

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

March 20, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

Monty Aheart
Sandra Bobowski
Jeff Carboneau
Sue Errickson
Rudolph Kissman
John Larensen
Salvatore Mancini (Alternate)
Julie Meyer
Janet Ramsay

Town

Vernon
Hartford
Suffield
Tolland
Manchester
Marlborough
Manchester
Simsbury
Windsor Locks

Others Present

Sandy Fry CRCOG
Emily Moos CRCOG
Mary Ellen Kowalewski CRCOG
Rebecca Augur CRCOG

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

Adoption of Minutes

Bobowski moved to adopt the minutes from the February 21, 2008 meeting. Carboneau seconded. The motion passed.

CRCOG Active Transportation Initiative

Sandy Fry, CRCOG's Senior Transportation Planner, discussed the draft updated bike & pedestrian plan that has resulted from CRCOG's Active Transportation Initiative. CRCOG undertook the project partially to help the Rails to Trails Conservancy argue for continued federal funding of Active Transportation pilot programs. If successful, it could mean up to \$50 million for the Capitol Region to address bike and pedestrian infrastructure and education needs. Ms. Fry also outlined several environmental, economic, public health and quality of life benefits associated with walkable and bikeable regions. She discussed the recommendations of the plan first for pedestrian systems, which include having towns adopt "complete streets policies," which acknowledge that streets are not only for cars; prioritizing regional bike and pedestrian facility needs; developing regional design guidelines for pedestrian infrastructure; developing checklists for towns to use during site plan review; and, working with towns to develop individual sidewalk plans. Ms. Fry then detailed the recommendations for bike facilities: create a regional bike network by focusing on the completion of the East Coast Greenway through the Region, completing already started trails and then developing new systems; identify an on-road network; and provide other amenities such as bike parking and shower facilities in Hartford and in the Day Hill Road area. The Plan also contains recommendations on encouraging greater bike and pedestrian travel, educating pedestrians, cyclists and drivers and enforcing traffic and related laws. The

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draft plan will be available on CRCOG's website shortly, and a public meeting will be held on April 10th. The Policy Board is expected to adopt the Plan at its April meeting. There was some discussion about how this plan will be incorporated in the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, and the involvement of schools in plan development and implementation.

Report on Zoning, Subdivision, and Plan of Development Referrals

Rebecca Augur reported on the referrals – there was very little discussion. Bobowski moved and Errickson seconded adoption of the referral comments. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.