

RESF-1 Transportation Minutes October 29, 2009

In attendance: Karen Olson, Chair; James Bradford, CTTransit; Carmine Centrella, CRCOG; Chief Jim Strillacci, West Hartford PD; Chief Ed Richards, Enfield FD; Lt. Peter Wack, CSP, Troop H; Jim Mona, GM2 Associates, and Michael Tonelli, CCRPA.

Welcome: Karen Olson called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone. After introductions around the table, Ms. Olson introduced Jim Mona (*not that he had to be introduced to this group!*) who has volunteered to be a “subject matter expert.” He could be called upon in the event of a major emergency requiring the assistance of RESF-1. Mr. Mona recently retired from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, as the Director of Highway Operations. Additional SME’s for RESF-1 are still needed.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting were approved without changes.

Old Business:

Updates:

- a. **Transportation Resource Handbook:** Ms. Olson reported that the update of the Transportation Resource Handbook is ongoing. About 30 towns have responded, plus contact information for ConnDOT, CT Transit, and Greater Hartford Transit District has been compiled.
- b. **Drills & Exercises:** Carmine Centrella reported that the Autumn Storm Functional Exercise was successful and that because of the various gaps identified, the full scale exercise was postponed until later in 2010.
- c. **Outreach to CT Transit Bus Drivers:** Ms. Olson reported that a meeting at which CERT representatives were going to discuss with CT Transit bus supervisors the CERT training program and how it might be modified to use with bus drivers was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. The meeting will be rescheduled this fall (*following this RESF-1 meeting, the meeting with bus driver supervisors took place November 30, 2009.*)
- d. **Outreach to School Bus Operators:** Ms. Olson reported that she and Carmine Centrella had met with Bill Moore, Executive Director of the Connecticut School Transportation Association, to bring him up-to-date on emergency planning efforts in Region 3 and to invite him to participate in RESF-1 activities. He was very receptive to opening the lines of communication to his association members and participating to the extent possible with our committee work. We have added him to our mailing list, and will reach out again to his group in the New Year.

New Business:

- a. **Discussion of RESF meeting schedule:** Ms. Olson began this discussion by citing the fact that the focus of the group in the past year or so has been on “emergency management.” Following discussions with both Bruce Lockwood and Carmine Centrella, she suggested that the “emergency management” side of the RESF-1 continue with outreach to transportation providers. RESF-1 meetings can focus more on “educational” opportunities and could involve greater participation at fewer meetings (1-2 a year.) The “highway incident management” side of our efforts has been sidelined for a while, due to the fact that most efforts in that area have been happening at the State level, particularly with the development of a training program for the Unified Response Manual. However, Ms. Olson reminded the committee that about 5 or 6 years ago, the group participated in an assessment of incident management in the region. This assessment was facilitated by the Federal Highway Administration. Subsequent annual assessments had been conducted by Federal, state and regional staff. Ms. Olson suggested that it might be time to undertake a full scale assessment similar

to the previous one, probably in the late spring. Other opportunities for “highway incident management” work will become available when the URM training program is completed.

- b. Discussion of possible Spring meeting:** Ms. Olson continued the above discussion by suggesting that a mini-conference on transportation and emergency management might be a way to increase awareness of opportunities for transportation operators to participate in a response to a large-scale emergency. Topics suggested by the committee members included: an overview of the RED (RESP) Plan; what is the chain of command in calling out resources; who pays?; individual assistance vs. company assistance; and where do we fit in a long term emergency? We will look into finding experts who might address some, if not all of these questions. Additional ideas are welcome.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the RESF-1 is **TBD**. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.