



Capitol Region Update

March-April 2008

Capitol Region Council of Governments –

Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region

www.crcog.org

CRCOG Co-Hosts “Buses for 21st Century Mobility” Conference



On April 11 CRCOG Chair and East Hartford Mayor Melody Currey (left in photo) welcomed attendees at the Legislative Office Building to a half-day symposium on the important role that buses play in access to jobs and services. Also pictured are the keynote speaker Clarence W. “Cal” Marsella, General Manager/CEO, Denver Regional Transportation District and Marlene Connor, Public Transportation Director, Wilbur Smith Associates. Mr. Marsella spoke of steps taken to improve the transit service network and local financing support in the Denver region. Marlene Connor spoke on options for financing

transit.) The conference was carried on the CT-N television network (link may be found at: <http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ondemand.asp?ID=3458> and copies of Mr. Marsella’s presentation are available from CRCOG at drihm@crcog.org).

Regional Emergency Deployment Plan (RED Plan) Training Sessions Held in Region



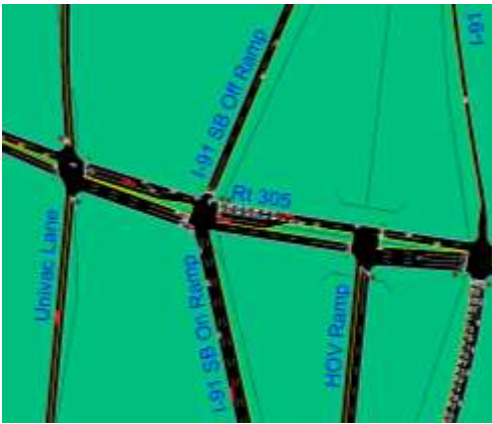
The region is really getting on board learning on how to obtain resources during incidents which exhaust their local resources. The video training for the Regional Emergency Deployment Plan, or RED Plan, has been well received. Training has continued to be completed online and in several sessions for specific groups. On March 19, the City of Hartford conducted a morning and an afternoon training session for key department heads in their new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at City Hall. A total of 32 people

attended the training set up by Katherine McCormack, Hartford Emergency Management Director. City Manager Lee Erdmann used the opportunity to welcome all to the new facility in this first training session. On March 19, Public Works officials from many of the region's towns met in Bloomfield to conduct a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis and started their session with RED Plan training. It helped orient the group to the regional planning and response process. Finally, on March 28, the Town of Enfield conducted a RED Plan table top exercise (see *picture at top*). Local officials gathered in their new EOC, completed RED Plan training and then used the training in their new facility to manage multiple incidents including flooding, sheltering and an airplane crash. They performed an exercise activation of the RED Plan while testing, for the first time, how to conduct emergency operations in the EOC.

Open House Held for Routes 195 and 305 Corridor Studies



Public involvement and stakeholder input are key components to the successful advancement of our corridor studies. Over the past few months CRCOG has been working with consultants to advance studies on Route 195 in Tolland and Route 305 in the towns of Bloomfield and Windsor. On March 5th, CRCOG, consultant Vanasse Hangen & Brustlin Inc. (VHB) and the Town of Tolland's Route 195 Advisory Committee held a successful first Public Open House to inform residents of Tolland about the preliminary existing condition findings and discuss their thoughts and concerns. The 33 public attendees were able to walk through a display of maps and boards explaining existing transportation and land use conditions as well as participate in a series of exercises geared toward seeking their input.



On April 3rd and April 9th, CRCOG and consultant Clough Harbour & Associates LLP (CHA) conducted public open houses to discuss the Route 305 corridor in the towns of Windsor and Bloomfield, respectively. Computer simulations of existing intersections assisted individuals in understanding traffic flow and a series of visual boards sparked discussions. Between the two meetings approximately 30 individuals, representing residents and business within the area, attended and offered input into the corridor study findings to date. Individuals were also asked to participate in hands-on exercises to identify corridor priorities and areas of concern. Additional public open houses to discuss

possible alternative plans for each corridor will take place in the next few months. To read more about each study visit our website at www.crcog.org.

Bruce Lockwood Appointed to National Commission on Children and Disasters

Bruce Lockwood, an active member of CREPC, Region 1 President of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), and Public Health Coordinator for the Bristol-Burlington Health District, was appointed last month by Speaker Pelosi to serve as one of her two appointments to the National Commission on Children and Disasters. The Commission will have ten members and is charged with conducting a comprehensive study to examine and assess the needs of children in preparation for, response to, and recovery from all hazards, including major disasters and emergencies. Mr. Lockwood's 25 years of experience within the emergency management and public safety disciplines encompassing the local, regional, and state levels will be valuable to the committee.

Medical Reserve Corps Training Held

The Hartford Medical Reserve Corps continues to refine the way they respond to a call for medical service. The volunteers met on March 5 at St. Francis Hospital to discuss how they would respond to an earthquake in Hartford. The scenario made them consider how they could report in the midst of a disaster, and how they would set up operations and process casualties. The end goal is a well defined operational plan, and a better understanding about their individual roles and responsibilities.

SWOT Analyses Conducted for CRCOG Homeland Security Grant



As part of this year's homeland security grant application, a SWOT (Strength-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) analysis must be done for each of CREPC's Regional Emergency Support Functions (R-ESFs). The SWOT analysis is a tool that will help the Capitol Region identify and strengthen any gaps in emergency preparedness and response capabilities. It will also provide information critical to developing the required grant budget and spending plan.

Carmine Centrella, CRCOG's Regional Planner, has been conducting the SWOT analyses. The following R-ESFs have completed their SWOT: Transportation, Communications, Fire Fighting, Search & Rescue, Hazardous Materials, Animal Response, Safety & Security, Public Health & Medical Services, and Public Works. The SWOTs and associated work and spending plans will be completed by the end of May 2008.

Active Transportation Promoted on Onething Website



Governor Jodi Rell is asking citizens to try "one thing" to improve the environment. The "One Thing" website now includes walking and bicycling – promoting both active transportation and

Safe Routes to School. This addition to the website was coordinated by the Capitol Region Council of Governments Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Program. CRCOG conducted a non-scientific survey designed to identify walking and biking issues in the region and learned that many people would like to bike or walk more, instead of using motor vehicles if the facilities were provided.

For more information about the CRCOG survey, please visit the CRCOG website at:

<http://www.crcog.org> and be sure to check the Onething website to learn about simple steps you can take to save energy and make a difference!

http://www.onethingct.com/transportation/alternatives/bicycling_walking.aspx

CRCOG Leads Panel at Professional Meeting



At the April 1st meeting of the New England Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), CRCOG staff member Sandy Fry moderated a panel discussion on Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) and Blind Pedestrian Issues. The panel discussion and the dinner speaker (Janet Barlow, speaking on Accessible Design for the Blind) were suggested by CRCOG and representatives of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB). The ITE meeting presented a perfect opportunity to bring the region's engineers up to speed on how best to meet ADA requirements for those with vision impairments. Several engineers left the meeting saying, "We are going to change our design approach for traffic signals tomorrow." CRCOG will continue to seek opportunities to disseminate information on new technologies and regulations.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

CRCOG Executive Committee, Wednesday, May 14, Noon, CRCOG Board Room
Jobs Access, Thursday, May 15, 9:30 a.m., Greater Hartford Transit District
Regional Planning Commission, Thursday, May 15, 7:00 p.m., West Hartford Town Hall
Transportation Committee, Monday, May 19, Noon, CRRA
Municipal Services Committee, Tuesday, May 20, Noon, CRRA
CRCOG Policy Board, Wednesday, May 21, CRRA
CREPC, Thursday, May 22, 9:30 a.m. South Church
Community Development Committee, Thursday, June 12, Noon, South Church
Public Safety Council, Thursday, June 12, Noon, South Church



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