



Representative Vickie Nardello and Jessie Stratton speaking at the CTLCV Annual Environmental Summit

COURTESY OF THOMAS M. ARMSTRONG

TAKE Action

LEARN MORE

Although it may seem daunting to an individual trying to make a difference in the state transportation system, your voice does count. CTLCV is pleased to act as a resource to provide you with more information and guide you through the process. Whether you want expanded bus routes, dedicated bike lanes, or a more walkable neighborhood, CTLCV will try to answer your questions or send you to the appropriate person or agency. We can be reached by phone at 860.236.5442 or email us at ctlcv@ctlcv.org.

Our website www.conservationeducation.org has lots more information on transportation and you can sign up for our free E-Newsletter, *CONNECTIONS: Linking Transportation and the Environment in Connecticut* on our website to keep up to date on current issues and legislation.

FACT

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can CHANGE THE WORLD; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does." - Margaret Mead



Community planning charrette for the new Fairfield train station

COURTESY OF REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION

Another good step is to learn about what your town is doing. Your chief elected official, whether he/she is a Mayor, First Selectman or Town Manager is there to answer your questions and is accountable to you as their constituent. You should feel free to call and make an appointment to talk about issues that concern you, to let them know where you stand on an issue.

Every municipality also has a town planner responsible for coordinating land use and transportation with town staff, elected officials and the public. Your town planner will have the most up to date information about the local issues. Additionally, he/she will be able to provide you with contact information for the Metropolitan Planning Organization that weighs in on transportation planning, prioritizing and funding for your municipality. The MPO is another great source of information for local or regional questions.

One question you may want to ask your town officials or planning department is the status of the town Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). By law, every town has a POCD and is required to update it every ten years. This plan serves as the guiding document of how your town wants to grow and what it wants to preserve. During the updating process there are frequent opportunities for you to weigh in on the vision you have for your town.



Senator John McKinney (upper right) and **Senator Donald E. Williams** (lower left) speaking at the **CTLCV Annual Environmental Summit**

COURTESY THOMAS M. ARMSTRONG



Once you have some information on the issues you should take your concerns and ideas to the state legislators. You do not need to be an expert for your state legislator to listen to you—you just need to let them know you care and where you stand on a particular issue. As a constituent, your state legislator wants to know what issues matter to you. Often hearing from just eight to ten constituents on

one issue may cause them to consider a particular position or vote. A simple email of a few lines in your own words can make an impact.

In Connecticut, we have fourteen Regional Planning Organizations (RPO). Each one has its own particular name and might be formed as a regional planning agency, a council of governments, or a council of elected officials. Regardless of its name, its Board of Governance consists of a representative from each of the member municipalities. RPOs carry out a variety of regional planning and other activities on behalf of their member municipalities. Ten of the states RPOs are also designated as Metropolitan Planning Organizations or MPOs. MPOs are mandated to prepare regional transportation plans and they must approve the expenditure of all federal highway and federal transit funds within their regions. Each RPO maintains a website that provides valuable information to citizens on planning issues for the region and posts public meeting agendas and minutes. Your RPO is a great resource to find out what is happening in your city or town.

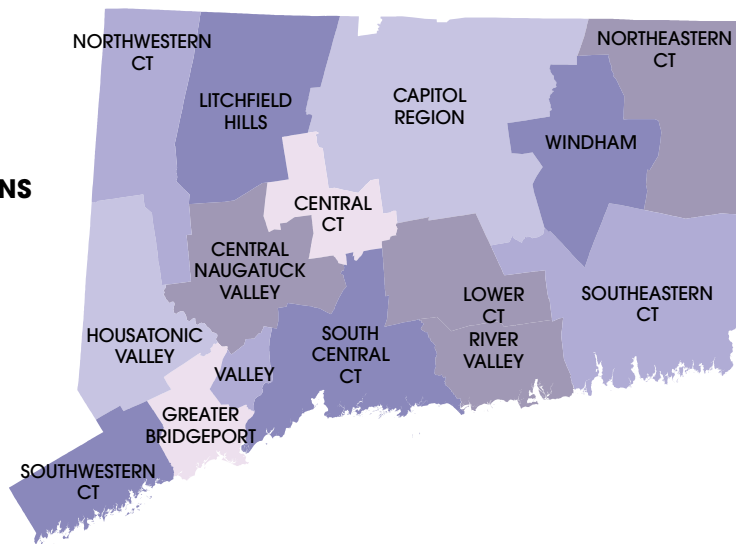
DID YOU KNOW?

The 1973 Federal-Aid Highway Act required that each State designate a Metropolitan Planning Organization or

MPO

to be responsible, together with the State, for carrying out the responsibilities of the transportation planning process for regions across the state.

PLANNING REGIONS IN CONNECTICUT



FACT

Go to www.cga.ct.gov to **FIND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE STATE LEGISLATORS** for your district.