

**Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**November 9, 2005**  
**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Chester:	Martin Heft
Clinton:	Jim McCusker
Deep River:	
Essex:	Phil Miller
Killingworth:	David Denvir and Martin Klein
Lyme:	
Old Lyme:	Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook:	Mike Pace, Bill Peace
Westbrook:	
CRERPA:	Bruce Edgerton
ETD:	John Korbis, Jim Rode, Executive Director
Staff:	Jean Davies, Linda Krause, Janice Ehle-Meyer, Wini Olson,
Guest:	Mitzi Eilts, Betty Wagner

**I.** The meeting of the Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization was called to order at 8:36 AM by Chairman Mike Pace in the CRERPA conference space at 455 Boston Post Road in Old Saybrook, CT.

Chairman Pace called for round table introductions and stated his great respect for all who gather at the table. He congratulated the group for consistently ignoring political affiliations when working as a regional group.

**II. Minutes**

Chairman Pace moved that approval of the minutes be tabled. The motion was seconded by Tim Griswold and approved.

**III. Comments from the public.**

There were no comments from the public.

**V. Old Business**

**C. ETD**

As a courtesy to ESC Director Mitzi Eilts, the agenda was amended to allow her to present her information and leave for another appointment.

John Forbis reported that the ETD is in transition.

Jim Rode explained that the ETD had assumed full responsibility for operation as of November 1. The ETD now employs all ten drivers that previously worked for Dattco

and ECS plus two additional drivers, reservationist Sue Traskos. and dispatcher Paul Terrell.

A course on Public Transit 101 will be held Thursday November 10 at 1 PM in the Westbrook Town Hall.

Walter Miller, Mitzi Eilts, Bill Foster and John Forbis are serving on a committee to cost effectiveness, analyze service and create a model. They hope to have a proposal ready by January 9.

Chairman Pace asked if the bus size is flexible. He inquired about funding and federal help.

The committee is considering quality of service and economy.

Jean Davies commented that the timing is “in sync” with the Municipal Grant Review Program. It includes Demand Response Service which is funded through the MPO.

John Forbis stated that he hopes to have a joint proposal with an intent statement for the MPO by December and a draft ready for review in January.

Jim Rode thanked Old Saybrook for allowing the ETD to participate in its gasoline program.

Mitzi Eilts thanked Old Lyme for being the first town to purchase a \$500 brick for the ESC patio.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. STIP**

Jean Davies presented the STIP amendment which is a request from Connecticut Transit to carry over funding for bus replacement. It affects the entire state.

Marty Klein asked how much control the MPO has over bidding. He is interested in the consideration of alternative fuels.

Jim rode explained that the ETS “piggy backs” on the Greater New Haven Transit District bidding process.

David Denvir moved that the STIP amendment be approved. The motion was seconded by Martin Heft and unanimously approved.

##### **B. Amendment Procedures and Thresholds**

Jean Davies explained that amendments to a STIP must be voted on by the various MPOs whereas an action can be signed off administratively. Currently an expenditure of \$100,000 or more becomes an amendment. There has been a suggestion that the threshold should be raised. It was agreed that raising the threshold would be relinquishing too much authority although there sometimes is a question of percent of the project cost vs. a dollar amount. The MPO prefers to be consulted for significant changes.

Chairman Pace asked CRERPA to arrange a workshop in addition to the regular meeting, to enable the Selectmen, both new and returning, to review the MPO process.

##### **C. TASR Report**

Jean explained that the DOT is FOI exempt and is unwilling to share recent accident data with anyone who does sign a non-disclosure agreement. CRERPA uses the data to help identify critical spots that need attention. CRERPA is not FOI exempt and does feel that secret information would be useful. Until the problem is resolved, CRERPA must rely upon year 2000 data.

David Denvir noted that the information is subject to subpoena by any interested attorney.

D. Public Participation Policy

Jean announced that a draft copy of the Public Participation Policy is being posted on the CRERPA web site. There will also be a traditional newspaper notice.

E. New Legislation

New SAFETEA-LU is adding new MPO procedures. The Regions are attempting to coordinate their planning cycles with ConnDOT.

**V. Old Business**

A. Endorsement of Regional Transportation Plan

Jean Davies distributed addenda to the Regional Transportation plan with the changes and additions highlighted in red. The preamble was added to provide a comfort for Marilyn Ozols, Planning Chairman in Westbrook. There will be a comprehensive review in 2006.

David Denvir moved that the plan be adopted and submitted as necessary. The motion was seconded by Phil Miller and unanimously approved.

Jim McCusker moved that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary







