September 6, 2013
**TransformCT on Transportation Future**

On June 25th, 2013, Governor Dannel P. Malloy and the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) launched TransformCT, an 18 month strategic planning process aimed to transform transportation in Connecticut for a more prosperous, sustainable, and livable future.

Through innovative online tools, surveys, forums and workshops, TransformCT will be driven by the people of Connecticut. The process will allow residents, businesses and community representatives, and commuters opportunity to help formulate a vision and plan that will transform transportation and ensure that Connecticut has an economically competitive, world-class transportation system for generations to come.

Connecticut has many existing and future transportation needs: to keep the infrastructure in a state of good repair, address congestion, increase transportation choices, and to create a more well-connected transportation system to get people and goods from here to there. Through TransformCT, these needs will be evaluated, prioritized, and shaped to form a long term plan that implements a consensus vision of a first-class Connecticut’s Transportation System. CTDOT is seeking input from a broad cross-section of stakeholders in order to develop the plan, see: [http://www.transformct.org/](http://www.transformct.org/)

**Rapid Transit Gets New Website**

The Connecticut Department of Transportation recently launched a new, updated CTfastrak website, available at [http://www.ctfastrak.com/](http://www.ctfastrak.com/). CTfastrak will be Connecticut’s first Bus Rapid Transit system, connecting communities in central Connecticut and serving as the spine of the regional transit system. Along with accessing project information and updates, website visitors can take a video tour of construction and of the simulated completed project. Additionally, the site includes information on the project’s service plan, ongoing construction activities, and Bus Rapid Transit in general. CTfastrak construction began in May 2012, and the system is scheduled to open for passenger service in early 2015. For more information, please visit the new website or the
**CRCOG Gets MPO Certification Review**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are in the midst of a review of CRCOG’s transportation planning studies and programs for compliance with federal regulations and law. A desk review of various CRCOG planning documents has been underway since June. Certification of our transportation planning program is required if we are to continue performing our function as a Metropolitan Planning Organization.

On September 23, representatives of FHWA and FTA will meet with CRCOG staff; Transportation Committee members; our regional planning partners including CTDOT, Greater Hartford Transit District and CT Transit; municipal staff; and individuals familiar with particular studies and programs. The general public is also welcome at this review.

The agenda for this daylong meeting is available on the CRCOG website. The meeting begins at 8 a.m. and will take place in the Training Room at GHTD, Union Station, 1 Union Place in Hartford. FHWA and FTA will issue a joint finding following their review of our programs sometime in 2014.

**CRCOG Wrapping Up 2013 STP-Urban Program Solicitation**

CRCOG is currently completing a project selection process for the federally funded STP Urban program. The solicitation for projects took part in two phases: Phase 1 was a solicitation solely for Pavement Rehabilitation and Stand Alone Sidewalk projects. CRCOG has selected 5 projects representing a total of $4.4 million and expects construction funding for these projects to be available during and following Federal Fiscal Year 2014. Phase 2 was a solicitation for all permitted STP-Urban projects. CRCOG has reserved $25.5 million in total funds for these projects which are anticipated to be constructed during and following Federal Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. To complete the project selection and award process, Policy Board endorsement is anticipated to be sought in October.

The proposals were evaluated and rated by CRCOG staff using detailed rating criteria developed and approved by the Transportation Committee. Roadway Reconstruction, Pavement Rehabilitation, Stand-Alone Sidewalk, and Bicycle / Pedestrian projects were received from 21 towns and two Transportation Study proposals were received. For the first time, to address the needs of rural communities, a $3 million set-aside was reserved for small communities that have difficulties competing and securing federal monies.
Pending review by CTDOT and the Region, many STP-Urban projects’ funding may be transferred to the new state funded Local Transportation Capital Program (LOTCIP). The purpose of LOTCIP is to streamline project delivery as compared to the federal funding process. Utilizing this new program, it may be possible to expedite the construction funding obligation dates highlighted above.

**CREPC Preparing to Become First Regional Group with an Accredited Emergency Management Program**

On August 21 – 23 2013, 30 personnel from the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) staff, Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC), and the state of Connecticut gathered at Saint Joseph’s University to attend a training program to prepare CREPC to become the first regional group to be recognized as having an accredited Emergency Management Program.

There are two major benefits in certification: certification will put the Capitol Region in a better position when competing for grants, and by going through the process of complying with the emergency management standards CRCOG/CREPC will be able to identify any gaps in our plans. CREPC will then be able to identify the best way to close the gaps by doing this CREPC and Division of Emergency Management Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 3 will have a much stronger emergency management program. Over the next several months, the CREPC accreditation preparation team will be reviewing all of the regional emergency management policy and procedures to assure they meet the standard. To accomplish this formidable task we will need the assistance of the entire CREPC group.

**Tent and Trailer System to Support Emergency Operations in Region**

CRCOG recently took delivery of a tent and trailer system to support operational components within the Region. This tent and trailer system can be utilized by the MRC for patient triage and treatment, or support Points of Distribution (POD) operations. Additionally it can be utilized by the CT-IMT3 to support the team during extended operations. Once the tent is deployed it can be up and operational within 5 minutes.