

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT NEWS

Highway incident management news for the Hartford, New Britain, & Middletown areas

Incident Management Planning Team

Vol. 5, August 1999

RADIO PROPOSAL STILL IN THE NEWS

The Regional Radio System for Incident Management proposal has been approved by CRCOG for inclusion in this year's transportation improvement plan. Details for purchasing the approved equipment are now being worked out, including the drafting of specifications. Appropriate members of the steering committee have begun work on developing a protocol for the use of the hand held radios. Coordination among the agencies receiving the new antenna equipment is also underway.

We now expect the equipment to be put to bid this fall. We can then plan a meeting to distribute the hand held radios and discuss their approved uses as soon as they are available.

This radio proposal includes: more than 100 hand held radios to be distributed to local fire departments, State Police, DOT maintenance supervisors and DEP hazmat personnel. They will be used to allow communication among these agencies during major incidents on our highways.

A separate but related part of this proposal is two new antennas for the Capitol Region Chiefs of Police RAFS radio system and one new antenna for the NCC-EMS radio system.

These improvements are designed to improve and link the entire community of emergency responders in our region.

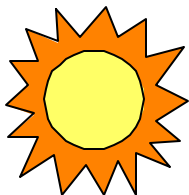
STANDPIPE, et. al., SURVEY RESULTS DELIVERED TO CONNDOT

Eight local fire departments responded to our request for suggestions for standpipe, hydrant access doors, hydrant locator signs, and median crossovers on our limited access highways. These suggestions have been packaged and submitted to ConnDOT for possible inclusion in ongoing or new highway projects.

We received a very favorable response from James F. Byrnes, Jr., Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations (see text of Mr. Byrnes letter on the next page).

Two more fire departments subsequently responded to our survey. We requested some additional information from those departments and as soon as that information is received, their listed locations will be submitted to ConnDOT.

If your department has suggestions for any of the above, please do not hesitate to send them to us at any time. We expect to submit quarterly updates as necessary.



It's summer again. We're still working, but the steering committee is not meeting. See you in the fall—ready hopefully to begin a few new projects! If you have any ideas or suggestions, please give me a call: Karen Olson, CRCOG, 522-2217 or e-mail me at kolson@crcog.org. Have a nice summer.

**Emergency Medical Services - Local Fire Service - Local Police - State Police - Towing Services
CT Dept. of Transportation - CT Dept. of Environmental Protection - Regional Planning Agencies**

ConnDOT RESPONDS TO OUR STANDPIPE SURVEY:

(The Commissioner's actual letter is not yet available on-line. The text of his letter follows.)

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

2800 BERLIN TURNPIKE, P.O. BOX 317546
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06131-7546
Phone: (860)594-2701

April 15, 1999

Mr. Richard J. Porth, Jr.
Executive Director
Capitol region Council of Governments
241 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06131-7546

Dear Mr. Porth:

Subject: Greater Hartford Incident Management Steering Committee Issues

In response to your April 5 letter, the Greater Hartford Incident Management Steering Committee is to be commended for its efforts in identifying issues to improve the efficiency of incident response. As you acknowledge in your letter, there is no identified funding source to address all of these issues, but a first step is to recognize and identify the needs.

The Department does have an existing standpipe policy which allows their inclusion in any bridge rehabilitation project where the need has been identified. Your listing will be utilized as a reference for such projects. The noise barrier door and hydrant sign locations will be reviewed in a similar manner for inclusion in planned highway improvement projects.

The proposed breaks in the medians will be referred to the Median Crossing Committee for review and we will advise you of the outcome of those reviews.

Please express our appreciation to all of the local municipalities that participated in this effort, and we look forward to cooperatively addressing their concerns.

Very truly yours,

James F. Byrnes, Jr.
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Engineering and Highway Operations

cc. Geoffrey Colegrove, Midstate RPA
Melvin Schneidermeyer, Central Connecticut RPA

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PROJECTS ON ACCELERATED SCHEDULE

ITS projects are projects designed to improve mobility for people and goods, enhance safety and improve traveler information capabilities. An ITS Strategic Plan developed cooperatively by ConnDOT and CRCOG, was completed in November 1997. Twenty-two million dollars in projects to improve highway operations and incident management in the area were proposed.

The original schedule called for full deployment in 2004. However, due to anticipated regional development in the Hartford area, the schedule has been accelerated.

Final design is expected by the end of this year; the program is now expected to be fully operational by mid-2001.

Projects included in this program include:

- a fiber optic communication system
- about 100 video cameras
- traffic flow monitors
- 22 new variable message signs
- 16 updated variable message signs
- improvements at ConnDOT's Newington highway operations center
- highway advisory radios

In addition, new links will be created between several agencies, including ConnDOT's Newington and Bridgeport highway operations centers, the cities of Hartford and East Hartford, State Police Troop H, and the Department of Public Safety building in Middletown, allowing the exchange of both video images and digital information.

Visit www.dot.state.ct.us on the Internet to receive latest traffic incident information and view our highways through a videocamera. More cameras on the way.

Traffic advisory information is now broadcast on AM radio station 530 in the Hartford area. Check it out.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Steering Committee are listed below.

State Police

Lt. Louis Lacapruca, Troop C,
870-9500
Lt. Eric Smith, Troop H, 534-1000

Local Police

Lt. Anthony Camilleri, Hartford,
722-6138
Chief Daniel Coppinger,
Plainville, 747-1616
Chief James Strillacci,
West Hartford, 523-5203

Towing Services

Towing & Recovery Professionals of CT,
Tim Vibert, 677-9074

Local Fire Departments

Chief Edward Richards,
Enfield, 745-1878
Chief David Dagon,
East Hartford, 528-4171

Regional Planning Agencies

Capitol Region Council of Governments
Tom Maziarz, Karen Olson, 522-2217
Central Connecticut RPA
James Stack, 589-7820
Midstate RPA
Michael Chong, 347-7214

Emergency Medical Services

North Central Connecticut EMS
Council, Inc.
Hugo S. Costa, Jr., 769-6055

State Agencies

Department of Environmental
Protection
Don Burton, 424-3377
Department of Transportation
Bill Stoeckert, 594-2630; Mike
Healy, 594-2634; Sue Reynolds,
594-3062; Vic LaBarre, 258-4501;
Jim Mona, 594-3450

Incident Management:

- ***Coordination***
- ***Cooperation***
- ***Communication***

Questions or Comments?

Karen Olson
Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106
phone: 522-2217 ext. 15
e-mail: kolson@crcog.org

A highway incident management newsletter for the Hartford, New Britain, and Middletown areas. Prepared by:

**Capitol Region Council of Governments
Connecticut Department of Transportation**