

## CIC REGIONAL PROJECT RANKINGS

12/22/2005

### **HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT**

#### Thames Basin Regional Water Interconnection Project

Implement plans to construct a regional water main spanning the Thames River to provide increased capacity and redundancy in the regional waters supply network. Communities impacted are Groton, Ledyard, Montville, Norwich, Preston, Waterford, and the Mohegan Reservation. This project, involving multiple municipalities and expanding infrastructure, is recognized by the CEDS and by the CIC as the primary regional project. It is currently underway with an estimated overall cost of \$10 million.

### **PRIORITY PROJECTS**

#### Intermodal Transportation System

To mitigate regional highway and secondary roadway congestion the project proposes implementation of the Tourist Transportation System which will provide easy, affordable and consistent transportation for visitors among the New London Transportation Center, tourist attractions in Mystic, and the casinos. Later phases will add intra-community service (hotels/attractions etc.), and a loop to include Norwich. The plan is in place and requires funding for an operator to provide services. Estimated cost of a Pilot Demonstration System is approximately \$12 million for a two-year period.

#### Blue Ribbon Housing Initiative

Implement solutions to regional housing shortage as identified in "Housing a Region in Transition," a report produced in April 2002 under auspices of SCCOG. Report identifies acute housing needs, and suggests solutions to increase the supply of affordable and workforce housing in the region. Funding would be used to provide staff assistance to the Blue Ribbon Housing Panel.

### **MEDIUM PRIORITY PROJECTS**

#### Establish New London County as a Regional WI-FI Zone.

CEDS Goal 5-A-6 suggests establishing wireless fidelity zones (WI-FI) in the downtowns of Norwich and New London. This project expands that goal to all of New London County, starting with the urban areas with subsequent expansion to suburbs and rural communities. Benefits to municipalities would be in enabling enhanced technology tools for public safety, homeland security, building inspection, health care, schools and citizen customer service (tax paying on line, voter registration etc.), among other things. Additional benefits are as an economic development tool to attract and retain businesses, and to provide less affluent citizens with affordable Internet access. Project would require a public/private applications partnership, with municipalities providing sites and procuring grants for some funding, with private sector communications firms building and managing the infrastructure.

#### Route 2/2A/32 Improvements

Implement highway improvements to the Rte 2/2A/32 corridor (including a second span to the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge) to mitigate local casino associated traffic congestion in Ledyard,

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Montville, North Stonington, and Preston. Particularly with the imminent development of the Norwich State Hospital Site, and the recently commenced expansion of Foxwoods Resort Casino, there is a critical need to improve these roadways from the standpoint of both accessibility and safety.

### Rte. 11 and Rte. 11 Greenway

Complete the extension of Rte. 11 between State Rte. 82 in Salem and I-95 in East Lyme or Waterford. Preserve open space along the corridor to create greenway opportunities and a parkway environment along the planned roadway in the towns of East Lyme, Montville, Salem and Waterford. Estimated cost for completing this project, including the connection to I-95 in Waterford/East Lyme is between \$450 million and \$500 million.

## **LOW PRIORITY PROJECTS**

### Intelligent Transportation System

Construct a series of Variable Message Signs (VMS), video cameras, and radio transmitters along I-95 and I-395 in the region in order to facilitate a more stable traffic flow, particularly on weekends, during bad weather, and during accident events. This system is anticipated to dramatically improve traffic conditions and safety on the region's main travel arteries, both for the increasing numbers of visitors to the area and to area residents who rely upon these highways for travel to and from places of employment. The initial phase of the system has been designed and construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2006.

### Regional Animal Shelter

The Connecticut Humane Society proposes to build and is conducting a feasibility study for a regional animal shelter of 25,000 square feet to house 130 dogs, 80 cats, and to include a pet hospital, and long-term dog and cat sanctuary. At the present time there is a shortage of space to handle strays and impounded animals in the region's town. The normal population of strays is exacerbated, particularly in urban areas, by large numbers of feral cats, which pose a threat to human health and safety. This regional project would alleviate the stresses placed on local shelters some of whose current facilities are inadequate for their needs. In addition, the sharing of management and affiliated costs provided by a regional shelter would be a cost effective solution for the region's municipalities whose budgets are strained by maintaining individual animal shelters.