CRPC Town Wins Regional Job Order Contracting Award

The Town of North Haven was recently recognized with a 2012 Regional Award of Excellence in Job Order Contracting for exemplifying outstanding principles and practices for the construction of its five-bay, 5,000 SF Department of Public Works building. It was also a finalist for the nationally-coveted Harry H. Mellon Award of Excellence, which is considered the industry’s highest honor. According to the Town’s First Selectman, Michael J. Freda, “The project in North Haven is a symbolic representation of how good government should always work. We have a project that came in under budget, under the original timeframe, improved the aesthetic aspect of the Public Works site, allowed us to seamlessly move from a lease that expired at a previous site and created outstanding synergies for our Public Works by having this site at our existing facility.” North Haven is one of 24 CRPC communities that have relied on CRCOG’s ezIQC program to complete construction, repair and maintenance work at municipal facilities across the state. The photo shows Harry H. Mellon, the inventor of the Job Order Contracting procurement process, presents Town of North Haven officials and Pat Munger Construction staff with a 2012 Regional Award of Excellence in Job Order Contracting. Interested in learning more about this innovative procurement tool? Visit our website at http://www.crcog.org/purchasing%20_coun/job_order.html or contact Hedy Ayers at hayers@crcog.org.

Workshop Highlights Opportunities and Strategies for Transit Oriented Development in Knowledge Corridor

Over 80 municipal, state and federal officials, for-profit and non-profit developers, and individuals and agencies with an interest in transit oriented development (TOD) came together at the June 5th workshop, “How the Knowledge Corridor’s Municipalities Can Make TOD Work for Them”. The session was co-sponsored by the Capitol Region Council of Governments and the Partnership for Strong Communities, with funding from a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. This training was part of CRCOG’s and the Partnership for Strong Communities’ ongoing efforts to help communities capitalize on the over $1.5 billion in new bus rapid transit (CTfastrak) and commuter rail (NHHS Rail Project) investments underway in the region. The session focused on understanding the market potential for transit oriented-development nationally and in the Knowledge Corridor region, identifying the critical factors that have led to successful TOD in other parts of the country, the importance of a corridor approach to transit oriented development, and Value Capture and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as tools to harness increased value for municipal purposes. Speakers included leading national experts in TOD, Northeastern University Professor
Stephanie Pollack, Associate Director of Research, Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy and Sujata Srivastava, Principal, Strategic Economics and the Center for Transit Oriented Development (CTOD). Also presenting was David McCarthy of the Jonathan Rose Companies, lead consultant along with CTOD on the report, Making It Happen: Opportunities and Strategies for Transit Oriented Development in the Knowledge Corridor. A video of the session, power point presentations, and resource materials will soon be available on the CRCOG and Partnership for Strong Communities websites.

CRCOG Back Office Study Underway
CRCOG was awarded a study grant from OPM to conduct a Back Office Service Sharing Assessment in early 2013. We have completed the RFP to procure consultant services and are ready to begin! The Back Office RFP Review Committee unanimously chose Management Partners (http://managementpartners.com/) as our consultant. We expect preliminary results from the study in late August/early September with a final report due in October 2013. The recommendations will include suggestions for strategic advancement of our service sharing offerings as well as the beginnings of a plan to offer a complete suite of solutions to towns through our new Capital Region Service Bureau.

Tyler Regional Animal Care Shelter Opens
The Grand Opening and dedication of TRACS was held on April 26th. This project was funded through a regional service sharing grant from OPM to CRCOG and allows for the sharing of animal control services among the communities of East Hartford, Manchester and South Windsor. The facility is named for former South Windsor Police Chief Gary K. Tyler who initiated the project. The facility is housed in the former South Windsor Fire Department building on Sullivan Avenue which was completely refurbished to accommodate the new purpose. Animal control officers from each of the three communities work at the shelter which is governed by a Board of Directors. In photo at left South Windsor Police Chief Matthew Reed and East Hartford Mayor Marcia Leclerc speak at the dedication ceremony.

Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center
On April 29, 2013 Governor Malloy announced a partnership between the State and UConn in creating the Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center (CTSRC). The Center is designed to support CTDOT in developing and maintaining a state of the art system for crash data entry, collection, and safety analysis. The main initiative at this time of the CTSRC is the development of a crash data repository (http://www.ctcrash.uconn.edu/), an easy to use tool that makes crash data and analysis available through a web browser. In support of this effort, UConn is assisting CTDOT with reducing the lag on crash data availability, configuring the repository for the new crash reporting form to be used statewide beginning 2015, and preparing for electronic data collection across the state. CRCOG serves on the CTSRC Technical Advisory Committee. Additional information on the CTSRC may be found at http://www.cti.uconn.edu/connecticut-transportation-safety-research-center.

CRCOG Electricity Consortium Accepting New Towns
The CRCOG Electricity Consortium is entering a new contract phase on January 1, 2014 and we are accepting new members into the group! We will be conducting a reverse auction for the group’s kWh this fall and plan to gather all of the necessary data and qualifying vendors over the summer. A Participation Commitment Form is all that is needed from you at this time, and can be found online at: http://www.crcog.org/purchasing%20_coun/energy.html. Please send forms by June 10, 2013.
Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

In photo at left Congressman Larson Joins East Hartford Mayor Leclerc on a tour of the East Hartford levees in March. The Hartford-East Hartford Levee System is crucial to the protection of the cities from flooding. Work to update the Capitol Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan is well underway. The Plan's purpose is to assess the risks our communities face from floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters and to identify means to prevent or lessen the damage caused by these events. CRCOG staff has met with staff of all thirty municipalities to discuss the updates needed to the local sections of the Plan. We are now moving onto the public outreach part of the project. Evening meetings will be held throughout the region to seek public input into the types of projects and activities residents and other stakeholders feel the municipalities should be undertaking over the next five years. Our first meeting, focused on the towns of Avon, Farmington, Canton and Simsbury, is scheduled for Monday June 10th at 6 p.m. in the Farmington Police Department’s Community Room. Dates, times and locations of the other five sub-regional meetings will be announced soon. We are also seeking public input through a survey posted on the CRCOG and the Get Ready Capitol Region websites. We encourage all residents, business owners, representatives of community groups, and others to participate in a meeting or take the survey. More information about the Plan is available on CRCOG’s website.

Are We There Yet?
Status of Major Regional Transportation Projects

A number of major projects are currently being advanced in the Capitol Region, including CTfastrak, the I-84 Viaduct, the Intermodal Triangle, Putnam Bridge Rehabilitation, New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail upgrades, and Bradley Airport - Terminal B expansion. Below is a brief update of each project’s status.

CTfastrak: This approximately $500 million project provides a dedicated 9.4-mile roadway between Hartford and New Britain for buses with transit-only ramp connections to I-84, 11 landscaped stations, an adjacent five-mile multi-use trail, modern, 60-foot vehicle fleet using the latest environmentally-friendly technology, frequent daily service and boarding every 3-6 minutes during peak hours. The project is currently in construction and CTfastrak operations are expected to begin in 2015.

New Haven – Hartford – Springfield Rail: This project involves a $370 million investment in rail infrastructure upgrades, mainly between Hartford and New Haven to significantly increase passenger rail service. Additional funding is being sought for significant improvements between Hartford and Springfield. The goal for the program is to launch new passenger rail service in late 2016 (17 round trip trains with 45-minute frequencies in the peak hour; bi-directional service south of Hartford).

I-84 Viaduct: This project involves the reconstruction of a ¾ mile section I-84 through Hartford to replace the aging highway viaduct structure and restore city connectivity. The project is currently in the conceptual design and environmental scoping phases, and determinations on the extent of necessary environmental documentation are expected soon. Estimated start and completion dates for design and construction will be better established during the upcoming environmental work. Construction cost estimates at this early concept stage are in the $1 to 2 billion range. CTDOT is also conducting a CT Congestion Relief Study to evaluate value pricing options, possibly assisting with the viaduct replacement financing.

Intermodal Triangle: The $21 million Intermodal Triangle project aims to provide intermodal connections (pedestrian, bike, taxi, bus, rail, and air) in downtown Hartford through creation of intermodal hubs, transit priority streets, complete green streets, and an innovative iQuilt pedestrian network. The project is currently in
the design phase. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2014. More information can be found here: [http://theiquiltplan.org/](http://theiquiltplan.org/)

**Putnam Bridge Rehabilitation:** This $30 million structural rehabilitation project also includes construction of a sidewalk on the bridge’s southeast side. Construction began in April 2013 and is anticipated to be completed in May 2015. Recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian access to the bridge are currently being studied.

**Bradley Airport - Terminal B:** This project involves the construction of a new Terminal B and associated airside and landside improvements to meet future air travel demand. The federal NEPA documentation process was recently completed and the State CEPA process is close to completion. The project is to be implemented in three phases. Phase 1 involves $50 million to complete the enabling projects (roadway construction, demolition, etc.) for future terminal construction and is anticipated to enter a design phase shortly. Phase 2 involves completion of a $600 million partial-build of Terminal B and is anticipated to be completed by 2018, depending on demand. Phase 3 completes the full-build of Terminal B and is anticipated by 2028, depending on demand.

**CRCOG Gets Metropolitan Planning Organization Certification Review**

Every four years, the US Department of Transportation, through its Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration personnel, review CRCOG’s transportation planning studies and programs for compliance with federal regulations and law. Certification is required if we are to continue performing our function as a Metropolitan Planning Organization. This process is now underway with a desk review of publications and explanatory documents having been initiated on June 1. In September, CRCOG expects to host a daylong meeting with the reviewers, and stakeholders to discuss our transportation planning program. Information about this will be shared later this summer as details are developed.

**CRCOG Solicitations for 2013 STP-Urban and LRAR Funds**

The Capitol Region is currently soliciting projects for the Surface Transportation Program (STP-Urban) and Local Road Accident Reduction (LRAR) federal funding programs. The STP-Urban program is intended to benefit minor arterial and collector roads in urban areas; however it can also be used to studies and fund bicycle and pedestrian projects. The Local Road Accident Reduction Program provides funding to lower cost safety improvements on local roads. Projects for both programs are selected via a competitive award process. Below is additional information regarding these solicitations. **STP-Urban Phase 1 Solicitation** applications (for Pavement Rehabilitation and Stand Alone Sidewalk projects only) were due Wednesday, April 24th. CRCOG has reserved approximately $4 million ($3.2 million federal) for Phase 1 and expects construction funding for these projects to be available during and following Federal Fiscal Year 2014. **STP-Urban Phase 2 Solicitation** is for all permitted STP-Urban projects. CRCOG is reserving $25.5 million ($20.4 million federal) for Phase 2 and anticipates construction for these projects during and following Federal Fiscal Year 2016. **Applications are due Wednesday, July 17th.** **LRAR Solicitation** is geared toward safety improvement projects on local roads with a total estimated cost between $50,000 and $500,000. **Applications are due Friday, June 14th.** For more information regarding these funding programs, please visit the following link: [http://www.crcog.org/transportation/tip_proj/project.html](http://www.crcog.org/transportation/tip_proj/project.html)

**CRCOG, LEGO and Shaker Pines Fire District Number 5**

CRCOG personnel, in conjunction with the Shaker Pines Fire District #5 in Enfield, staffed an information table at the LEGO employee health and safety fair May 14 and 16. Dan Fazio, Director of Safety coordinated efforts with Deputy Fire Chief James Nolan who in turn worked with the Get Ready Capital Region Campaign to get the message out to Lego employees, many who live in the Capitol Region. The fair was a huge success and reflects the initiative of the Capitol Region emergency response community in promoting emergency preparedness.
**CRCOG Emergency Support Function 19 Recognized**

The chairman of Emergency Support Function 19, Functional Needs, Stephen Thal and Bill Austin have published an article titled "Heroes for Citizens with Disabilities" in the May issue of Domestic Preparedness Magazine. The article deals with the development of ESF 19 since 2005 and describes how the regional disability training team has been so successful in training over 3,300 first responders. Their efforts have been recognized both at the State and Federal level. This is a story about building resiliency and extending the sense of whole community.

**Status of the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program**

The history of the Metropolitan Medical Response System program nationally is a federal program (124 jurisdictions) which was created and funded specifically in 1996 to enhance, or create, local and regional emergency preparedness systems to effectively respond to public health systems or medical crisis (mass casualty events, etc.) including a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) event. In the Capitol Region the City of Hartford was named an MMRS jurisdiction in 2002 and within 18 months transitioned into the Capitol Region Metropolitan Medical Response System (CR-MMRS) whereby CRCOG was granted program planning oversight. Through active review of national best practices there is empirical evidence that dollar for dollar the MMRS program has produced the most positive results of any other HSGP program. Beginning with the 2012 funding cycle, MMRS is no longer a “standalone” grant but is now an eligible expenditure under the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP).

What does this funding change mean for the Capitol Region? The CR-MMRS has developed four plans, or preparedness processes which are currently being used in the other CT Regions, or have been adopted as State plans. Additionally, the CR-MMRS has developed a 55 bed Mobile Ambulatory Care Unit (MACU) which is managed and staffed by the Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps. The cache of equipment includes 200 pneumatic respirators or “vents”, as well as triage and treatment equipment for a mass casualty event all contained within a system of 6 tents with power generation and HVAC equipment. The CR-MMRS from its inception has contracted a Program Director. The value of the Program Directors as planners has benefited the Region, the State, and has been nationally recognized for best practice applications.

Without the set aside grant funding the CR-MMRS must now rely upon the Statewide Homeland Security Workgroup for current and future funding. The last two years $75,000.00 has been allocated, however this will not be enough to meet the CR-MMRS budget needs of continuing to build and sustain current capabilities for response during medical disasters. The most recent initiatives at future risk are maintaining the new established local Public Health Everbridge Mass Notification system being funded by the CR-MMRS. When fully operational this system will allow local public departments/districts in the Capitol Region the enhanced ability to mass their constituent groups regarding public health emergencies as well as offering targeted monitoring of social media serving as syndromic surveillance at the most granular level well before reports from hospital admissions data.

Finally there is the soon to be delivered mobile oxygen generating trailer which will be the first of its kind in New England. As we have witnessed in 3 of the last four storms to hit CT there has either been a shortage of portable oxygen supplies, or vendors were unable to deliver product. The oxygen trailer will alleviate the most dire of those needs by being able to refill EMS and home oxygen...
cylinders in minutes and can be set up as a central station for filling, or make “medical” rounds to communities in need. All this would not have been possible without planning dedicated to meeting certain and specific goals which cannot be currently replicated by any other organization in Connecticut. CRCOG supports the return of the MMRS program to the federal funding level in 2011 which was approximately $2 million nationally.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**

**CRCOG Policy Board** – Special Meeting June 11, 2013, Noon, River Front Boathouse

**Public Safety Committee** – June 13, 2013, Noon, South Church

**Transportation Committee** – June 17, 2013, Noon, CRRA

**Municipal Services** – June 18, 2013, Noon, CRCOG

**Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force** – June 20, 2013, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG

**CREPC** – July 18, 2013, 9:30 a.m., South Church

**CRCOG Executive Committee** – August 14, 2013, Noon, CRCOG

**Bike/Pedestrian Committee** – September 10, 2013, Noon, TBD

**Regional Planning Commission** – September 18, 2013, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall