



Capitol Region Update

January/February 2010

Capitol Region Council of Governments

Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region

www.crcog.org

CRCOG Thanks Tom Maziarz - Transportation Director



After 28 years of dedicated service to the Capitol Region, Thomas Maziarz has accepted a job as the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Bureau Chief of Policy and Planning. The State will now benefit from Tom's exceptional work ethic, understanding of transportation issues and ability to creatively achieve consensus to move projects forward. As CRCOG's Director of Transportation, Tom was instrumental in planning for and implementing multi-modal improvements throughout the Region, ensuring municipal projects were successfully advanced, and spearheading multiple transit initiatives. We wish Tom the best of luck in his new position.

Going "From Grey to Green": CRCOG Launches Sustainable Communities Initiative



On Tuesday, January 26, CRCOG launched its new **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE** with a presentation of "From Grey to Green: Sustainable Practices for Redeveloping a Vacant Shopping Center". Since September 2008, the Capitol Region Council of Governments and the communities of Bloomfield, Manchester, South Windsor and Tolland have been working in partnership with the U.S. EPA and the consulting firms of Wallace, Roberts & Todd LLC and Jonathan Rose Companies to produce three documents for the region on Sustainable Communities:

- [Together We Can Grow Better: Smart Growth for a Sustainable Connecticut Capitol Region](#)
- [Smart Growth Guidelines for Sustainable Design and Development](#)
- [From Grey to Green: Sustainable Practices for Redeveloping a Vacant Shopping Center](#)

The report, From Grey to Green, is the product of an additional grant of assistance from the U.S. EPA to the Town of Manchester, Connecticut specifically to explore utilizing green infrastructure techniques to redevelop the vacant Manchester Parkade site. Providing a site level glimpse of what sustainable development could look like in the Capitol Region helped to emphasize a top priority of the CRCOG Sustainable Communities Initiative's which is to help municipalities implement changes that will fuel the local economy, provide a range of housing options, lower energy and infrastructure costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

To view the reports mentioned above and other upcoming CRCOG Sustainable Communities Initiative events, such as Reinventing Commercial Strips: **Redevelopment Design Strategies to Create Mixed-Use Centers with Randall Arendt**, please visit the Initiative's webpage at www.crcog.org/community_dev/sustainable-dev.html.

Jennifer Carrier - Interim Transportation Director



With Tom's departure, we welcome Jennifer Carrier as Interim Director. Jennifer has worked as a Principal Transportation Engineer at CRCOG for more than 7 years, managing such tasks as the STP-Urban program, the ARRA funds and multiple corridor studies throughout the region. Prior to joining CRCOG, she worked 8 years as a Traffic/Transportation Consultant. Jennifer is a well-respected professional among our municipal planners and engineers, as well as among State transportation employees, so we are sure that Jennifer, along with the help of our other talented transportation staff, will make this transition period as seamless as possible.

Capitol Region Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

The Capitol Region Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (**CR-HPRP**) was launched in October 2009. Funded through ARRA stimulus funds through the State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services, the CR-HPRP is a collaborative initiative between Journey Home, the Chrysalis Center, CT AIDS Resource Coalition, the Salvation Army Marshall House, Co-Opportunity and Greater Hartford Legal Aid and in partnership with each of the towns in the Capitol Region. The CR-HPRP is a time limited program that offers financial assistance and support services to individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness in order to help rapidly re-house them or help them to retain their current housing so that they do not enter shelter. Since October, the CR-HPRP has received more than 600 calls requesting services, has provided \$65,109 in financial assistance and prevented or ended homelessness to more than 42 households from 13 towns within the Capitol Region. To find out how you can support the work of the CR-HPRP, please contact Journey Home at 860-808-0336. To make a referral to the CR-HPRP, please call 211.

Legislative Solid Waste Briefing



CRCOG held a legislative briefing at the State Legislative Office Building on January 25, 2010 to outline CRCOG's regional solid waste management efforts to date. The briefing was very well attended and five legislators took the opportunity to ask further questions from the panel. CT-N televised the event and can be found in their archives at: http://ctnv1.ctn.state.ct.us/C/crcog_1-25-10.wmv. Additional information about CRCOG's solid waste efforts, including materials from the January 25th briefing, can be found on the web at: http://www.crcog.org/municipal_ser/sw.html.

CRCOG Helps Municipalities on 2010 Census



The 2010 Census is right around the corner! Having a complete and accurate count is crucial to municipalities because it opens doors to federal funding and a greater understanding of local needs. To help encourage participation, CRCOG has bilingual banners and palm cards promoting the 2010 Census. These materials encourage both English and Spanish speaking persons to fill out and return the Census questionnaires. The cards are made of heavy stock and are printed in English on one side and Spanish on the other. We also have a 2' by 6' vinyl banner which can be hung on a wall or table to promote participation in the 2010 Census. We can provide towns, cities, libraries, and local community groups with supplies of the cards for distribution in your community. We can also loan the banner out to display at upcoming events. To obtain cards, or arrange for use of the banner, or to let us know about other community groups which could use the cards or banners, please contact: Lynne Pike DiSanto at 860-522-2217 ext. 211 or lpikedisanto@crcog.org or Mary Ellen Kowalewski at 860-522-2217 ext. 222 or mkowalewski@crcog.org.

CRCOG Policy Board Honors Phil Schenck



Phil Schenck has retired as town manager of Avon after many years of service to not only the Town of Avon, but to the many boards and commissions he served on. The Policy Board thanked him for his service at the December Policy Board meeting. In photo at left are Phil Schenck and Richard Hines, Avon representative for CRCOG.

Natural Gas Consortium Seeking New Members



The CRCOG Natural Gas Consortium is currently accepting new members to prepare for a solicitation for natural gas services. CRCOG has been offering services through this Consortium since 1998. Currently, there are 33 members of the Consortium consuming over 7 million CCFs of natural gas annually. The current natural gas services contract with Hess Corp expires on June 30, 2011 and a solicitation will go out later this year to procure vendor services after that date. If you are currently a member of the Consortium, now is also the time to add and drop accounts from the group. New and current members are requested to submit their information **before February 26, 2010**. Please contact Jennifer March-Wackers at CRCOG with any questions at jwackers@crcog.org.

Upcoming CRCOG Meetings

Connecticut River Assembly – February 11, 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall

Municipal Services Committee – February 16, Noon, CRCOG

CREPC – February 18, 9:30 a.m., South Church

Regional Planning Commission – February 18, 7:00 p.m. West Hartford Town Hall

CRCOG Transportation Committee – February 22, Noon, CRRA

CRCOG Policy Board Goal Planning Retreat, February 24, CCAT, 222 Pitkin St. East Hartford

CRCOG Policy Board – February 24, Noon, CCAT following morning planning retreat

Bike/Pedestrian Committee – March 9, Noon, CRCOG

CRCOG Executive Committee – **March 17, Noon, CRCOG, Note Date Change**

Public Safety Council – March 11, Noon, South Church

Community Development – March 17, Noon, CRCOG

Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force – March 18, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG



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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 January/February 2010 issue is Volume 42 Number 1. 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 Richard J. Barlow, Secretary, First Selectman of Canton. Lyle D. Wray, PhD, Executive Director.