

Capitol Region Council of Governments

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To: CRCOG Policy Board
From: Tom Maziarz
Date: May 14, 2007
Subject: Bus Shelter Policy Proposal

In 1999, the CRCOG Transportation Committee established a bus service subcommittee made up of representatives from Capitol Region towns served by CT Transit. A Bus Stop Sites, Signs and Shelters policy was subsequently adopted in June 2000. As a result of that policy, a coordinated bus stop sign project has been initiated by CT Transit and is well on its way to completion. Hundreds of new bus stop signs are being installed in the Region and have done much to improve the identification of bus stops to potential new passengers, as well as long time riders.

Recently, the bus service subcommittee was reconvened in order to address the issue of bus shelters and their maintenance. A new draft policy was written which would turn the responsibility for shelters over to CT Transit. As a way to fund the new maintenance responsibility and in addition to provide funds for the installation of new shelters where needed, the matter of providing advertising in shelters has been proposed.

As the chief elected official for your community, you will have the primary role in determining whether or not such a proposal would be acceptable to your community. For that reason, we have gathered some information about programs in place in other parts of the State, the country and Canada. A short report on our findings is attached.

I have also attached a list of the sites of existing shelters throughout the Region. Many towns have none or only a few. Most of the shelters, by far, are located within the City of Hartford. Since the City is now considering a new advertising program for its bus shelters, we thought that this was an opportune time to look at the question of developing a regional program for advertising in bus shelters.

We have asked Richard Stiller, Director of Surface Transportation for the Westchester County Department of Transportation to make a short presentation at the May 23 Policy Board meeting about the bus shelter advertising program in Westchester County. He will be able to give you a first-hand account of a program that is working in his cities and towns just outside New York City.