

ANNUAL REPORT

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (CCRPA)

FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008



Left to right
 - Bernard
 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.

The CCRPA was Established in 1967

PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND REGIONAL GROWTH

Ken Shooshan-Stoller, Deputy Director

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

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.

PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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.

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

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

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.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

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.

Stephanie Nadler, Regional Planner (cont'd)

LAND USE REFERRALS

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

John Tricarico, Transportation Assistant

TRANSIT SERVICES

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).

ADA PARATRANSIT SERVICE

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.

Francis Pickering, Regional Planner

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (GIS)

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.

Cheri Bouchard-Duquette, Office Manager/ Bookkeeper

More than ninety percent of the services the CCRPA provides are 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 | \$ 88,000 |
| Municipalities (CRPC) Dues | \$ 3,500 |
| Municipalities (CEDS) Dues | \$ 5,805 |
| 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 | \$ 362,029 |
| Total Expenditures | <u>\$ 1,619,085</u> |

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.

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 |

Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency

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