

**ANNUAL REPORT
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (CCRPA)
FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008**

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



Schuster, Morgan Seelye, Matt O'Keefe, Dennis Kern, Craig Diangelo, Carl Johnson, Stephen Mindera, Rudy Cabata, David Dudek, Jennifer Bartiss-Earley, Leanne Kennedy, Steven Schiller, Don Naples, John Pompei, Paul Rachielles. Absent: Don Padlo

AGENCY MISSION - Carl Stephani, Executive Director

The Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency has been organized to provide a regional framework within which **“To Plan and Promote Regional Policies and Programs to Enhance the Vitality, Accessibility, and Quality of life in our Communities.”** To accomplish this mission, the CCRPA provides paratransit services to the Region’s senior citizens and disabled, coordinates municipal land use planning and zoning, prepares transportation, economic development, environmental, and emergency services preparedness and response plans. Some of the specific projects we undertook during the 2007-2008 fiscal year are described below.

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) - Stephanie Nadler, Regional Planner

To qualify for Federal economic development assistance a town must be in a region which has a federally approved Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in effect. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year the CCRPA has been working with the Federal Economic Development Administration and the State Department of Economic and Community Development to secure funding for a new five year CEDS. The Corridor now includes all seven of the towns in the CCRPA region.

The CEDS includes goals, objectives, strategies, and specific projects that the region wishes to pursue to foster continued regional economic development.

HOMELAND SECURITY - Stephanie Nadler, Regional Planner

The Agency was allocated a \$4000 grant during FY2007-2008 by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security to help organize the Region's Homeland Security efforts through funding managed by the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley, which included coordination with the Region V Steering committee, and its programs, projects, events and activities, and with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's Region V Regional Emergency Response Team (REPT).

CITIZEN CORPS - Stephanie Nadler, Regional Planner

The Agency is continuously involved in planning, coordinating and managing the Citizen Corps Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program for the past six years. This program coordinates the formation, logistical support and training of Citizens Corps teams for the Capitol and Central Connecticut Regions to assist emergency response and law enforcement officials in time of an emergency.

The CCRPA received \$5,000 in grant money in 2007-2008 through the Statewide Citizen Corps Council to form, train and maintain CERT teams in the State.

Four CERTs have been trained with the Citizen Corps funding in the Region: New Britain Fire Department; ESPN CERT; Bristol CERT; and Canine Search and Rescue Team. The agency is currently working on community outreach programs to train more volunteers with CERT training.

This Regional Council meets monthly under the auspices of the CREPC. The Agency also participates as a member of the statewide CERT advisory council of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's Coordinating Council.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT - Ken Shooshan-Stoller, Deputy Director

In an effort to monitor and manage traffic congestion links in the transportation network, CCRPA has been involved in developing a Congestion Management Process (CMP) analysis of the region. It has successfully completed three years of data collection, analysis and reporting. This task is being coordinated with similar efforts at the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) and Mid State Regional Planning Agency (MRPA), our partners in the Hartford Urbanized Area. The CMP consists of various tools and technologies to measure and assess traffic operations on the Region's roadways. A grant through the Federal Highway Administration enabled the CCRPA, CRCOG, and MRPA to purchase geographic positioning system (GPS) receivers to collect drive-time data such as speed and delay. This data is plotted by the geographic information system (GIS) to graphically display locations of congestion on maps. To effectively analyze the problems, a large amount of traffic data must be collected at various times during the day, relating to volume,

delay times, travel speeds, signalization detail and turning movements. With this detailed information the proper solution to improve operations can be developed and implemented. The second year results showed significant congestion during peak hours in some sections of Route 6 in the region. The project will be continued for other major routes and a time line study will be conducted once sufficient data has been collected to monitor growing traffic patterns and manage congestion. The findings contained in the CMP report appear in the Long-Range Transportation Plan as well.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN - Ken Shooshan-Stoller, Deputy Director

Every four years, the CCRPA, as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), is required to prepare a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), with a 20-year planning horizon. The Plan contains an Action Agenda (available online) which outlines the Region's goals in transportation. These goals are compatible with the overall regional goals outlined in the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. The goals cover a variety of regional and national concerns, and reflect the integration of transportation with other facets of society. The Federal Highway Administration also stipulates that the CCRPA consider planning factors such as economic vitality, increased accessibility and mobility, environmental protection, modal integration, system efficiency, system preservation, safety, and security. Much of findings derived from the Regional Build-Out Analysis were employed in developing the Plan. Regional transportation projects with short, medium and long-term horizons to completion and listed in the plan along with transportation data for the seven communities of the region. During the last fiscal year, The Action Agenda was translated into Spanish and Polish and posted on the agency website. Also, a report addendum to the Plan was produced which detailed strategies to mitigate the negative impacts of transportation projects on the natural environment. The addition to the LRTP will be formally adopted in the 2009 fiscal year.

PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT - Ken Shooshan-Stoller, Deputy Director

Last year, the CCRPA completed an updated Plan of Conservation and Development (RPOCD) for the region, utilizing funds provided by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection as well as an annual grant from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. The Plan contains policy goals and strategies in areas of land use, transportation, economic development, open space, infrastructure, facilities, housing, natural resources, and emergency management. The Plan was developed from the foundation of projected data obtained from the Regional Build-Out Analysis. The policies provide direction for future activities and guidance for zoning referral review. The goals and actions within the plan are compatible with the State plan. The RPOCD was the subject of several communities meeting's during 2007. In 2008, an appendix was added to the Plan which focused on agricultural resources in the region. The Agricultural Viability Plan was funded with a grant from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. The Plan is available for review in the CCRPA offices and online at www.ccrpa.org.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS - Stephanie Nadler, Regional Planner

Last year, the Agency was awarded \$14,000 to begin work on assisting in the creation a Safe Routes to Schools program for a school in the region. Plymouth's Harry Fisher School is the location that was chosen to implement a master plan. The CCRPA worked closely with the administration of the school to accomplish the master plan.

TRANSIT SERVICES - John Tricarico, Transportation Assistant

CT Transit, New Britain Division, operates two bus routes in Bristol and nine in New Britain. Service is also provided in Kensington and Plainville.

The CCRPA is planning a major update to the 1996 Transit Development Plan which recommends further enhancement efforts to showcase the bus transit system in the region through more route signage, information kiosks, dissemination of route maps, and a variety of marketing efforts in assorted media. The Plan also summarizes the transit-related recommendations appearing in recently completed CCRPA published plans: Bus way West and the Central Connecticut Plan for Alternative Transportation and Health (CCPATH).

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (GIS) - Francis Pickering, Regional Planner

CCRPA has been continuously expanding its GIS capacity by adding GIS hardware/software and actively assisting its member towns and other agencies with various GIS data, analysis, and mapping that relates to the Region's environment, land use, and transportation. The agency also provides GIS and other mapping support to its member towns on a continuous basis.

LAND USE REFERRALS - Stephanie Nadler, Regional Planner

The Agency's referral function is mandated by the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut. While Agency recommendations on these matters are non-binding, the review mandate is important procedurally as this process keeps the Region and neighboring municipalities aware of developments in the larger area and provides the opportunity for input. Referrals are required by the state statutes in three areas: zoning under Section 8-3b; subdivisions under Section 8-26b; and Plans of Conservation & Development under Section 8-23f

ADA PARATRANSIT SERVICE - John Tricarico, Transportation Assistant

During FY2007-2008 the Agency operated the Region's Paratransit Service under a \$999,337 grant from the Connecticut Department of Transportation. As required by Federal law, this subsidized transit service is offered to disabled people who cannot utilize fixed-route transit.

The Region's ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee meets on a Quarterly Basis to oversee the operation of Regional Paratransit services. Committee voting members are: Torre Skjerli, CW Resources; Shawn Cohen, Plainville Senior Center; Mike Karwan, New Britain Senior Center; Robley Newton, Connecticut Department of Social Services; F. Jay Sullivan.

A Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan (LOCHSTP) was developed for the Hartford Urbanized Area, in cooperation with ConnDOT, Capitol Region Council of Governments and Midstate Regional Planning Agency. This Plan brought together a wide array of agencies and organizations that provide transportation to the elderly, disabled and/or low income populations. The focus was to coordinate service delivery and address gaps in service. This federally required plan is necessary for obtaining funding for the Jobs Access program, enhanced paratransit service, and Section 5310 van purchases for communities and organizations in the region.

REMEMBERING ANTHONY “TONY” SAVINO

In February 2008, The CCRPA and The City of Bristol said good-bye to Anthony “Tony” Savino, a long time resident and employee for the Agency. Tony Savino passed away leaving behind a “can do” attitude for the ADA Paratransit Service for Central Connecticut in all that he did for the service. Tony was a faithful advocate for public transportation who worked tirelessly and creatively to find ways to stretch scarce resources to address as many of the transportation needs of his region as possible. Tony Savino served on so many committees and boards to be able to mention them all. His legacy will be remembered as well as that iconic “unlit cigar” he had with him at all times. He worked as the Transit Manager for the CCRPA Paratransit Service for several years. In that time he ran and maintained a ground-up system for the CCPS. No job was too big for Tony to handle, even when his health began to deteriorate, he gave it his all right to the end. The CCPS, CCRPA and the Region owe him a debt of gratitude for his years of committed service.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR FISCAL 2007-2008 - Cheri Bouchard-Duquette, Office Manager/ Bookkeeper

More than ninety percent of the services the CCRPA provides is funded by Federal and State grants. Out of a total annual budget of more than \$1.6 million, the total local match budgeted for all seven of our member municipalities is \$88,000. That figure has not changed for more than a decade. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the \$88,000 local match enabled more than \$21 million of outside funds to flow to the Region’s member municipalities for transportation and other projects. It is anticipated that similar amounts will be generated through the CCRPA for our member municipalities annually in the years to come.

While there has been no change in the total amount of the CCRPA budget supported by municipal dues, the proportion of the total \$88,000 paid by each of our seven member Towns varies annually in relation to changes in the proportion of population and total grand list value in each town.

Revenues:

State	\$ 561,349
ADA Paratransit Service	\$ 921,216
Member Municipalities	\$ 97, 305
Municipalities (CRPC) Dues	
Municipalities (CEDS) Dues	
Other	\$ 7,977
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 1,587,847</u>

Expenditures

Direct Costs:	
Salaries	\$ 317,438
ADA Paratransit Service	\$ 926,966
Other	\$ 12,652
Indirect Costs	
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 362,029</u>

AGENCY BOARD MEMBERS - AS OF 6/30/08

Berlin	Dennis Kern Morgan Seelye
Bristol	John Pompei, Treasurer Donald Padlo Gary Virello
Burlington	Paul Rachielles Bernard Schuster
New Britain	Donald Naples, Secretary Craig Diangelo Steven Schiller
Plainville	David Dudek, Vice Chair Jennifer Bartiss-Earley
Plymouth	Carl Johnson Stephen Mindera
Southington	Leanne Kennedy Rudy Cabata Matthew O'Keefe, Chair

CCRPA STAFF

Carl J. Stephani, ICMA-CM	Executive Director
Ken Shooshan-Stoller	Deputy Director
Margus Laan, AICP	Senior Planner
John Tricarico	Transportation Assistant
Stephanie Nadler	Regional Planner
Francis Pickering	Regional Planner
Cheri Bouchard-Duquette	Office Mgr/Bookkeeper

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