

Minutes
Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization
April 12, 2006

Attendance:

Chester:

Clinton: Willie Fritz

Deep River:

Essex: Phil Miller

Killingworth:

Lyme: Bill Koch

Old Lyme: Tim Griswold

Old Saybrook: Mike Pace

Westbrook:

CRERPA: Bruce Edgerton

Estuary Transit District: John Forbis, ETD Director Jim Rode, ECSI Executive

Guests” Director Mitzi Eilts, Rep. James Spallone, OS Selectman

Bill Pease

CRERPA Staff: Jean Davies, Wini Olson

- I.** The meeting of the Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization was called to order by Chairman Mike Pace at 8:35 AM in the conference space of the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency at 455 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook Ct 06475.

II. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

III. Minutes

Willie Fritz moved that the minutes of the March 8 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Phil Miller and unanimously approved.

IV. Federal and State Programs

A. STIP Amendments

The STIP amendments were tabled. EPA and DOT are conferring on details of an agreement. Bill Peace commented on the frustration of having the North Main Street project in Old Saybrook ready to be built this summer and facing delays because CT DOT will not be able to process the grant until February 2007.

B. Incident Management

Chairman Pace mentioned that he had given his copy of the CTDOT Incident Management CD to the Old Saybrook Police Department.

Bill Peace suggested that this is an excellent opportunity to create modest left turn lanes. It was agreed that Clinton and Old Saybrook will work together on the diversion plan and will send a letter to Westbrook. Tim Griswold endorsed the intent stating that Old Lyme and East Lyme coordinate their diversion plans.

D. Agreements and Contracts

Jean Davies announced that she just received instructions on how to fill out the unified work program applications.

E. Bus Prioritization

ECS has applied to purchase a new bus with 80/20 state funding. The state has asked for clarification of ridership. They are uncertain whether the applicant will use the vehicle for 2 trips per week or 20. It will apparently be used one or two times per week for one or two people and once a week for eight to twelve people. The state requires that no fee be charged. The ESC charges no fee but requests a \$25.00 donation. It was agreed to wait for Mitzi Eilts to clarify the details.

F. Safe Routes School Funding

Jean explained a new program that will provide money for signage and striping for walking groups commuting to schools. Sidewalks are eligible but there is not enough money in this year's budget.

V. Legislative Issues

A. Representative Jamie Spallone

Rep. Spallone attended the meeting although he had to be in Hartford for a 10:00 AM session. The session ends on May 3 which leaves sixteen more working days. Jamie sees less difference in the dollar amounts of the budgets presented by the legislature and the governor's office than in the philosophy that guides them

Transportation is high on the list with money for rail, water and roads.

Jamie sees no consensus on the Probate issue this year. The bill did not make it out of the Judiciary. It was not rejected. The committee ran out of time.

Proposed funding for the purchase of the Preserve made it out of the Environment Committee and is now before the Finance Committee.

Phil Miller asked about the money sent to towns in lieu of the abated tax on manufacturers' equipment. It was noted that other states do not tax such equipment.

Chairman Pace noted that CCM took issue with CL&P for fees for telephone poles. He would like to see a similar initiative with the CT Water Co. Towns are billed for the infrastructure (that has already been amortized) and for the potential use of water for fires. The amount is substantial and a 20% increase is proposed.

Phil asked about the timing of the STEAP Grants. Rep Spallone expects the grants to be announced around Labor Day. The amount available has been increased from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000. The rest is the Legislature vs. the Governor.

VI. CREMPO Programs

A. Bus Grant

Mitzi Eilts explained the necessity of having a bus for one or two passenger trips. The van lift will not accommodate some styles of chairs or chairs with large patients. The 20% match will come from the ECS capital reserve fund. The new vehicle is expected to replace the current bus for ECS trips and will be used as a MOTS vehicle only when the chair lift is needed.

Phil Miller moved that CREMPO should support the purchase of a new bus by the ECS as applied for. The motion was seconded by Willie Fritz and unanimously approved.

B. Regional Transportation Plan

Chairman Pace, John Forbis and Willie Fritz will serve as the sub-committee to assist Jean Davies as she writes the Regional Transportation Plan that is scheduled to be re-adopted next year.

C. ETD

John Forbis reported that three members of the ETD have retired- Jean Davies, Ray Mozzochi and Ning Rich. Ning has been replaced by John Horn of Lyme who brings a business approach to the board. Ray has been replaced by Gina from the Deep River Selectmen's office. Jean has not yet been replaced.

John reported that the staff is working on the operating budget which is reported on a cash flow basis. Jim Rode expects the municipal grant to be approved for the full amount of \$156,000 as early as July 1.

Jim reported that the Riverside shuttle is operating from 7AM to 6PM. Summer extensions to Saybrook Point are being considered. Chairman Pace suggested that Ferry Point also be included.

D. Summer Traffic

Chairman Pace commented on the change in the shore communities during the summer with a party attitude prevailing. He noted that Old Saybrook intends to enforce the 25 MPH speed limit on Main Street and to be vigilant about DWI.

E. Water Transportation

Representative Guiliani has submitted a bill relative to the decibel level of cigarette boats.

F. Environmental Justice Review

Jean Davies announced that Margot Burns is working on a map that will be useful during the environmental Justice Review next spring. The map will help identify underserved populations and concentrations of language groups.

G. Allocation of Anticipated funds

Jean reminded members to keep projects in mind for the upcoming Allocation of Anticipated Funds.

The meeting was adjourned a 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary

