

# Capitol Region Update



**June-July 2010**

**Capitol Region Council of Governments**

*Serving the 29 Communities of Connecticut's Capital Region*

[www.crcog.org](http://www.crcog.org)

## **Fourteen Towns Join Central Connecticut Solid Waste Authority – Organizational Meeting Held**



Fourteen towns so far have passed the CCSWA Ordinance as of June 21 and formed the new solid waste authority: Avon, Bloomfield, Bolton, Canton, Enfield, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Manchester, Simsbury, Tolland, Wethersfield and Windsor Locks. The authority held an organizational meeting on June 22 in Wethersfield. Richard (Dick) Barlow, First Selectman in Canton was elected the interim Chair. Brandon Robertson was elected interim Secretary. Three committees were established: CCSWA By-laws, Service Agreement with CRCOG, and Authority Options for post-2012. The next CCSWA monthly meeting open to all is scheduled for July 21, 2010 at 2:00 pm at the Wethersfield Police

Department Community Room. For more information contact Jennifer March-Wackers at [jwackers@crcog.org](mailto:jwackers@crcog.org) or (860) 522-2217 ext. 239.

## **Online Regional Permitting System Grows**



New Haven is the latest municipality to join the Regional Permitting System, currently being deployed in nine towns in the Capitol region. The system will allow licensed contractors and homeowners to apply, pay for, and receive permits electronically and track the status of their application. It will manage the permit review and approval process across departments within town government. The system is scheduled to go live in the nine pilot towns – Bolton, Coventry, East

Hartford, Glastonbury, Manchester, Newington, Simsbury, and Wethersfield in July and October in New Haven. CRCOG is hoping to add additional towns in the coming months. CRCOG and other agencies will be able to use the data to analyze permitting activity around the state, and it may be used as a regional tool for enforcement, and economic development. For more information, please see: [http://www.crcog.org/service\\_sharing/ss\\_permitting.html](http://www.crcog.org/service_sharing/ss_permitting.html).

## **Capitol Region Purchasing Council Saves \$3.3 Million**



CRPC is happy to announce that the cooperative purchasing program saved its members over \$3.3 million in fiscal year 2009-2010. This includes savings from the Natural Gas Consortium (\$1.3 million) and Electricity Consortium (\$115,000). The Purchasing Council now has 84 members across the state of Connecticut.

## ***Long Term Care Facilities Plan for Emergencies***



Over 180 individuals representing nursing homes, local public health departments, CT Department of Public Health, CT Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, EMS operations, fire chiefs, local emergency managers, and public safety planners met on May 4 at Rentschler Field in East Hartford to learn more about the Region 3 Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan. In photo from left: Hartford Fire Department Deputy Chief Mike Ciccarelli, CRCOG Principal Transportation Planner Karen Olson, and East

Hartford Emergency Management Director Dan Dube worked on solving transportation issues during the tabletop. The region's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funded the exercise. The plan established a course of action and an agreed commitment among participating nursing homes to assist each other as needed, including providing pre-designated evacuation locations for patients during a disaster and providing or sharing supplies, equipment, and/or human resources.

## ***ConnDOT to Apply for High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Project***



The Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT), in partnership with multiple agencies, is in the process of implementing a plan for intercity rail service between New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, MA with planned connections to Boston, Vermont and Montreal. The 62-mile corridor between New Haven and Springfield is owned and operated by Amtrak. The project will include stops in nine cities and towns between New Haven and Springfield (North Haven, Wallingford, Meriden, Berlin, Newington, Hartford, Windsor, Windsor Locks and Enfield) with a connection to Bradley International Airport. A public meeting to discuss the rail proposal in more detail was held on June 3, 2010 at

Union Station in Hartford. ConnDOT applied for funds under the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Program and, earlier this year, was successful in securing \$40 million in funding to double track a ten mile segment between Berlin and Newington. Massachusetts and Vermont were also awarded monies to upgrade their track. ConnDOT is expected to submit an application for additional HSIPR funds in the summer of 2010. Proposed improvements under that application will likely include improvements to provide a full double track, signal and communication improvements, small bridge repairs/replacements and station upgrades. This application will be part of a New England regional vision with high speed rail connecting New York City to Boston through New Haven, Hartford and Springfield, MA; and connecting New York City to Montreal through New Haven, Hartford, Springfield, MA and Montpelier, VT.

## ***Bicycle Education: Classes Underway***



CRCOG has been awarded a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant to advance bicycle education in the region. The grant is designed to get a broad program up and running with the understanding that Bike Walk CT, a statewide bike and pedestrian advocacy group (formerly the Central Connecticut Bicycle Alliance) will take over the program when the grant ends September 30<sup>th</sup>. Our program can utilize a bicycle fleet owned by Bike Walk CT, enabling us to bring bicycles to some of our programs. During May we taught a four week class at the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Hartford and we tested our bike rodeo concept in Northwest

Connecticut, in cooperation with the Northwestern Connecticut Council of Governments. June's efforts included a bicycle safety event as part of a Sporting Chance for Youth Day held at Riverfront Recapture and we held an eight hour class for women only in Simsbury. Bicycle education coordinator, Beth Emery, has several other classes scheduled for the rest of the grant period. Classes are listed on the Bike Walk CT website: [www.bikewalkct.org/education](http://www.bikewalkct.org/education). There is limited ability to schedule additional classes at this time, but do let us know of your town's interest in the program. Contact Beth at [biked@bikewalkconnecticut.org](mailto:biked@bikewalkconnecticut.org).

