



Capitol Region Update

March 2010

Capitol Region Council of Governments

Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region

www.croco.org

Regional Coordination Center Opens in Manchester



The Capitol Region Council of Governments and the Town of Manchester co-sponsored a dedication ceremony for the Manchester Regional Coordination Center (RCC) on February 18th. The Town of Manchester has been designated as the primary Regional Coordination Center for the 41 municipalities that make up the

Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region III. Using funding secured by Senator Dodd through the COPS-Technology program, a State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant, and funds from the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Manchester RCC is now fully operational. In a large scale disaster or emergency, this RCC will ensure the effective direction, control, and coordination of multiple emergency response efforts. Speakers included Manchester Mayor Lou Spadaccini (above left in photo), Congressman John Larson (above right in photo), DEMHS Commissioner Peter Boynton, and CREPC Chairman Dan Vindigni. A representative presented a letter from Senator Dodd.

America 2050 Visualization of Future Transit



The Regional Plan Association, of which CROC is a member, project has published a visualization of the potential of advanced transportation systems including high speed rail and the effects they might have on daily life and development patterns in the future. The visualization done for their America 2050 project helps to make more “real” much of the potential of present technology for enhancing livability and mobility. See:

[http://www.america2050.org/2010/02/journey-](http://www.america2050.org/2010/02/journey-to-detroit.html)

[to-detroit.html](http://www.america2050.org/2010/02/journey-to-detroit.html).

Region Receives ADVANCE Training Grant

Congressman John Larson, at the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) in East Hartford, announced the launch of the ADVANCE Training Grant Program – a program that provides funds for training to eligible aerospace manufacturers to help “advance” their workforce. The ADVANCE grant is being administered by CCAT and is funded through the Workforce Solutions Collaborative of Metro Hartford and in part by Capital Workforce Partners, United Way and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The total grant is for \$150,000 per year, for two years, with additional leveraged funds of \$100,000 from Capital Workforce Partners for a total of \$400,000. The process for businesses is expected to be paperless, and the program is positioned to be a best practice model nationwide. Manufacturers interested in learning about accessing training funds can contact wsumple@ccat.us.

Federal Support for Regional Transit Initiatives



The new year is proving to be a good one for Connecticut transit initiatives: \$40 million was secured for the New Haven to Springfield rail corridor and, as part of the President’s recent budget proposal, the New Britain to Hartford Busway was recommended for a Full Funding Grant Agreement. The proposed New Haven to Springfield commuter rail corridor will introduce new stations as well as station upgrades and provide for two-way service during peak hours at

speeds between 20 and 70 miles per hour. The \$40 million will allow for the double-tracking of approximately 10-miles, increasing reliability and improving service quality. The New Britain to Hartford Busway will construct a 9.4 mile, bus-only roadway serving eleven stations. Other buses, such as the Bristol and Southington commuter buses, will also be allowed to gain access to the Busway road, avoiding the most congested sections of Interstate 84. The recent federal recommendation is expected to position us up to receive additional federal monies, above what Connecticut gets through the regular annual appropriations process.

Request for Qualifications for Two New Corridor Studies



Two new corridor studies are currently getting underway in the Capitol Region with the issuance of RFQ’s. The first study will focus on Route 10 in the Town of Simsbury. CRCOG, ConnDOT, and the town are initiating the study to address safety, access management and development potential/growth along the corridor. CRCOG will work with a consultant team, town officials, and the public during a 12 to 18 month period to identify constraints and opportunities throughout the 7-mile



study corridor running between the Simsbury/Avon town line and Wolcott Road. The second study will focus on traffic and development issues surrounding Route 3 in the southern section of the Town of Rocky Hill. Similarly, this study will seek to evaluate traffic and development issues, focusing on impacts to area roadways as a result of growth that could be realized by undeveloped and underutilized properties. The primary road segments included in the study include Route 3 south of Route 160 (New Britain Avenue), Interstate 91 (Interchange 23), West Street, and Brook Street in Rocky Hill. For details on these two studies, see www.crcog.org.

After Action Report on School Bus Accident



On Saturday, January 9, 2010 a school bus from the Greater Hartford Academy of Math & Science picked up 16 students and a teacher to bring students to a robotics competition at Farmington High School. A collision occurred on the highway resulting in one fatality. A significant response from the Connecticut State Police, Hartford Fire Department, Hartford Police Department, Hartford Emergency Services & Telecommunications,

CMED, Aetna Ambulance, AMR, and ASM occurred. The City of Hartford requested the CRCOG/CREPC conduct an independent review of the response via a formal after-action review process. CRCOG viewed this as an opportunity to institute this review process across the region and thus created a one page Incident After-Action Review Process template available to all communities. The benefit of such a process is the identification of issues, related directly to answering the question “what would you do different the next time?” that will lead to a more effective and efficient response, and ultimately enhance public safety across the region. The Director of CREC, Bruce Douglas, and the principal of the Math & Science Academy stopped by to thank the responders for their quick response and the professionalism and compassion they exhibited towards the passengers and their families.

South Windsor Selected for Safe Routes Funding



The Town of South Windsor and the South Windsor schools have been working over the past two years to develop Safe Routes to Schools plans for each of their elementary schools. Those efforts are now paying off, with the Town selected to receive federal Safe Routes funding for projects in the vicinity of two schools.

Connecticut DOT requires that any applicants for the federal funding must show their

commitment to the Safe Routes program by creating Safe Routes plans. South Windsor staff, elected officials, and residents dedicated time and effort to the creation of the plans and is now reaping the benefits. If your town and school system would like to learn more about how to develop a Safe Routes program, contact Sandy Fry at sfry@crcog.org or 860-522-2217 x220.

City School Takes Lead in Safe Routes to Schools Initiative



The Connecticut Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program has announced that Moylan Elementary, in Hartford, is the first school to complete the first component of the Walk It Bike It to School, Connecticut Contest. Teacher Karen Field helped her 18 student's log the miles they walked or biked to school daily, totaling 375 miles in only two months. Connecticut's federally funded SRTS program sponsors the Walk It Bike It to School contest, which began in October 2009. The contest encourages kindergarten through eighth grade (K-8) classrooms to log 375 miles, the equivalent of the perimeter of the state of Connecticut. Ms. Field's classroom will take part in a recognition ceremony at the Moylan School in March, where students will enjoy smoothies made

by a bike-powered blender, and receive a certificate of achievement and prizes. As the contest continues, classrooms are encouraged to enroll and log biking and walking miles. For more information on the contest or the Safe Routes to Schools program, contact Sandy Fry at sfry@crcog.org or 860-522-2217 x220 or go to www.walkitbikeitct.org.

Bicycle Friendly Community Symposium a Success



On January 12th, more than 100 town officials, staff and citizens from around the state attended a symposium on the League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly Community program. Attendees learned about the program and how becoming bicycle friendly has helped towns and cities across the country to become more economically competitive. You can review information on the symposium by going to www.crcog.org, and look under "What's New". If you would like a presentation on the program in your town, contact Sandy Fry at sfry@crcog.org or 860-522-2217 x220.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Bike/Pedestrian Committee – March 9, Noon, CRCOG
Public Safety Council – March 11, Noon, South Church
Connecticut River Assembly – March 11, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall
Municipal Services Committee – March 16, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
Executive Committee – March 17, 2010, Noon, CRCOG
Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force – March 18, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG
CREPC – March 18, 2010, 9:30 a.m., South Church
CRCOG Transportation Committee – March 22, 2010, Noon, CRRA
CRCOG Policy Board – March 24, 2010, Noon, CRRA
Regional Planning Commission – April 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m. West Hartford Town Hall



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