RESF-1 Transportation
January 16, 2008
Minutes

In attendance: Ken Loock, East Hartford, Chair; Bill Austin, West Hartford FD & CREPC; James Bradford, CT Transit; Achilles Rethis, Hartford PD; Jim Strillacci, West Hartford PD; Wayne I. Rioux, Manchester Emergency Preparedness; Robert Ramirez, FHWA; Robert Haramut, MRPA; Margus Laan, CCRPA; and Karen Olson, CRCOG.

Welcome: Chair Ken Loock called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m., welcomed everyone and asked for introductions around the table.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 14 meeting were approved without changes.

Discussion with CT Transit: James Bradford, Assistant General Manager for Transit Services at Connecticut Transit led a very informative discussion about the services provided by CT Transit in the Hartford area. Mr. Bradford described the excellent working relationship he has with area emergency responders and how CT Transit can usually respond immediately to any request for a small number of buses to be dispatched to an emergency scene. He distributed a sample memorandum of understanding describing CT Transit’s ability to provide assistance on a local basis. Larger numbers of buses may require authorization by CT Department of Transportation or the Governor’s office. Considerations when large numbers of buses might be needed include:

- Time of day is critical as to the number of buses that might be available. Service begins to shut down between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Needs for day-to-day operation to be weighed against emergency needs (needs of individuals dependent upon transit vs needs of those involved in emergency.) Decision needs to be made whether to cancel, modify or continue regular bus service.
- Who will drive the buses? Union need to be involved in this discussion.
- What happens to families of bus drivers in emergency situations is an important consideration.

Mr. Bradford also discussed the needs of the transit company including some specialized training for bus operators and road supervisors, and the possibility of recruiting volunteer bus drivers who will commit to be available in emergency situations.

Committee members also discussed the fact that CT Transit does not have access to the ITAC / ICAL radio frequencies and the fact that the garage in Hartford could be a possible short term emergency shelter. It was decided that we need to have in writing what we could expect during a routine emergency. Chief Austin offered to write a draft. The RED Plan needs to be updated with CT Transit contact information. Mr. Bradford also asked to be added to the CREPC mailing list.
**Additional Members:** Suggestions for additional members on the RESF-1 committee included representatives from a local school system, private bus operators, the National Guard, the freight train operator and AMTRAK.

**Next Meeting:** the next meeting of the RESF-1 will be **February 20, 2008 at 1:30 p.m., at CRCOG.** It was suggested that we begin to look into undertaking a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis since it will be required for future grant applications. Chief Austin also discussed the fact that the CREPC by-laws are changing to a new system whereby the Chairs of RESFs will be elected by the RESF membership; and the fact the Chair and as many as 3 additional members should be available for disaster operations.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.