

Annual Report

The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

Fiscal Year 2001-2002



Serving: Berlin, Bristol, Burlington, New Britain, Plainville, Plymouth and Southington

CCRPA Advances Projects in Areas of Transportation and the Environment

PLYMOUTH - The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency assisted one of its member municipalities, Plymouth, in attaining a Brownfields Site Assessment Grant in 2002. The grant will provide funds for assessment and scope for clean-up of the contaminated site upon which the Eli Terry, Jr., Waterwheel stands.

Plans call for restoration of several sites around the Waterwheel and converting the area into a cultural heritage park.



The grant presentation to the Town of Plymouth included (from left to right): Louise Stange, Plymouth Historical Society; Robert Varney, EPA Regional Administrator; Congresswoman Nancy Johnson; Mayor David Mischke; David Philbrick, Waterwheel Committee

Creation of the park along the Pequabuck River was one of the recommendations of the River Action Plan, authored by CCRPA and a watershed-wide coalition, adopted in 2000 by the Agency Board.

The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency will continue to assist in any way it can to help make this regionally significant project a reality. The CCRPA also stands ready to assist its members with other brownfields reuse projects, plans and grants.



NEW BRITAIN - Groundbreaking occurred for an intersection improvement project in the City which CCRPA supported and recommended for federal-assisted funding.

The intersection project will correct a very dangerously configured confluence of Main, Beaver and Broad Streets.

Besides fixing a safety problem in the City, the project plans call for creation of a pocket park and other streetscape treatments designed to



City and State officials gather on site for the groundbreaking ceremony.

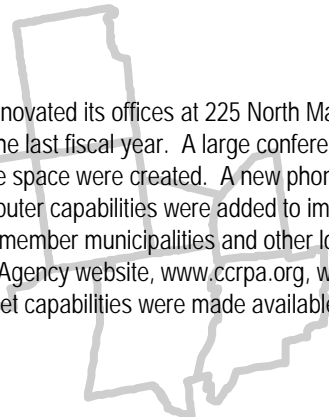
enhance this gateway to the Broad Street neighborhood.

CCRPA helped obtain STP-Urban funding for this and many other roadway projects in the Region through the Agency's subcommittee, the Transportation Improvement Committee (TIC). The TIC meets every other month to discuss and promote transportation betterment throughout the Region.

CCRPA Mission Statement

"...to plan and promote regional policies and programs to enhance the vitality, accessibility and quality of life in our communities..."

The CCRPA renovated its offices at 225 North Main Street in Bristol during the last fiscal year. A large conference room and additional office space were created. A new phone system and upgraded computer capabilities were added to improve service delivery to our member municipalities and other local and state partners. The Agency website, www.ccrpa.org, was reorganized and DSL internet capabilities were made available at all workstations.



ADA PARATRANSIT SERVICE



The Connecticut Department of Transportation had contracted with the Kennedy Center to update the ADA Paratransit system throughout the State of Connecticut. The process initiated will standardize the ADA Paratransit system. Kennedy Center representatives have completed the review in New Haven, Bridgeport and the region covered by the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA). A representative worked at CCRPA for a period of 8 months. The CCRPA initial phase was completed in January 2002.

Over the last year, the Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency has continued the ConnDOT/ Kennedy Center new certification and recertification process. All new and present clients must undergo a face-to-face interview to determine the level of paratransit service to be offered.

Letters and new application forms were sent out to 1,500 clients informing them of the new process. Upon receipt of the applications, interviews were scheduled, clients were seen, and the recertification process was completed.

This process enabled this Agency to update information on each client. Many clients had address changes, phone number changes, etc., and the paratransit database is now more current.

Over 50 health care agencies including hospitals, rehab. centers, State agencies, VNAs, Associations for Retarded Citizens, dialysis centers, nursing care facilities, etc., were sent a letter of instruction with the new application form to issue any of their clients requiring paratransit service.

The CCRPA Transit Manager interviewed most clients and prospective clients at their homes or at facilities where they were patients. The process will be ongoing in the future.

CCRPA Staff

Carl J. Stephani	Executive Director
Ken Shooshan-Stoller	Deputy Director
Margus Laan, AICP	Senior Planner
Tony Savino	Transit Manager
Pramod Pandey	Regional Planner
Robert Cless	Regional Planner
Rita Mastrobattista	Financial Administrator
Sharon Neupaver	Secretary

Pequabuck River Watershed - State of the Watershed Report Underway

Harwinton, and Wolcott, the Pequabuck River watershed drainage basin covers a total area of 57.9 square miles, of which 29.1 square miles is occupied by Pequabuck main stem. The watershed also includes two tributaries, Poland River and Coppermine Brook. The Pequabuck has several characteristics

that make it important in the region. Passing through the city of Bristol it provides shelter for many endangered species of birds, and features many historical and natural elements such as the Eli Terry Waterwheel, Shade Swamp Sanctuary, Downs Street Cemetery, etc. The river is also an integral part of Rockwell Park as well as Memorial Boulevard in Bristol. This study will report on the current water quality and quantity situation, fish habitat, and land use in the watershed, as well as watershed history and dynamics.