## ***Simsbury Recognized as Bicycle Friendly***



On June 10<sup>th</sup>, John Siemiakoski (left in photo) of the League of American Bicyclists recognized the Town of Simsbury as the first community in Connecticut, and only the third in New England (behind Brunswick, Maine and Burlington, Vermont) to achieve Bicycle Friendly status. First Selectman Mary Glassman (at right in photo) received the bronze award on behalf of the Town. A bicycle friendly community welcomes cyclists by providing safe accommodations for cycling and encouraging people to bike for transportation and recreation. Communities around the country have found that being bicycle friendly has a positive impact upon economic viability. Any towns wishing to learn more about the bike

friendly community program can contact Sandy Fry at 860-522-2217 x220 or [sfry@crco.org](mailto:sfry@crco.org).

## ***Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers Recognized***



Several members of the Capitol Region Medical Reserve Corps (CR-MRC) were recently recognized for their support to local health departments as they battled the H1N1 flu last April. MRC members assisted in the mass vaccination and education efforts for the Hartford, Glastonbury and Manchester health departments. Their contributions were recognized with presentation of a "2009-2010 H1N1 Hero Pin", a Certificate of Appreciation from Captain Robert Tosatto, Director, Office of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, U.S. Public Health Service, and letters of appreciation from Captain Tosatto and Katherine McCormack,

Commander, CR-MRC. The Medical Reserve Corps consists of civilian volunteers with medical and logistical support expertise that are organized, trained and equipped to provide medical assistance when needed during times of local, regional or national medical emergencies. These dedicated volunteers meet monthly and, as stated on their new Certificate of Appreciation, “Your efforts have improved resiliency and are building a stronger nation”. In photo, Katherine McCormack pins “H1N1 Hero” on Dr. Ron Buckman.

## ***Political Storm – Full Scale Exercise Held***



CRCOG has adopted a capability-based planning cycle that fosters continuous improvements using regional coordination and collaboration across all government levels to streamline emergency preparedness activities. A robust exercise was needed and has been developed to enhance the Region’s ability to protect the public from, and mitigate the consequences of, any emergency. To assist in meeting this need and grant demand a Regional Full Scale Exercise, (Political Storm) was conducted on May 18. The Political Storm exercise was designed to engage regional resources for both the local and regional facets of the exercise scenario. In photo Enfield PD prepares to enter school. The Political Storm FSE scenario involved

responses by the Enfield Police where response was initiated by a 911 call reporting a domestic violence/hostage incident at the CREC Public Safety Academy. This call mobilized the Capitol Region Emergency Services Team (CREST). The CREPC Regional Coordination Center (RCC) in Manchester, and the Enfield Emergency Operations Center (EOC), also activated due to an increased threat level in the Homeland Security Advisory System. Additionally, the Town of Suffield participated at the exercise Simulation Cell to provide “notional” exercise play with a very large political rally with counter demonstrations taking place in the center of Suffield. In total approximately 400 individuals participated in the exercise. Exercise participants included the staff and students from the CREC Public Safety Academy, Enfield Police Department, Enfield Fire Services, Enfield EMS, CREST, CREPC-Regional Incident Dispatch Team, Mobile Command Posts from Enfield, Newington, South Windsor, Bristol, Capitol Region–Medical Reserve Corps, CT-Behavioral Health Response Team, CREPC/Region 3 Emergency Support Functions, Suffield Office of Emergency Management and CT-DEMHS.



The exercise objectives included: resource coordination, communications, direction and coordination, message tracking, law enforcement, and public information. All components of the objectives were exercised with varying degrees of success. Currently the After Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) with corrective actions and recommendations are being developed by the exercise contractor, Tetra Tech EM Inc. We will conduct an AAR/IP conference July 1, 2010 at the Manchester RCC. The RCC venue operations will be reviewed from 8:30 to 11:00, and the CREC-PSA/Enfield EOC venue operations will be reviewed from 11:30 to 2:00 pm. In photo at left Senior Controller, Dan Reilly (Tetra Tech), and

Exercise Director, Carmine Centrella, discuss exercise progress.

## ***Upcoming Meeting Dates***

Annual Meeting – June 29, 2010, Noon – LUNCH MEETING  
Connecticut River Assembly – July 8, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Wethersfield Town Hall  
CREPC – July 15, 2010, 9:30 a.m., South Church  
Capitol Region Jobs Access Task Force – July 15, 2010, 9:30 a.m., CRCOG  
Municipal Services Committee – July 20, 2010, Noon, CRCOG  
CRCOG Transportation Committee – July 26, 2010, Noon, CRRA  
CRCOG Executive Committee – August 11, 2010, Noon, CRCOG  
Regional Planning Commission – August 19, 2010, 7:00 p.m. West Hartford Town Hall  
Public Safety Council – September 9, Noon, South Church  
CRCOG Policy Board – September 22, 2010, Noon, CRRA  
Bicycle/Pedestrian Committee – December 7, 2010, Noon, CRCOG



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