



Capitol Region Update

May 2007 Capitol Region Council of Governments –
Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region
www.crcog.org

MetroHartford Region Awarded \$400,000 for Brownfields



The MetroHartford Region was one of eight areas across the state that will receive part of the \$3.9 million awarded in Connecticut by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on May 14, 2007. The public announcement was made at a press conference in the office of Governor M. Jodi Rell on May 15th. *Present at the event were (from left to right in photo): Lynne Hamjian, Director of Surface Water Branch, Office of Ecosystem Protection, EPA; Governor M. Jodi Rell; Mary*

Ellen Kowalewski, CRCOG Director of Community Development; and Lyle Wray, CRCOG Executive Director. The MetroHartford application was made by CRCOG, in partnership with the MetroHartford Alliance. The \$400,000, awarded through two separate grants, will be used to conduct environmental assessments on sites suspected of contamination by petroleum or other hazardous substances. The grants will enable the region to continue the MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program, which was begun in 2004 and has received \$400,000 from EPA to date. For further information on the MetroHartford Brownfields Assessment Program contact Mary Ellen Kowalewski at 522-2217 ext 22 or mkowalewski@crcog.org.

Bike to Work Week in the Capital Region



Once again, CRCOG staff worked with the non-profit Central Connecticut Bicycle Alliance to promote bicycling to work, this year through the National Bike to Work week held May 14 -18. Several of the region's towns took part by hosting their own bike to work breakfasts, including Granby, Glastonbury, Manchester, and Windsor.

Additional events were held in Farmington, East Hartford (in cooperation with Pratt & Whitney), Middletown, and even at the Department of Transportation Newington office. The final event of the week was a Bike to Work breakfast, co sponsored by the DEP and The Travelers Companies, Inc. at the Old State House in downtown Hartford. DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy and Hartford Council Member Dr. Bob Painter braved the wet weather and biked to the event. DEP has decided to take on the sponsorship of monthly downtown bike to work events through September. CRCOG has provided an important leadership role in getting this program up and running until it could be turned over to other organizations that can carry it forward.

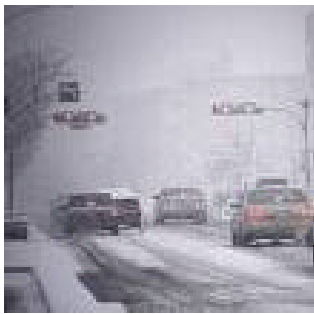
Natural Gas Consortium Meeting June 11, 2007



The CRCOG Natural Gas Consortium will meet on June 11, 2007 at the CRRR Trash Museum from 10am to Noon. Representatives from Hess Corporation's Marketing, Customer Service, and Billing departments will be presenting information to the group about how to add/remove accounts, who to contact if you have a problem, and briefly discuss current market conditions for natural gas. The Natural Gas Consortium Procurement Committee will meet immediately prior to this meeting

(9am to 10am) to discuss buying strategy for 2008-2011.

CRCOG/T2 Winter Road Maintenance Seminar Held



As the weather warms and we move into summer, it's the perfect time of year to discuss snow and ice control methods! CRCOG partnered with the Connecticut Transportation Institute Technology Transfer Center to present a "Winter Road Maintenance: Lessons Learned and New Ideas" Roundtable Discussion on May 24, 2007. The agenda included three parts: a vendor product overview; experiences from the Connecticut Department of Transportation; and a municipal roundtable discussion. Over 50 public works officials, or "snow fighters", from throughout the state attended the discussion.

Vendors from the CRCOG/CRPC treated road salt bid presented information about their snow and ice control products. Connecticut DOT representatives talked about their recent experience using salt and liquid calcium chloride to treat roadways as well as fleet requirements and approximate equipment costs. The meeting concluded with towns sharing information about their experiences shifting from sand to salt and environmental considerations.

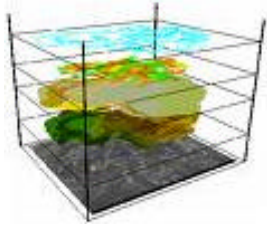
New Leadership for the Medical Reserve Corps



Katherine McCormack, City of Hartford Director of Emergency Management and Dr. Ron Buckman were selected as the new Medical Reserve Corps Director and Medical Director, respectively. Dr. Buckman is the Chief Medical Officer in the First Company Governor's Foot Guard and works in a private practice specializing in Family and Sports Medicine in Bolton. *Katherine McCormack and Dr. Buckman are pictured at left.* The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) functions under CREPC's Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8, Public Health and Medical Services, and is comprised of local, citizen volunteers who are trained to respond to health and medical situations in support of established, local public health and emergency medical response systems. This month's CREPC meeting (picture at left) was held inside the Capitol Region MRC Ambulatory Care Center set up on the campus of St. Joseph's College.



CRCOG Regional Web-based GIS System Saves Staff Time



CRCOG's recently launched web-based GIS system has made reviewing zoning and subdivisions referrals quicker and easier by centralizing access to information and displaying it across town boundaries. CRCOG is statutorily required to comment on changes to zoning districts and subdivisions along municipal borders. In conducting the reviews, staff relies on the zoning and land use coverage maps of both the referring and adjacent municipalities, in addition to street maps. Having all of

these resources not only available in one easy-to-use website, but also displayed on one map saves significant time.

Special Needs Training Held Around the Region



Sponsored by CREPC's Emergency Support Function (ESF) 19, Special Needs, training courses on emergency preparedness and response for people with disabilities are being held during the months of May and June throughout the region. Instructors from the University of Connecticut's Center for Excellence in Disabilities

teach the four-hour course. Designed for first responders and municipal, regional and state emergency planners, the course includes outreach and planning with the disability community, communication strategies, and evacuation and shelter considerations. In the picture below, a class discusses one of the vignettes presented during the training.

Armed Forces Day Luncheon



On May 18th, the 58th Connecticut Armed Forces Luncheon Day was held at the Aqua Turf in Southington. Members from Connecticut's military, business, and government communities came together to honor military members who serve our state and nation. The guest speaker was Major General Vincent E. Boles, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. Governor Jodi Rell

and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal also addressed the crowd.

Attendees from our region, pictured to the right, included (from top left): Carmine Centrella, General Dan Scace, Kristin Dean, Viola Heath, Cheryl Assis, Katherine McCormack, and Bruce Lockwood.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

Public Safety Council, Thursday, June 14, Noon, South Church
Community Development Committee, Thursday, June 14, Noon, South Church
Transportation Committee, Monday, June 18, 9:30 a.m., CRRA **New Date**
Municipal Services Committee, Tuesday, June 19, Noon, CRRA
Policy Board, Wednesday, June 20, Noon, CRRA **New Date**
Jobs Access, Thursday, June 21, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District
Regional Planning Commission, June 21, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
CREPC, Thursday, June 21, 9:30 a.m. South Church
Executive Committee, Wednesday, August 8, Noon, CRCOG Board Room

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, Vice Chair John Adams, First Selectman of Granby, Mary Tomolonius, Treasurer, First Selectman of Canton, Susan Karp, Secretary, Chair of the Glastonbury Town Council. Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director.



Capitol Region Council of Governments

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