



Capitol Region Update

February 2007

Capitol Region Council of Governments

www.crcog.org

Transit Oriented Development Conference a Success



The January 29th Transit Oriented Development (TOD) conference at Central Connecticut State University was a successful and meaningful step toward framing the process for TOD in Connecticut. Co-sponsored by CRCOG, the CT Conference of Municipalities, the Regional Plan Association, and Central Connecticut State University's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy, the conference brought together over 100 people, including local officials, state legislators, state commissioners, and developers. Panelists strongly advocated for the need to shift the state's focus from highways to transit, emphasizing that TOD can help solve a multitude of problems facing the State including high housing costs, increasing

congestion, and loss of open space. Transportation Committee co-chairs Representative Guerrero and Senator DeFronzo highlighted recent state transportation initiatives, while local mayors and first selectmen explained the type of support needed at the municipal level to move forward with TOD projects. CRCOG continues this 2007 legislative session to advocate for the busway and other transit opportunities in the Capital Region. Special thanks to CRCOG Policy Board members Mary Tomolonius, John Adams, and Dave Kilbon for serving as panelists at the conference. *In top photo is Senate Speaker Pro Tem Don Williams greeting New Britain Mayor Tim Stewart and House Speaker James Amann at the conference. Second photo shows Senate Transportation Chair DeFronzo and CCSU President Jack Miller. (Images courtesy of Bob Wessman, CCSU photographer).*

Pandemic Flu Tabletop a Success



Almost 150 people participated in the Pandemic Flu - School Closing Tabletop Exercise, held at Central Connecticut State University on January 26, 2007. The half-day event provided an opportunity to explore the authorities, impacts and implications of school closures to help inform and advance local pandemic flu response planning. The audience consisted of state and local

officials, public health and public safety personnel, and school administrators. The Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee was one of the sponsors of the event and CREPC members acted as facilitators and observers. *In the photo above, Mayor Melody Currey leads an East Hartford team during one of the breakout sessions.*

Purchasing Council Adds Agency to Membership



The Capitol Region Purchasing Council is proud to announce the addition of the Greater Hartford Transit District (GHTD) to its membership! Demonstrating its openness to all municipalities, boards of education, other government agencies and non-profits, CRPC welcomes this valuable addition! We look forward to including GHTD in

our future bids and their input in bid expansion. If you know an organization that would benefit from cooperative bidding, please contact Jennifer March-Wackers (jwackers@crcog.org).

State Releases Solid Waste Management Plan



The State of Connecticut DEP recently announced release of the ***State of Connecticut's State Solid Waste Management Plan, Amended December 2006***. This plan will be the basis for Connecticut's solid waste management planning and decision-making now through to the year 2024. The Plan and other supporting documents are available on the DEP website at www.ct.gov/dep.

The Plan advocates shared responsibility to change the balance of solid waste management and calls for a reinvigoration of efforts to transform our solid waste system from one based mostly on disposal to one based on resource management. It represents a shift away from a throwaway society toward a system that promotes a reduction in the generation and toxicity of the trash we produce and dispose of through increased source reduction, reuse and recycling. The CRCOG Policy Board commented on several aspects of the draft plan last fall, including support for aggressive recycling goals coupled with devotion of appropriate resources to this task. CRCOG also recommended that the State be willing to explore new technologies for solid waste management, in order to strengthen Connecticut's solid waste management strategy. The Department of Environmental Protection is establishing a *State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee* and will be holding its kick-off meeting on March 27th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the CT DEP Offices, Phoenix Auditorium—5th floor, 79 Elm Street, Hartford. This Committee will be open to all who may want to participate and the meetings will be held as an open stakeholder forum. The purpose of the Committee will be to assist the Department in implementing the Plan, to participate in future revisions, and to identify emerging issues and to seek solutions.

CRCOG Welcomes New Staff People



CRCOG would like to introduce staff members. On January 2nd, **Brenda Watson** joined the CRCOG staff as a Transportation Planner. Brenda holds a B.A. in Political Science from Florida Memorial University in Miami and anticipates a M.A. in Public Policy Analysis from Trinity College in Spring 2008. Most recently Brenda has worked for the Town of Plainville, CT as a Project Assistant in the office of the Town Manager where she gained a background in economic development and worked to create a low-income home ownership policy for the town. Brenda looks forward to working on traffic and transportation analysis at CRCOG and to serving the Capital Region with her background in public policy.



On February 5th, **Emily Moos** joined the CRCOG staff as a Transportation Planner. Emily holds an A.B. in Growth and Structure of Cities from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania and an M.C.P. in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Formerly, Emily held a position as Associate Planner/Connecticut at the Regional Plan Association and has developed a background in public policy advocacy as well as community visioning, urban design and land use. Emily

looks forward to working on transportation and land use analysis at CRCOG and to being involved in CRCOG's legislative activities.



On January 16th, **Chad Cleary** joined the CRCOG staff as a GIS Analyst/Transportation Planner. Chad went to Plymouth State University in New Hampshire and graduated with a B.S. in Geography with a concentration in GIS. Most recently Chad worked for microDATA 911, an enhanced emergency 911 mapping company located in St. Johnsbury, VT where he gained technical and analytical skills using GIS. Chad is enthusiastic to be part of the Transportation team and

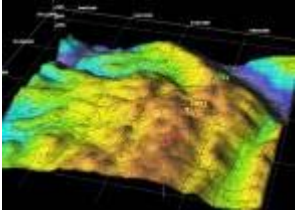
tends to use his GIS background to analyze transportation and land use patterns in the Capital Region.



Jocelyn Mathiasen joined CRCOG staff as special projects coordinator in January. Jocelyn holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. in Government from Oberlin College. Prior to joining CRCOG, Jocelyn was assistant to the city manager of Bellevue, Washington, where she managed a broad range of projects aimed at improving the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of the city's operations. Jocelyn has also served as a consultant for

the firm of Booz-Allen & Hamilton, providing assistance to local governments and utilities in developing countries. At CRCOG Jocelyn will be working on a variety of special projects, aimed at both internal management issues and supporting CRCOG initiatives.

CROG Users Group for GIS Web-Based System Kicks Off



The CROG GIS Users Group kicked off with a meeting on February 13th with seven towns in attendance. The CROG vision for our web-based GIS system was discussed as well as the status of GIS use in each town that was present. This group will be meeting at least once more with the chosen GIS consultant sometime in early March to discuss the architecture of the website. There is still time to get involved! Please contact Jennifer March-Wackers (jwackers@crcog.org) if you plan to use the system so that you may be represented in that group. Your input is vital!

Upcoming CROG Meetings

- **Public Safety Council**, Thursday, March 8, Noon, South Church
- **Executive Committee**, Wednesday, March 14, Noon, CROG Board room
- **Jobs Access**, Thursday, March 15, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District
- **Regional Planning Commission**, March 15, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
- **Municipal Services Committee**, Tuesday, March 20, Noon, CRRA
- **CREPC**, Thursday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. South Church
- **Transportation Committee**, Monday, March 26, Noon, CRRA
- **CROG Policy Board**, Wednesday, March 28, Noon, CRRA
- **Community Development Committee**, Thursday, April 19, Noon, South Church

Capitol Region Update is a monthly publication of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (www.crcog.org). CROG was formed January 28, 1976 and organized under the laws of the State of Connecticut. Member municipalities of CROG 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 CROG 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.



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