



Capitol Region Update

October 2006

Capitol Region Council of Governments

www.crcog.org

Service Sharing Symposium on January 10, 2007



Price of Government author David Osborne (photo at left) will keynote a January Conference on municipal service sharing. CRCOG is supporting the "grassroots" (municipal employees and chief elected officials). CRCOG's Municipal Services Committee has partnered with the CRCOG Foundation to host the first in a series of regional service sharing symposia the morning of January 10, 2007 at the CCSU ITBD Center in New Britain. The seminar will discuss what service sharing is and how it can help municipalities overcome the state of "permanent fiscal crisis" in local government.

Representatives from Maine and New Jersey will also be present to discuss the state-sponsored service sharing occurring in their states. There will be a breakout session where participants can brainstorm areas of potential service sharing and then share these ideas with the larger audience.

CRCOG and the CRCOG Foundation are committed to focusing on projects that transcend municipal boundaries and give local governments the tools they need to work together to solve problems. The CRCOG Foundation's "Service Sharing Initiative" is a long-term project that is currently recruiting private sector sponsorship to augment planned educational and technical assistance efforts in service sharing.

Service Sharing in the Capital Region: Past, Present and Future



The CT Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) recently hosted a roundtable discussion on "Shared Services in Connecticut Towns". Shown in the photo at left are Senator Jonathan Harris and Representative Sonny Googins, David LeVasseur, Under Secretary of CT Office of Policy and Management, and Phil Schenck, Avon Town Manager. The benefits and barriers to service sharing were discussed. Establishing trust among municipalities and providing financial incentives were seen as next steps. Regional bodies such as Councils of Government provide the infrastructure to distribute grants and provide technical assistance that will enable municipalities to move down the path to greater service sharing.

Capitol Region Purchasing Council Annual Meeting



The Capitol Region Purchasing Council hosted 38 of its members at the 2006 Annual Meeting held on October 24, 2006. A new slate of officers was elected for the 2006-08 term:
Chair: Tammy Bradley, West Hartford;
Co-Chair: Joyce Stille, Bolton;
Executive Committee Members:
Jerry Gay, Ridgefield; Nancy Haynes, Torrington BOE, and Mary Visone, Glastonbury.

Photo shows current and past Executive Committee members (from the left): Joyce Stille, Bolton, Nancy Haynes, Torrington BOE, Jerry Gay, Ridgefield, Tammy Bradley, West Hartford, Mary Visone, Glastonbury, and Lynne Celetano, Farmington.

Two bids were added to the CRPC Bid Schedule: "Sand for Snow and Ice Control", which was an emergency bid in 2006, and "Recycling Bins", which will be a new commodity for CRPC. Other potential additions include: trash dumpster hauling and septic system pumping. The group also heard updates on CRPC's plans for an e-Procurement system that will automate back office functions and streamline requirement submissions by towns and bid responses by vendors. The CRPC Executive Committee will be evaluating the RFP responses over the next few months and hope to begin implementation in January 2007.

Hedy Ayers, former CROCOG staff to the CRPC and now a consultant, was also present to give an update on options for CROCOG/CRPC to develop its own Job Order Contracting (JOC) system. JOC is a new procurement tool that bids a long list of maintenance and construction services, creating a catalog of vendors available for towns to use. Towns save time and money because the work has already been competitively bid. Vendors get guarantees for minimum amounts of business. A JOC consulting firm will be making a presentation at the next Municipal Services Committee meeting on November 14, 2006 at the CRRRA Trash Museum in Hartford at Noon.

Transit Oriented Development January 29, 2007



As a follow up to the transportation finance summit held last year, CROCOG together with the Regional Plan Association, CCM, and CCSU will be hosting a morning half-day working conference on what transit oriented development (TOD) is and how Connecticut communities can take full advantage of this opportunity in the coming New Britain to Hartford Busway and commuter rail service from Springfield to New Haven. The conference is designed for First Selectmen and Mayors and will involve state decision makers in responding to a whitepaper on TOD. If you would like to be sure

to receive an invitation to this event, please email Lyle Wray at lwray@crcog.org or call 860 522 2217 extension 32.

CRCOG Meets with New ConnDOT Commissioner



Several CRCOG representatives including Board Chair Dave Kilbon, Transportation Chair Jon Colman, and staff Lyle Wray, and Tom Maziarz met with DOT's new Commissioner **Ralph Carpenter** on October 25. They used the opportunity to introduce the state's new Transportation leader to CRCOG, and to stress the importance of working collaboratively to solve transportation problems. The Commissioner welcomed a collaborative approach, and indicated that he hoped to make DOT a more open and responsive agency.

Dave Kilbon and others discussed important regional projects such as construction of the New Britain Busway, implementation of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Commuter rail service, and safety improvements on Avon Mountain. Commissioner Carpenter affirmed DOT's support of these key projects in the Capitol Region. The Commissioner accepted an invitation to participate in a conference on transit-oriented development (TOD) that CRCOG is co-sponsoring with CT State University and others on January 29.

CT Citizens Corps at CCM Annual Conference



Chief Austin, Viola Heath, Virginia Mason and Sharon Mazzochi staff the Statewide Citizen Corps booth at the annual CCM convention held in Cromwell. There are currently 1,775 Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT) members fully trained or in training. The Capitol Region has six municipalities with active teams and several others in process. The first annual Citizen Corps Conference was held on Monday, October 30th.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

Community Development Committee, Thursday, November 9, Noon
Transportation Committee, Monday, November 13, Noon
CRCOG Policy Board, Wednesday, November 15, Noon
Jobs Access, Thursday, November 16, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District
Regional Planning Commission, November 16, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
Municipal Services Committee, Tuesday, November 14, Noon, CRRRA Trash Museum, Hartford
Public Safety Council, Thursday, December 14, Noon.

Capitol Region Update is a monthly publication of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (www.crcog.org). CRCOG was formed January 28, 1976 and organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut. Member municipalities of CRCOG are: Andover, Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Marlborough, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks.

The 2006 Officers of the CRCOG Policy Board are: David K. Kilbon, Chair, First Selectman of East Granby, Eddie Perez, Vice Chair, Mayor of Hartford, Linda Roberts, Vice Chair, First Selectman of East Windsor, Mary Tomolonius, Treasurer, First Selectman of Canton, Susan Karp, Secretary, Chair, Glastonbury Town Council. Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director.



Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860 522 2217 www.crcog.org