

**Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization
December 8, 2004
Minutes**

Attendance:

Chester:	Martin Heft
Clinton:	James McCusker
Deep River:	Dick Smith
Essex:	
Killingworth:	David Denvir
Lyme:	
Old Lyme:	Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook:	Mike Pace
Westbrook:	Tony Palermo
DOT:	Richard Corona
Staff:	Jean Davies, Linda Krause, Wini Olson
Guests:	Mitzi Eilts, Director of the ECSI, Walter Miller, Chairman of ECSI Doris Sanstrom, Chairman of the Estuary Transit District Jim Rode, Executive Director of the Estuary Transit District Betty Wagner representing Congressman Simmons

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

II. Minutes

Martin Heft moved that the minutes of the November 10, 2004 meetings be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Jim McCusker and unanimously approved.

III. Comments from the public.

There were no comments from the public.

IV. New Business

A. STIP Amendments

Jean Davies announced that the proposed STIP amendment would move dollars for enhancement projects throughout the state. The sample showed no projects in the CRE region. Members were assured that projects in this region will be added later.

Concern was expressed that CREMPO was being asked to vote on a statewide project. Jean and Rich Corona explained that the STIP will allow \$600,000 of DOT money to be used to evaluate enhancement projects recommended by municipalities and regions throughout the state. With that understanding, Jim McCusker moved that the STIP amendment be approved as proposed. The motion was seconded by Dick Smith and unanimously approved.

V. Old Business

A. ETD

Jim McCusker reported that he has met successfully with Mitzi Eilts and Jim Rode. Mitzi reported that the matter is “in progress”. They have shared a list of addresses served by each program. Jim Rode has set up a meeting with Dattco to help phase in the plan. A fourth bus may be needed. Jean added that DOT is willing to cooperate.

ESCI Chairman Walter Miller added that the ECSI is not as happy with the service to seniors as it is now being operated. The Council is facing an operating loss this year. Jim McCusker mentioned that he is particularly aware of the sensitivity issue. Each supplier will have sensitivity training sessions. Nine or ten of the Dattco drivers formerly worked for ESCI.

B. Long Range Transportation Plan of Development

Jean Davies called attention to the outline of the new plan and the copy of the 1994 plan that was distributed with the minutes. The new plan has to be completed by March.

Chairman Pace suggested that members read the outline and bring their wish list to the January meeting. He suggested that the towns of Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Clinton include plans to provide pedestrian access that would connect the new railroad facilities to the centers of their towns.

C. Policy Development

Jean Davies announced that Policy Development involves project selection for FY 2007-2008. DOT will use the TIP funds to analyze the proposed projects.

VI. Other Business

A. Connecticut Intelligent Transportation Systems

Jean prepared and circulated the list of Stakeholders for the Intelligent Transportation System.

Tim Griswold recollected that \$8,000,000. was set aside for ITS east of the Baldwin Bridge. He asked what happened to it.

Rich Corona explained that it is being phased in. Radio announcements come first, then active signed and then the cameras.

B. Paving schedule

Jean distributed the list of proposed state highway paving projects.

C. 5310

Applications have been distributed to Vista and Caring Ways for funding new busses.

The MPO meeting adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary

**Lower Connecticut River Valley Selectmen's Association
November 10, 2004
Minutes**

- I. Chairman Pace called the meeting to order at 9: 35 AM immediately after the close of the CREMPO meeting. The representatives of ESCI left the office. Amy Cabaniss, Ralph Eno and J.H.Torrance Downes joined the group.

II. CRRA

Chairman Pace introduced Paul Nonnenmacher, director of Public Affairs for CRRA.

Mr. Monnenmacher stated that under the direction of Mike Pace, CRRA has a new attitude of openness and transparency. As director of Public Affairs, he has been meeting with the towns. This morning he was continuing that process.

CRRA has pursued the money loaned to Enron and was awarded over \$82 million. By auctioning the "distressed debt", CRRA was able to sell the claim to Deutchibank for \$111,000,000 which should be received by the end of the ear.

CRRA anticipates keeping the TIP fee at or below market while replenishing the reserve to provide capital for long term options.

The Hartford landfill can accept four more years of ash but only two years of residue. CRRA is surveying the entire state for possible sites.

The legislature is being approached about the necessity of obtaining a publicly owned parcel to use as an ash dump. Currently the only available permitted site is the privately owned by Wheelabrator, in Putnam. Using it would add \$17 per ton to the tipping fee.

CRRA is asking DEP to expand the criteria for approval to include both capacity and economy.

CRRA was established with a legal cap on the number of employees.

Flexibility is being sought to allow for better monitoring of the operation.

Mike Pace commented that CRRA has been reorganized. And debt has been paid off. He was shocked to find that there was no plan for closing the Hartford landfill and no plan for continued disposal of ash. CRRA is planning a mass burn plant at Mid-Connecticut. It is anticipated that it will reduce the cost per ton. Chairman Pace intends to call a Stockholders Meeting of all the participating towns.

The TIP fee for 2005 will be \$70.00 per ton.

III. HHW

Amy Cabaniss distributed copies of the final progress report for the construction of the HHW facility in Essex.

Ralph Eno distributed individual reports that summarized the HHW collected from each town during each collection. He is optimistic that the volume will increase with an ongoing education process.

The contract with Clean Harbors requires a minimum of 100 households per collection. The RPA has been “picking up the tab” and including it as part of the Operation and Maintenance. An alternative would be to have Clean Harbors bill the towns directly. Members agreed that they prefer to have the billing left as it is.

The alternative of fewer collections was considered. The contract with DEP requires a minimum of 16 collections per year.

Chairman Pace asked if more towns could be allowed to participate. Amy noted that the original agreement stipulates a five trial period with the charter towns. She checked the contract and found that other towns could be permitted by a 2/3 affirmative vote of the charter members.

Chairman Pace asked about allowing small quantity commercial generators to use the facility. It is permitted on different days under a specific set of regulations. Expanding the operation to include small commercial participants will be explored.

Chairman Pace asked that towns decide whether or not they want satellite collections.

Phil Miller asked if there is a good model of similar towns. Ralph mentioned that before this facility was established, the Town of Lyme had participated in the collection in New Haven. He has used that as a model for operations.

Phil asked if there will be another Electronics collection. Amy hopes to have two next year- one at CRRA and one the CRE facility. Mile Pace suggested that it might cost less to ask CRRA to do two collections.

Phil asked about boat flares. Unfortunately, they are not acceptable. Alternatives were discussed.

It was agreed that it would be interesting to investigate inviting other towns to join the operation.

Chairman Pace asked that the December meeting have a very short agenda to allow further discussion of the subject.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary