



Capitol Region Update

October 2007

Capitol Region Council of Governments –

Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region

www.crcog.org

Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program Update



OPM announced its \$8.6 million Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program on September 11, 2007. CRCOG is moving quickly to organize the membership around multiple projects. Project summaries can be found on the CRCOG website's Service Sharing Initiative page. These summaries describe the projects, identify project leads, and indicate town participation.

Remaining key dates for proposal preparation include:

- **October 4-November 13.** Prepare Applications. CRCOG and towns will work together to flesh out project ideas and prepare complete applications for selected project ideas. Towns will be responsible for obtaining the necessary certifications and drafting proposals initiated by municipalities, but CRCOG will provide technical assistance. We hope that everyone is taking the time to participate and reap the benefits of this important program!
- **October 31, 2007.** Possible Second Service Sharing Steering Committee Meeting. If necessary, the Service Sharing Steering Committee will have a follow-up meeting on October 31 at 10:30 am at the CRRM Trash Museum Board Room to further refine ideas.
- **November 13, 2007.** CRCOG Policy Board Consideration of Proposals. On November 13, the Policy Board will consider and approve a final list of proposals to be submitted to OPM and will authorize application filing.
- **December 3, 2007.** Proposals Submitted to OPM. Proposals will be submitted by 4:00 pm on December 3, 2007.

CRPC Adds More Towns – Now 73 Members



The Capitol Region Purchasing Council added Bridgewater and Wallingford to its membership in October. CRPC membership now stands at 73 municipalities, boards of education and agencies. If you know a town, board of education or other government agency that could benefit from cooperative purchasing, have them contact Jennifer at CRCOG at (860) 522-2217 x39. Membership information is also available on the CRCOG website under "Purchasing Council" at www.crcog.org.

CRCOG Hosts Chinese Government Leaders

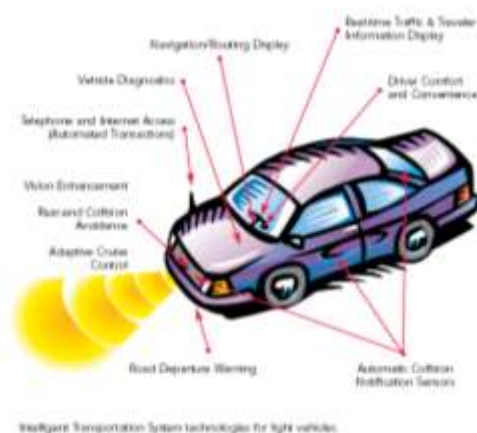


For the past month, CRCOG has been host to Xu Tao and Bingquan Zou, Vice Magistrates in Shandong Province, China. Mr. Tao and Mr. Zou are participants in a Chinese-American exchange program, part of a network between Connecticut and China that includes the State Department of Education's teacher exchange program and a sister city program between Stamford and Jiangdu. Emily Moos and Brenda Watson, CRCOG Transportation Planners, have been in charge of introducing Mr. Tao and Mr. Zou to the Capitol

At left: Xu Tao and Bingquan Zou view the Model of Blueback Square with Rob Rowson in West Hartford.

Region – an endeavor which has thus far taken them to several of the region's major development projects and growth centers as well as to City Hall in Hartford and for a tour of the New Britain-Hartford Busway. While Shandong Province is home to 93 million inhabitants which dwarfs even the State of Connecticut's 3.5 million, these trips and others like them have sought to show Tao and Zou the successes and potential of the Capitol Region as well as provide them with an understanding of current Northeastern planning and development trends. As the region continues to reach out by becoming an international destination for business and trade, this program further strengthens our ties with our Eastern neighbors. Mr. Tao and Mr. Zou will be at CRCOG until the end of November.

Smart Cars Come to Connecticut.



On September 27, the Intelligent Transportation Society of Connecticut (ITS-CT) sponsored a demonstration of the latest advances in Vehicle Infrastructure Integration (VII) during its Annual Meeting at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. The goal of VII research is to create a nationwide network in which "smart cars" and other vehicles communicate wirelessly among one another and with the roadway infrastructure in order to improve safety and reduce congestion.

During the demonstration, attendees learned about the technology and had an opportunity to actually ride in the VII demo vehicle. This vehicle communicates with the roadside and uses the information on current location and speed to determine the risk of an unsafe passage through an intersection. To learn more about VII, visit the VII website at <http://www.itsa.org/viitechdemos.html> and watch a VII video at: www.itsa.org/userfiles/ITS%20America%20VII%20Video%202006.wmv. To learn more about ITS-CT, visit their website at: <http://its-ct.org>.

More Walking and Biking in the Region: Active Transportation Initiative



CRCOG is undertaking a new initiative for walking and bicycling in the region. The ***Active Transportation Initiative (ATI)*** is travel powered by human energy, and walking and biking are the most common means of active transportation. To encourage more walking and biking, communities must create active transportation systems – seamless networks of accessible trails, sidewalks and on-road bike facilities. Increased mobility, improved public health, economic development, cleaner environments and enhanced communities are some of the benefits of active transportation systems. The ATI will begin with bicycle

and pedestrian plans that have been developed for the region and some of the towns in the region. Using these as a basis, the ATI will 1) Create the vision for a Walkable and Bikeable region, 2) Make the case for a Walkable and Bikeable region, and 3) Define how to move the Vision to reality. The resulting Action Plan will create a vision of what the region can become with a strong focus upon Active Transportation. This vision will be part of a nationwide effort to secure more federal dollars for bike and pedestrian investments.

It is not too late to become a part of this movement! Contact Sandy Fry (sfry@crcog.org , or at 522-2217, x20) if you are interested in being part of the ATI Working Group. In addition, CRCOG is hosting a Public Input Meeting on November 8th at Union Station in Hartford from 6pm-8pm. Come on down and share with us what walking and bicycling improvements should be made to the Hartford Region! Parking will be validated.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

Transportation Committee, Monday, November 5, Noon, CRRA

CRCOG Policy Board, **Tuesday, November 13**, following the **CRCOG Retreat**, to be held in the morning at the **Legislative Office Building (LOB)**. **Note date change.**

Community Development, Thursday, November 15, Noon, South Church

Jobs Access, Thursday, November 15, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District

CREPC, Thursday, November 15, 9:30 a.m. South Church

The Active Transportation Initiative Work Group, Thursday, November 15, 6 p.m. at the Mount Sinai Campus

Regional Planning Commission, November 15, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall

Municipal Services Committee, Tuesday, November 20, Noon, CRRA

The Bike / Pedestrian Committee, **Tuesday**, December 11, Noon, CRRA

Public Safety Council, Thursday, December 13, Noon, South Church

Executive Committee, Wednesday, January 9, 2008, Noon, CRCOG Board Room



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