



Capitol Region Update

September/October 2009

Capitol Region Council of Governments

Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region

www.crcog.org

Towards a Sustainable CT Capital Region



By now, all of us have heard of the term “sustainability” in one way or another. Many buzz words exist such as “Green,” “Green Infrastructure,” “LEED Certified,” “Alternative Energy,” “Renewable Energy,” “Energy Efficient,” “TOD”. All of these terms fall under the umbrella of the term ‘sustainability’. The UN defined the term to mean meeting the needs the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. On September 23rd CRCOG’s Policy Board endorsed a Sustainable Communities Initiative stemming from recent work on two collaborative projects, one on producing regional guidelines for sustainable design and development and another on exploring regional carbon reduction through intensified transit oriented development investments. CRCOG would form a Capitol Region Committee on Sustainable Communities composed of experts in housing, transportation, the economy, infrastructure, the environment and public health and safety who would organize and mobilize the region in comprehensively promoting sustainability through existing and potential future initiatives. This effort will position the region well for future national investments through new Livable Communities Legislation proposed by Senator Chris Dodd. This proposed act suggests \$8-9 billion be set aside for regions and municipalities to implement long-term plans that integrate transportation, housing, land use, and economic development. For updates please visit: http://www.crcog.org/community_dev/sustainable-dev.html. (Image above courtesy of <http://www.wordle.net/create>)

Ribbon Cut on Farmington Canal Trail Bridge



On September 20th over 200 attended the ribbon cutting for the Salmon Brook Bridge on the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail in East Granby. Numerous individuals, including Simsbury First Selectwoman Mary Glassman and Town Engineer Richard Sawitzke, arrived at the ribbon cutting after biking from New Haven along the canal trail. This bridge represents one of the last missing links on the multi use path from Farmington to the Massachusetts border. Eventually the trail will link to New Haven and will be a part of the East Coast Greenway, a bike path that begins in Calais, Maine and ends in Key West, Florida. Construction of this bridge was delayed due to

State Launches Safe Routes to Schools Initiative



The Connecticut Department of Transportation has launched a new program to encourage walking and bicycling to school: Walk It Bike It to School. This initiative encourages students to walk and bike to school through a statewide competition. Information on the program is available at www.walkitbikeitct.org. The program will be officially launched on International Walk to School Day, Wednesday October 7. If you are planning any events related to International Walk to School Day, your event could become a part of the statewide promotion! Contact Sandy Fry (sfry@crcog.org, 522-2217, x220) for more information.

Autumn Storm Functional Exercise



On July 15th, the region conducted its Functional Exercise (FE) as part of the process initiated to establish a Homeland Security consistent exercise program; the exercise was the second in the series of three exercises, dubbed Autumn Storm. The exercise cycle includes a Table Top Exercise (TTX) conducted in April, the just conducted Functional Exercise (FE), and a Full Scale Exercise (FSE) originally scheduled for September.

Both the TTX and FE were focused on a pandemic event, a crippling ice storm, as well as cascading events injected to stimulate overall exercise play. Exercise participants included, CREPC, the City of Hartford, the towns of Enfield, Southington, Suffield, and Windsor; North Central CMED; the CT-Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, St. Joseph College, University of Hartford, Trinity College, and Wesleyan University. Hospital participants included; Hartford Hospital, CCMC, St. Francis, John Dempsey/UConn Health Center, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, Bristol, and ECHN at Manchester Hospital. All exercise participants operated from their Emergency Operations Centers and CREPC operated from one of its three strategically located Regional Coordination Centers in New Britain City Hall. The goal of any exercise is to identify gaps and strengths associated with emergency preparedness plans, responses, and operations. This exercise can be deemed a success because it did that and now the Capitol Region will move forward with reinforcing the strengths, and closing the observed gaps. After the Functional Exercise consensus was developed, it was decided that the Full Scale Exercise should be postponed until after the first of the year to allow for implementation of any associated Improvement Plan as appropriate.

Fourth Annual Citizen Corps Conference Held



The Fourth Annual Citizen Corps Conference sponsored by DEMHS; the Connecticut Emergency Management Association; CREPC; CRCOG; and CNV COG was held on September 14-15 in Westbrook, CT. This is the first year for a two day conference and the CT Network as well as several additional local media outlets covered the event. Over 300 participants attended the educational conference which featured presentations by Peter J. Boynton, DEMHS Commissioner; Chief William Austin, Chairman of the Connecticut Citizen Corps Council; Dr. Joseph Klimek, Vice

President of Medical Affairs, Hartford Hospital; Dr. Mitchell D. Erickson, Director, Northeast Operations Interagency and First Responder Programs, DHS; and former DEMHS Commissioner James “Skip” Thomas. The educational tracks included presentations on animal protection, citizen preparedness, Medical Reserve Corps, adopting the CERT concept in the United Arab Emirate, the H1N1 virus, volunteer liability issues, incident management teams and the new in-school STEP Program. *Photo shows an additional highlight with the first Citizen Corps Honor Roll Award presented by Chief Austin and Katherine McCormack to Don Janelle, leader of the Manchester CERT Team and CRCOG Citizen Corps Council founding member.*

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

CRCOG Executive Committee – October 14, Noon, CRCOG Board Room

CT River Assembly – October 8 – 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall

Jobs Access – November 19, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG

Bike/Pedestrian Committee – December 8, Noon, CRCOG

Community Development Committee — November 12, Noon, CRCOG

Public Safety – December 10, Noon, South Church

Municipal Services Committee – October 20, Noon, CRCOG

CREPC –October 22, 9:30 a.m., South Church

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

Transportation Committee – October 19, Noon, CRRA Trash Museum Board Room

CRCOG Policy Board – October 21, Noon, CRRA Trash Museum Board Room



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Capitol Region Update is published ten times per year by of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (www.crcog.org). The September/October 2009 issue is Volume 41 Number 7. CRCOG was formed January 28, 1968 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 officers of the CRCOG Policy Board are: Melody A. Currey, Chair, Mayor of East Hartford, Eddie Perez, Vice Chair, Mayor of Hartford, Vice Chair John Adams, First Selectman of Granby, Mary Glassman, Treasurer, First Selectman of Simsbury, and Susan Karp, Secretary, Chair, Glastonbury Town Council. Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director.