

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

Attendance:

Chester:	Tom Marsh
Clinton:	Willie Fritz
Deep River:	
Essex:	Phil Miller
Killingworth:	
Lyme:	Ralph Eno
Old Lyme:	Tim Griswold
Old Saybrook:	Mike Pace
Westbrook:	
CRERPA:	Bruce Edgerton
ETD:	John Forbis
Staff:	Linda Krause, Jean Davies, Wini Olson

I. The meeting of the Connecticut River Estuary Metropolitan Planning Organization was called to order in the Conference space of the Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency at 8:30 AM by Chairman Mike Pace.

II. Minutes

Bruce Edgerton moved that the minutes of the September meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by Tim Griswold and unanimously approved.

III. Federal and State Programs

A. Regional Transportation Plan

Chairman Pace recognized Jean Davies of the CRERPA Staff.

Jean is preparing an updated Regional Transportation Plan. The current plan was hastily adopted by CREMPO in November of 2005 to enable the Organization to continue to receive funding. DOT is asking MPOs throughout the state to each adopt a new plan in 2007 so they will all be on the same cycle. The new plan will be an update of the 2005 plan but will be subjected to much more extensive public involvement. Ralph Eno commented that Lyme still uses covered wagons. Jean assured him that that has been duly noted.

Jean circulated a copy of a letter that will be sent to most boards and commissions on behalf of the Selectmen. Phil Miller asked that Economic Development Commissions be added to the list.

Project lists must be submitted by February. Public Hearings will be held in May.

John Forbis commented that he realizes that the plan will obviously include projects that cannot possibly be paid for.

Jean assured him that the plan must be fiscally constrained and must fit within proposed state and federal budgets.

Members agreed by consensus to send the letter as drafted.

B. STIP

Jean referred to the STIP proposals as they appear on the agenda.

The Roundabout in Killingworth is under way. DOT has met with Selectman Klein. It is listed as a new project because funding is deferred to 2007-2008.

Great Brook in Chester is listed because it needs more money.

DOT is creating a coding system. Category I projects are being extended from 2006 to 2007. The revision of traffic signals falls into Category 4 that includes adjusting estimates.

Willie Fritz moved that the STIP Amendments be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Tim Griswold and unanimously approved.

III. ETD

John Forbis explained that the more specific the request or plan is, the easier it is for the ETD to respond to. He noted that with the increased local funding, the ETD has increased usage to an anticipated 63,000 rides per year.

John introduced ETD Executive Director Brad Beecher. Brad greeted members and noted that he will have been on the job one month tomorrow. The first month was spent attending to funding issues and writing grant applications. He hopes to devote January to a comprehensive marketing plan. This includes visiting each Selectman.

Brad anticipates the arrival of six new busses. A person can ride from Chester to New Haven for \$1.25.

Brad urged Selectmen to call him directly if any issues arise.

Phil Miller suggested that the ETD use the town news letters for free publicity. He urged him to use digital pictures to illustrate his text.

Brad mentioned that he joined the Old Saybrook of Commerce. Phil offered to help him join the CDE Chamber.

Phil asked if anyone knew Michael Tuccio of Lyme who is an alternative fuel specialist.

Brad is investigating procuring an alternative fuel vehicle to join the ETD service with at of SECOG. Federal funding will pay 80% of the cost of an alternative fuel vehicle.

IV. Other Business

A. Safe Routes to School

Jean announced that the state is offering a \$12,000 grant to each MPO to assist towns in the preparation of grants for the Safe Routes to School program. Grants to improve bike routes are available. The applications have not been acceptable. (Willie Fritz commented that the grants require a 150% match from the town).

B. Engineering

Jean mentioned that the question of using town engineers for local projects is still on hold. Chairman Pace explained the North Main Street project as an example. It is anticipated to cost under \$200,000, but the state bidding requirements for engineers to draw up the plans would raise the cost to \$800,000. The project is therefore on hold.

Jean cautioned towns about applying to STEAP to fund road projects. They will be referred to DOT.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy C. Griswold, Secretary

