

Capitol Region Council of Governments

241 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: (860) 522-2217 FAX: (860) 724-1274

Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting
Capitol Region Council of Governments
Hartford, CT
February 3, 2005
Minutes

Board Members Present: Katherine Jones, Savvy Networkers; Dr. Mark Mitchell, Hartford Environmental Justice Network; Dave Kilbon, Town of East Granby; Lee Erdmann, City of Hartford; James Johnson Jr., City of Hartford; Richard Parmlee, Sr, CT Hartford Environmental Justice Network, Grayson Wright, ConnDOT

Others: Tom Maziarz, Karen Olson, Mario Marrero, and Dan Czaja, CRCOG; Phil Fry, CT Transit; Charlie Carson, CT Transit; Stephen Warren, CT Transit

1. **Welcome:** David Kilbon called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

2. **Discussion of Issues.**

- a. **CMAQ Grant Application:** Mr. Maziarz reviewed the background on the CMAQ application and how we got to this point. He reviewed the scope of work for the CMAQ funding request. He also pointed out that we might drop a small number of buses from the retrofitting proposal. The buses purchased in 1996 are too old to be retrofitted. They would have less than 5 years of life left after retrofitting. A short discussion followed.

Lee Erdmann asked when the State would begin to purchase new buses with the particulate trap filter already installed. Regulations state all new models beginning with the 2007 model year must meet the new lower emissions standards.

Conclusions: The committee unanimously endorsed the CMAQ grant application on a motion made by Lee Erdmann and seconded by Mark Mitchell. Mr. Maziarz asked for letters of support from members of the committee for the application.

- b. **Limited English Proficiency Report:** Mr. Maziarz gave a brief introduction to the committee and Mr. Marrero reviewed the first 3 chapters of the report, which included the purpose of the report, the analysis of languages in our region and what other agencies in the area are doing to reduce language barriers. Mr. Maziarz then reviewed chapter 4 which included the recommendations and guidelines for reducing language barriers. A short discussion followed.

Conclusions: The committee unanimously endorsed the report on a motion made by Lee Erdmann and seconded by Katherine Jones.

- c. **Public Involvement Policy:** Mr. Maziarz gave a brief introduction to the committee and Ms. Olson reviewed the proposed changes to the Public Involvement Policy. Recommendations from the LEP report will be added. A short discussion followed.

Conclusions: The committee unanimously supported a motion made by Lee Erdmann and seconded by Richard Parmlee to submit the draft Policy to the public for comment.

3. **Other Business:** A recommendation was made by Mark Mitchell to add "Other Business" to the agenda. He commented on how the State Department of Transportation needs to have a better public

involvement policy. Grayson Wright then added that ConnDOT was in the process of updating their public involvement policy and would make sure that Dr. Mitchell was informed about future meetings. Dr. Mitchell also informed the committee that State Senator John Fonfara has introduced a bill to the Connecticut General Assembly that would make certain roads within the Hartford city limits State roads, as they are in other towns. Mr. Kilbon stated that CRCOG's Policy Board has voted to support that proposal.

4. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.