teams will be organized, trained and equipped to work with willing residents to meet their needs for fire safety in their homes. If awarded the grant CRCOG will establish a scheduling and tracking system to manage the inventory of resources, training of volunteers and inspection/installation schedule.

CRCOG Contractors Achieve National Certification

CRCOG sent two of its Public Safety / Homeland Security contractors to Arlington, VA the week of January 21st to attend the “Train the Trainer National Planning Course (TtTNPC). William Perkins and Carmine Centrella attended the four day session to obtain National Certification to teach the National Planner Course (NPC) for Federal Plan Development Process (FPDP). The FPDP is the planning process that is being implemented across all Federal agencies and at this time approximately 40% of all Federal “Planners” have been exposed to the process and the National Planners Course.

Even though the elements of the FPDP are formed around Federal agencies and its respective planning and hierarchal structures the process is applicable to planning at all levels and when examined closely, our everyday decision making uses the same “thought” process whether we are conscious of it or not. The National Planners Course is offered to all level of planners and not just Federal agencies, Perkins and Centrella received certification from the National Planners Course in September of 2012 on Plum Island along with William Turley from the North Central District Health District. Both Perkins and Centrella came away from the TtTNPC with a renewed sense of having the tools to assist our local municipalities put the pieces together in building an effective All Hazards Emergency Operations
Plan. They are two of the approximate ten (10) local planners nationally to achieve National Certification to teach the National Planners Course. The final examination was for them to team teach for one and a half hours and achieve 50% of the “Presentation Skills” core competencies; they finished with 99%. The two are now available to work with CRCOG, and the US DHS Office of Operations Coordination and Planning to bring NPC into Connecticut and Region 3.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

**Transportation Committee** – March 18, 2013, Noon, CRRA  
**Public Safety Committee** – March 14, 2013, Noon, South Church  
**Municipal Services** – March 19, 2013, Noon, CRCOG  
**CRCOG Policy Board** – March 20, 2013, Noon, CRRA  
**Bike/Pedestrian Committee** – March 12, 2013, Noon, TBD  
**Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force** – April 18, 2013, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG  
**CREPC** – April 18, 2013, 9:30 a.m., South Church  
**Regional Planning Commission** – March 21, 2013, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall  
**CRCOG Executive Committee** – May 8, 2013, Noon, CRCOG