

**Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization  
January 12, 2005  
Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Chester:	Martin Heft
Clinton:	James McCusker
Deep River:	
Essex:	Phil Miller
Killingworth:	David Denvir
Lyme:	Bill Koch
Old Lyme:	Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook:	
Westbrook:	Tony Palermo
DOT:	Richard Corona
Staff:	Linda Krause, Wini Olson
Guests:	Jim Rode, Executive Director of the Estuary Transit District Mitzi Eilts, Director of the ECSI, Walter Miller, Chairman of ECSI

I. The meeting of the Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization was called to order at 8:35 AM by Vice Chairman Jim McCusker in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road in Old Saybrook, CT.

**II. Minutes**

Phil Miller moved that the minutes of the December 8, 2004 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Tony Palermo and unanimously approved.

**III. Comments from the public.**

There were no comments from the public.

**IV. New Business**

A. STIP Amendments

Linda Krause announced that all ten STIP amendments are pavement management studies. None of them apply directly to this region but require approval from all MPOs within the state.

Martin Heft asked that copies of the paperwork be distributed prior to the meeting in all cases.

Phil Miller moved that the STIP proposals be approved as requested. The motion was seconded by David Denvir and unanimously approved.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. ETD**

Jim Rode reported that ETD and ESI are working on the transition, incorporating elderly services into the public bus system.

Mitzi Eilts expressed concern that the preliminary budget discussed by the subcommittee was not yet distributed to the MPO. It contains more busses and more hours for the Dial – a -Ride service that is proposed to begin July 1.

Jim Rode announced that DOT has approved the proposal to allow seniors (defined as anyone over 60 years of age) to ride for half price which would be 60 cents for the Shoreline Shuttle and \$1.25 each way for the Dial-a –Ride. Money lost by the fare reduction must be regained through other revenues.

Mitzi asked the Selectmen to oversee the transition. Tony Palermo assured her that the sub-committee intends to continue until the transition is complete.

Mitzi assured the Selectmen that ECSI is not interested in who delivers the service but in how it is delivered. She noted that the ECSI will still be delivering service at a net loss from now until July. She asked for public support of the fund drives and explained that the ECSI will ask the towns for additional funding rather than use any of their reserve funds.

Jim Rode commended the ECSI for providing an excellent service. He stated that the ETD will have the capacity to serve the senior community.

Linda Krause noted that the ETD Dial-a –Ride will serve a broader group. It will not be the same.

Chairman Walt Miller expressed the ECSI concern for the seniors who need special assistance.

### **B. Long Range Transportation Plan of Development**

Discussion of the Long Range Transportation Plan of Development was postponed due to the illness of Jean Davies.

### **C. Review and Adoption of Project Selection Policy ( distributed at last meeting)**

The review and adoption of the Project Selection Policy was postponed due to the illness of Jean Davies.

## **VI. Other Business/ Correspondence**

There was no other business or correspondence.

The MPO meeting adjourned at 8:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary

