

Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization
September 14, 2005
Minutes

Attendance:

Chester:	Martin Heft
Clinton:	Jim McCusker
Deep River:	Dick Smith
Essex:	Phil Miller with Henry May, Chairman of WPCA
Killingworth:	David Denvir
Lyme:	
Old Lyme:	Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook:	Bill Peace
Westbrook:	Tony Palermo
CRERPA:	Bruce Edgerton
ETD:	John Forbis, Jim Rode, Executive Director
DOT:	Casey Faraci
Legislators:	Rep. James Spallone, Betty Wagner on behalf of Rep. Simmons
Staff:	Jean Davies, Linda Krause, Joel Severance, Wini Olson, Ralph Eno, Amy Cabaniss
Guests:	Mitzi Eilts, Executive Director of the Estuary Council of Seniors

I. The meeting of the Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization was called to order at 8:38 AM by Vice-Chairman Jim McCusker in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road in Old Saybrook, CT.

II. Minutes

Bruce Edgerton moved that the minutes of the June 8, 2005 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Tony Palermo and approved.

III. Comments from the public.

There were no comments from the public.

IV. New Business

A. STIP

There were no STIP amendments.

V. Old Business

A. Local Road Projects

Jean Davies announced that the Old Saybrook request to have North Main Street reclassified as a collector road was successful. It is now eligible for federal funds.

The Chester project has to be considered and then the MPO will be ready to prioritize the proposed projects.

A. Incident Management

Linda Krause mentioned that she was contacted by Scott Campbell of Conn DOT. An Incident Management Plan is in place from Old Lyme to the Rhode Island border. The plan was created by a formal committee that consisted of police, fire departments and Selectmen. ConnDOT is now working on a similar plan for the area from Branford to Old Saybrook. Mr. Campbell asked Linda who he should talk to for local input on diversion routes.

Tim Griswold interjected that the Selectmen and appropriate staff should be involved. He noted that it becomes a micro situation triggered by the State Police. The MPO agreed that Mr. Campbell should come to a meeting of the RPO. Bill Peace mentioned that every town has a legal traffic authority. In Old Saybrook, it is the Police Department.

Linda asked if Mr. Campbell should come to a regular meeting or would the group prefer to devote a special meeting to the subject. Tim Griswold suggested that an overview could be provided at a regular meeting followed by working sessions to deal with the details.

Jean will send out copies of the proposed plan. Mr. Campbell will be invited to the October meeting. Members will bring the appropriate people from each of their towns.

B. ETD

1. Representation

Jean Davies reviewed the bylaw that states that the ETD nominates its delegates to the MPO. The nominees are then subject to the approval of and acceptance by the MPO. The ETD has nominated Jim Forbis to serve as delegate to the MPO. Doris Sanstrom was nominated to serve as his alternate. Mr. Forbis was introduced to the group. Bruce Edgerton moved that the nominations be accepted. The motion was seconded by Martin Heft. The motion was approved and Mr. Forbis was seated as a member of the MPO.

2. Service contract

Jim Rode explained that the ETD had a one year contract with Dattco. They have been in negotiations with the company for two months and have concluded that as of November 1 the ETD should operate the service itself. The operation center will be in this building and the busses will be parked here nights.

John Forbis asserted that the ETD will be able to provide custom service. Most of the clients are in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Mr. Forbis distributed data sheets showing projections of anticipated cost reductions. Dattco is a low cost provider but unfortunately has also been reducing service.

Tim Griswold asked about bus replacement.

Jim Rode replied that there are currently eight busses. Six are used daily. Two are replaced each year. Younger busses require less maintenance. Busses are purchased from a different grant program. Busses are purchased from a fund that is 80% federal money and 20% state money.

In an effort to increase awareness of the relatively new services, Jim is making an effort to take bus to community events. He asked for recommendations of events to attend.

Mitzi Eilts commented that she is very encouraged by the proposed change. She is pleased that door to door service is available but finds it disturbing that it is at the discretion of the driver rather than by directed policy. She also expressed concern about the ETD only providing tens hours per week of on call service.

Jim Rode assured her that on call service is available 8 hours a day five days a week.

Mitzi mentioned that the ECS has continued to provide on call service ten hours a week. Without state subsidy, the Council has depleted its cash reserves by \$70,000 each year to do and will not continue the service after October of this year.

David Denvir mentioned that he has been perusing the financial documents provided by Mr. Forbis. He found no line item for insurance.

Jim Rode assured him that liability insurance is provided through the state. The district is responsible for workmen's compensation. A door to door policy would increase the necessity for insurance

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary

