

**Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization
September 13, 2006
Minutes**

Attendance:

Chester:	Tom Marsh
Clinton:	Willie Fritz
Deep River:	Dick Smith
Essex:	Phil Miller
Killingworth:	
Lyme:	
Old Lyme:	Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook:	Bill Peace
Westbrook:	
CRERPA:	Bruce Edgerton
ETD:	
Staff:	Linda Krause, Jean Davies, Wini Olson
Guests:	Rep. James Spallone, Betty Wagner

I. The meeting of the Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization was called to order at 8:34 AM by Vice Chairman Dick Smith in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road in Old Saybrook, CT.

II. Comments from the public.

There were no comments from the public.

IV. Minutes

Phil Miller moved that the minutes of the July 12, 2006 meeting be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Bruce Edgerton and unanimously approved.

V. Federal and State Programs

A. STIP Amendments

Jean Davies explained that the STIP amendments allow unexpended money to be carried over into the next fiscal period. Bruce Edgerton moved that the STIP be approved as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Supplement agreements will be signed by the chairman.

VI. CREMPO Programs

A. Local Projects

1. Chester – The cost and scope of the project is being reduced.
2. Old Lyme – Cost estimates are being gathered to put finishing touches on the Lyme Street project in the summer of 2008.
3. Old Saybrook – the North Main Street project is in the queue. Members were urged to submit estimates by October.

Members were asked to schedule a Regional Plan Workshop for October. The current plan was adopted on November of 2005.

The plan will be reviewed in sections in cooperation with Commission Chairmen and the Public Works Department of each town.

2. Transit Update

Phil Miller noted that the ETD system is working and the staff is doing well without a director. He is concerned that the staff may be overworked and may omit sending new information to be included in the municipal newsletters.

B. Sub Committee Reports

Incident Management. The committee had no report.

C. Correspondence

Bill Peace has been informed that DOT has a new policy regarding the engineering of federally funded local projects. Formerly the town provided the plans. The new policy requires adherence to the QBS selection process. It will add about two years to the preparation of each project, thereby adding to both the engineering and construction costs. A consultant engineer may prepare the initial concept plan and review proposals. After the interview and selection process DOT approves or vetoes the candidate. Only then do negotiations of time and money begin.

The only acceptable alternative is to use a staff engineer. No small town employs a staff engineer. Only one region employs an engineer. As of February 2006 towns may complete a three year contract and then must proceed to the QBS procedure to select a consulting engineer.

Tom Marsh asked if Rob Simmons can do anything about it. Betty Wagner will ask. He is on the Transportation Sub-Committee of the House of Representatives. It was agreed that since large cities have staff engineers, the new procedure is discriminatory against small towns. It precludes small communities nationwide from participating in the program.

It was suggested that the threshold be raised. Projects under \$2,000,000 could be exempted from the new requirements.

Tim Griswold suggested that an arrangement might be made with the New Haven planning region to share engineering services.

Bruce Edgerton moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Tom Marsh. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary