

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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MINUTES OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

June 19, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Members and Alternates

Lamont Aheart
Sue Errickson
Patrick Kennedy
Salvatore Mancini
John Larensen
Julie Meyer
Bradley Pelliser

Town

Vernon
Tolland
South Windsor
Manchester
Marlborough
Simsbury
Somers

Others Present

Tom Maziarz	CRCOG
Emily Moos	CRCOG
Mary Ellen Kowalewski	CRCOG
Rebecca Augur	CRCOG

Lacking a quorum, Chairman Larensen called an informal meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Transportation Planning Update

CRCOG's Director of Transportation, Tom Maziarz, updated the Commission on the major transportation planning projects underway in the region. These include transit-oriented development (TOD) initiatives generally, the New Britain Busway, the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail, and efforts in the Windsor-Bloomfield growth areas. The TOD initiative is a part of many transportation projects, and CRCOG has been working with state agencies and the legislature to build support and funding for this initiative. The Busway is currently expected to begin construction in 2009, with a projected start of operations in 2013. The new Deputy Commissioner of DOT is trying to accelerate the project. TOD planning has been a part of the Busway project from its inception, and the Cities of Hartford and New Britain are both applying for state funds to do more TOD work at a couple of station areas. The New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail project is beginning the environmental assessment phase. The recommended plan is to start up in 5 years, although it is a high priority project, and may be fast-tracked. Finally, CRCOG has been studying two major growth areas in the region: Blue Hills Ave./Rt. 305 in Bloomfield and Day Hill Road in Windsor. A proposal for a Day Hill road interchange on I-91 will begin an environmental assessment soon, and the 2007 legislature funded the design phase. Other projects that CRCOG transportation staff is working on include a downtown bus circulation study, Union Station rehab study, Route 195 in Tolland study, Buckland are transportation study (DOT study), Route 6 study, and the I-84 viaduct study.

Regional Plan Revision Update – Demographics

Rebecca Augur gave a presentation on updated demographic information for the 2008 regional plan. The presentation and hand-outs are available on the CRCOG website (http://www.crcog.org/Meetings_minutes/mm_regional_planning.html). The region saw moderate

population growth since 2000, and is expected to continue to grow moderately. The most growth is expected to occur in Hartford, and our rural and suburban communities. The region is projected to have a relatively stable number of children, and a fast-growing elderly population over the next 30 years. The working-age population is also expected to see little gain, if not a loss, thereby posing concerns over the burden of healthcare costs for the growing elderly population.

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

Rebecca Augur reported on this month's referrals. There was little discussion. Lacking a quorum, an unofficial vote of approval was cast.

Other Business

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