

# Capitol Region Council of Governments

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## MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

May 21, 2009

### ATTENDANCE

#### Members and Alternates

Sandra Bobowski  
Thomas Manning  
Karl Profe  
John Larensen

#### Town

Hartford  
Bolton  
Windsor  
Marlborough

#### Others Present

Mary Ellen Kowalewski                      CRCOG  
Emily Moos    CRCOG

Lacking a quorum, Chairman Larensen called an informal meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

An informational Meeting took place as a quorum was never established.

### Updates on CRCOG Transportation Initiatives Study and May 26<sup>th</sup> Public Information Session

Sandy Fry, Principle Transportation Planner gave a presentation on the Northwest Corridor Study and CRCOG's Active Transportation Initiative. Ms. Fry outlines some of the major findings of the Northwest Corridor Study including the idea of creating a transit hub at Exit38 on I 91 and improving Union Station in downtown Hartford as a transit hub and developing a downtown transit center in Hartford.

Ms. Fry also gave a brief summary update on CRCOG's Active Transportation Initiative.

One question was asked by an RPC member that dealt with biker safety and whether it is safer to promote dedicated bike lanes that are separated from traffic by physical barriers. Ms. Fry stated that though some experimentation and studies exist surrounding that concept, particularly in New York City on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the CRCOG Active Transportation Initiative focuses on biker training and safety education. Ms. Fry stated that the ATI sponsored a certification class and there are now a number of certified cycling instructors in the region.

### Regional Plan Update

Emily Moos, Senior Community Development Planner at CRCOG gave an update on the adoption process of the Regional Plan. She stated that CRCOG Community Development staff had presented the Regional Plan Update to the CRCOG Policy Board on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 and that as a result of that presentation, more input from municipalities has been generated regarding municipal focus areas. She stated that CRCOG is also still working with the City of Hartford to gain more input on the plan.

Ms. Moos asked whether there were any comments on the chapters of the plan that were presented at the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. She stated that she had received comments from one member of the commission who could not attend the meeting this evening and she listed the comments, one which

dealt with creating a section on community supported agriculture.

Another member of the commission followed up on the comment about community supported agriculture and stated that the City of Hartford has developed many excellent urban farms and that this should be a part of the plan as well.

Ms. Moos stated that Community Development staff would work toward incorporating all comments provided on these chapters. She also stated that the next steps are to present the final plan update to the CRCOG Policy Board on May 27<sup>th</sup> and to ask for the board to refer the plan to public hearing although it is given that there may be further changes to municipal focus areas and that stem from further discussion with the City of Hartford. If substantial changes result from this continued work, Community Development Staff will return to the RPC and Policy Board to ask for a final review before referring the Plan to public hearing.

Ms. Moos stated that the tentative expectation is to begin the 65 day public comment period in June, to have the Regional Planning Commission review comments from the public at their September 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and to have the Policy Board adopt the plan at their September 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

#### **Report on Zoning and Subdivision Referrals**

Emily Moos reported that there were 10 referrals since the last meeting of the Regional Planning Commission. 9 referrals were zoning referrals and one referral was a plan of conservation and development for the Town of Marlborough. Ms. Moos stated that one zoning referral in Barkhamsted dealt with estate lots on 5-acre parcels. She stated that the language of the regulation revealed a desire to promote “low-density” residential development to mitigate stress on town services and that this is not a practice that is supported by the CRCOG Regional Plan.

Ms. Moos stated that the Town of Marlborough Plan of Conservation and Development overall was consistent with goals and policies of the CRCOG Regional Plan.

#### **Other Business**

Emily Moos provided a brief summary of the events of the Together We Can Grow Better workshop on sustainable development that took place May 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This workshop was funded by a grant of technical assistance awarded to CRCOG by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The results of the workshop will be compiled in a final report which will include guidelines on site location, neighborhood design and green building techniques that combined produce more sustainable developments.

Ms. Moos also announced the upcoming Redesigning the Edgeless Cities Course to be held May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Hartford.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 8:30 pm.