The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA), in partnership with the Pequabuck River Watershed Association (PRWA), and the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), is conducting a study on the current state of Pequabuck River watershed. Located in the boundaries of seven different towns and cities, Bristol, Burlington, Farmington, Plainville, Plymouth,

As the study intends to cover various aspects of environment and watershed components, information from various sources on habitat, water quality and quantity, and potential pollutants is being collected.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR FISCAL 2003

Revenues:	
Federal	\$254,946
State	176,786
ADA Paratransit Service	707,276
Member Municipalities	88,000
Other	<u>19,840</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$1,246,848</u>

Expenditures	
Direct Costs:	
Salaries	\$229,451
ADA Paratransit Service	707,276
Other	36,625
Indirect Costs	<u>256,917</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>\$1,230,269</u>

CCRPA Works to Craft Vision for Transportation in the Region and Beyond

The Transportation Investment Area Boards Develop Recommendations for State Priorities with Help by the Region

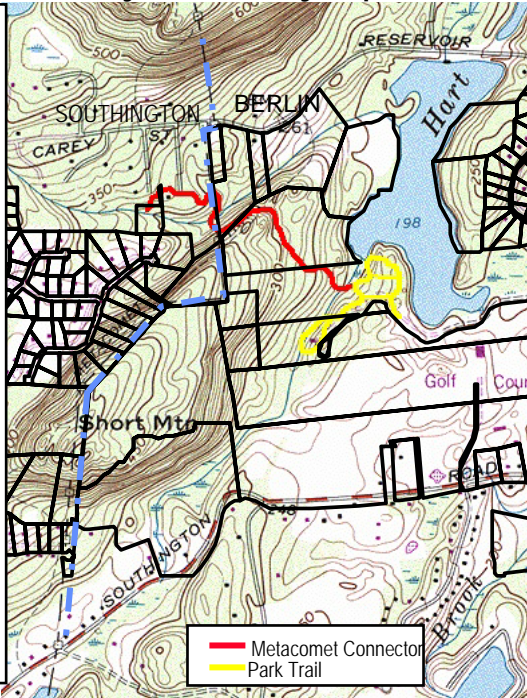
The CCRPA served as the administrator of the Interstate 84 Transportation Investment Area (TIA) Board, for which Ted Scheidel, Burlington First Selectman, served as Chair. The Plan prepared by the TIA recommends projects and policies to encourage the use of transit, as opposed to the single occupancy vehicle, and to encourage the use of barges and trains for shipment of freight, instead of trucks. Top priority for the Board is the New Britain-Hartford Bus Rapid Transit, which is a largely federally funded project to help alleviate traffic congestion on Interstate 84. CCRPA staff and board members also serve on the Interstate 91 TIA Board where they supported similar policies and projects relating to transit and freight movements.



Southington Town Hall

Trails Plan Looks at Connectivity and Facility Improvement

The Central Connecticut Plan for Alternative Transportation and Health (CCPATH) began last fiscal year by convening regional, local and state individuals and groups interested walking trails in the Region. The Regional trails system is one component of CCPATH. The other part involves the pedestrian sidewalk network and its connectivity between residential areas and institutional, commercial and industrial uses. The trails portion of the Plan was developed with information from interested parties. Initial data related to the closed-circuit trails and trail systems that exist in the Region. Armed with this data, CCRPA mapped one dozen trails in



fall and winter 2001-2002 utilizing a Global Positioning System unit in the field. The needs and deficiencies of each trail and system were documented with attention to connectivity to other pedestrian systems, transit and neighborhoods. The data is being loaded into the Agency's GIS mapping system to graphically illustrate spatial relationships of the trails with each other and the larger through trails in the Region, such as the Metacommet, Tunxis, Mattabeset and Mattatuck Trails, and relationships to open space parcels. The Plan is designed to serve as information for potential users as well as a guide for trail managers seeking to improve their trail's walkability and connectivity. Additional fieldwork will take place during fall 2002.



Land Use Referral Activity

The Agency's referral function, which was expanded in 2001, is mandated by the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut. While the decisions are non-binding, the review mandate is important procedurally as this process keeps the Region and neighboring municipalities aware of developments in the surrounding area and provides the opportunity for input. Referrals are required in three areas: zoning matters by Section 8-3(b); subdivision matters by Section 8-26(b); and the newest area Plans of Conservation & Development by Section 8-23(f).

For the fiscal year July 2002 to June 2003, the Agency received a total of referrals: from seven member municipalities and from towns abutting our borders. While the majority of referrals pertained to zoning matters (), the Agency also reviewed subdivisions (), and, for the first time, two referrals under Section 8-23(f), The Plans of Conservation & Development for the towns of Berlin and Cheshire.

Agency Board Members - As of 6/30/03

Berlin	Morgan Seelye Joan Carey
Bristol	Timothy Furey Donald Padlo Michael Parks
Burlington	Richard Alden Theodore C. Scheidel
New Britain	Susan McMullen Helen Pearl Steven Schiller, Chair
Plainville	David Dudek Glenn Petit
Plymouth	William Doherty Steven Panasuk
Southington	Leanne Baggetta Rudolph Cabata Matthew O'Keefe