

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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## MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

February 21, 2008

### ATTENDANCE

#### Members and Alternates

Sandra Bobowski  
Carol Cole  
Mark Drake  
Sue Errickson  
Linda Keith  
Rudolph Kissman  
John Larensen  
Thomas Manning  
Bruce Mortimer  
Earl Munroe  
Brad Pellissier  
Paul Roczynski

#### Town

Hartford  
Simsbury  
Simsbury  
Tolland  
Avon  
Manchester  
Marlborough  
Bolton  
Canton  
Wethersfield  
Somers  
East Hartford

#### Others Present

Bob Labanara CT Conference of Municipalities  
Emily Moos CRCOG  
Mary Ellen Kowalewski CRCOG  
Rebecca Augur CRCOG

Chairman Larensen called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

#### Adoption of Minutes

Errickson moved to adopt the minutes from the January 17, 2008 meeting. Manning seconded. The motion passed.

#### Legislative Update

Bob Labanara and Emily Moos reviewed the legislative priorities of both the CT Conference of Municipalities and CRCOG. The Governor's proposals for property tax reform and mandate relief will dominate debate during this short session. The Governor is once again proposing a property tax cap, and CCM is lobbying against it. In addition, the Governor has proposed increasing the prevailing wage threshold for municipal construction projects. Both Mr. Labanara and Ms. Moos spoke about Bill Number 39, which is the Responsible Growth Bill containing several provisions supported by both CCM and CRCOG. These include defining responsible growth in state statutes, establishing a permanent responsible growth commissions, drafting a model zoning code, allowing municipalities to enter into community benefit agreements with developers, and a "walk-the-walk program" that requires state projects to provide for pedestrian and bike facilities. The Bill also contains a provision requiring zoning commission decisions to be consistent with local plans of conservation and development. While CRCOG is generally supportive of this concept, further refinement of this provision is necessary to make it workable within the current statutes governing planning and zoning actions. Other proposals important to the region include continued funding of a regional performance incentive grant, support for

busway and commuter rail projects, and funding a study of Bradley Airport operations and management. There was discussion on making the local real estate conveyance tax permanent, with some members voicing their opposition to that.

**Update on CROCOG Projects**

Rebecca Augur reported that the draft Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan has been sent to FEMA for review. Mary Ellen Kowalewski explained the Community Design Resource Project and encouraged members to attend an upcoming workshop to identify and develop resources to help communities implement better design. Ms. Kowalewski also reported on the variety of projects for which CROCOG was recently awarded \$5.2 million under the state's new service sharing initiative, and the variety of sites included in the MetroHartford/CROCOG Brownfields program. She encouraged commissioners to get in touch with her if their towns have any brownfield sites that may benefit from assessment work under this program.

**Report on Zoning, Subdivision, and Plan of Development Referrals:**

Rebecca Augur reported on several referrals. She noted a change that needed to be made to the comment for POCD-2008-1. Bobowski moved adoption of the comments with the aforementioned change, and Kissman seconded adoption of the referral comments. The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.