



TO: SECOG Board of Directors
FROM: Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director
MEETING: June 11, 2025
SUBJECT: Monthly Executive Director's Report

1) Financial and Management Matters

A) Grants/funding:

- Solid Waste: Staff submitted an application to CT DEEP for \$65,700 in Sustainable Materials Management. With this funding, SECOG will conduct a regional food waste diversion network scenario planning analysis and a roadmap that responds to this guiding question: what potential pathways of waste management infrastructure and programmatic development would enable Southeastern Connecticut (SECT) to effectively divert a significant amount of food waste in the region?
- Gov. Lamont vetoed HB 5002, the housing omnibus bill which would have included \$400,000 for each COG to hire two staff to provide technical assistance on housing and either solid waste or stormwater. A special session is expected this fall to take up a revised bill. I am coordinating with CTCOG and CCAPA on the bill revisions.
- I have submitted a request to DECD to extend our current RPIP grant, which supports our code enforcement shared services, through FY 26 to enable all participating towns a full three years of support. RSG funding is also being used to supplement this program.
- SECOG (Helen Zincavage) submitted a request to DOD OLDCC for \$5.8 million in DCIP funding to support improvements to Groton Utilities water infrastructure serving SUBASE communities. This is part of our ongoing program to support SUBASE/community coordination. GU will be a sub-recipient with payment procedures set up to limit SECOG cash flow risk.

B) Staffing: Dan Robinson is leaving SECOG employment this month to become Assistant Planner in Branford. We are in the middle of the hiring process for a regional

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planner/communications specialist and an associate planner to support all SECOG programs.

C) Transportation

- **Funding Programs**

(1) LOTCIP: Debra Pierce is assisting active towns in navigating this program. Two separate engineer consultant firms have been contracted to support the program for FFY2026-2027.

(a) Applications in Development (solicitation year: estimate)

- (i) New London - Vauxhall Street (2024) – documents requested by CTDOT
- (ii) Stonington – Route 1 (2025) – under SECOG review of full application
- (iii) Waterford – Niantic River Rd (2025) – under SECOG review of full application

(b) In Design/Received Commitment to Fund (CTF year: CTF amount)

- (i) Bozrah - Fitchville Road (2022: \$1,582,800) – working on assessments with property owners
- (ii) New London – Williams/Broad Streets (2022: \$4,088,399) – working on assessments with property owners
- (iii) Preston - Poquetanuck Road Phase I (2023: \$2,850,578) – working on assessments with property owners and permitting with District 2
- (iv) East Lyme - East Pattagansett Road (2024: \$3,329,200) – working on assessments with property owners
- (v) Lisbon – River Rd/Route 12 (2024: \$3,670,400) – scheduling Public Information Meeting to present updated design
- (vi) Norwich/Montville - New London Turnpike (2024: \$2,910,400) – working on environmental review and addressing CTDOT request for Montville right-of-way
- (vii) Stonington - Taugwonk Road Bridge (2025: \$2,628,000) – scheduling Kick-off Meeting

(c) Under Construction (CTF year: CTF amount)

- (i) Ledyard - Gallup Hill Road/Col Ledyard Highway (2022: \$3,190,724) – completing punch list work

- (ii) Colchester - Lebanon Avenue Phase III (2023: \$1,068,196) – waiting for encroachment permit to install RRFB assemblies
- (d) Projects Completed/Pending Closeout (CTF year: final expenditures)
 - (i) New London - Ocean Avenue (2016: \$1,870,505) – waiting for municipal audit
 - (ii) Montville - Old Colchester Road (2016: \$499,769) – waiting for municipal audit
 - (iii) Colchester - Halls Hill Road (2018: \$784,240) – documents requested by CTDOT
 - (iv) Norwich - Dunham Street (2018: \$1,693,238) – waiting for CTDOT review
 - (v) Waterford - Cross Road (2018: \$1,871,502) – waiting for CTDOT review
 - (vi) City of Groton - Poquonnock Road (2019: \$2,308,154) – working on municipal audit
 - (vii) New London - Jefferson Avenue (2019: \$3,615,660) – working on municipal audit
- (2) Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP):
 - (a) In Design/Received Commitment to Fund: Preston – authorized to bid construction contract
- (3) Transportation Alternatives (TAP)
 - (a) Preston Poquetanuck Village Heritage Walk Phase 2 – authorized to bid design
 - (b) Windham - Air Line Trail and Bridge Resurfacing – negotiating design contract
 - (c) Groton Depot Rd to Thomas Rd – in design
 - (d) New London Williams St Phase 2 – in design
 - (e) Norwich New London Tpke – City purchasing easements, contract documents approved.
- (4) Active Transportation Microgrants (up to \$5,000 for bike/ped muni/education/non-profit/health districts): Transportation Planner Debra Pierce is taking over

responsibility for administering this program. The next application deadline is in September.

(5) Recreational Trails

(6) Community Connectivity

(7) 5310/MGP: SECOG advanced its recommendations to CTDOT.

(8) Federal Grants

(a) SECOG provided a letter of support to CTDOT for improvements to Windham Regional Transit District's bus facility.

- SECOG Plans/Studies

(1) Metropolitan Transportation Plan

(2) Transportation Improvement Plan

(3) Safety Action Plan: Project website at secogct.gov/region-comprehensive-safety-action-plan. **Staff from SECOG's consulting firm, BETA, will be reaching out to municipalities shortly for town-specific meetings.**

(4) Congestion Mitigation Process: SECOG working with consultant (VN) to update CMP, which will include outreach to municipalities.

(5) Regional Bike/Ped Plan: SECOG has planning funds to advance plan recommendations. Contact Kate Rattan with questions/suggestion.

(a) Groton-Stonington Bike/Ped Road Safety: Groton Study is being finalized. Stonington coordinated with SECOG regarding discretionary funding of design.

(6) Corridor Studies:

(a) Route 32: CTDOT project 0094-0270 is programmed and design is initiated.

(b) East Lyme Rte 161: CTDOT requested additional information. SECOG will task PL consultant to do supplementary analysis.

- Other Plans/Studies

(1) Amtrak Providence-New Haven Capacity: SECOG staff attended briefing with Amtrak 4/11; **expect opportunities to engage with Amtrak in coming months.**

(2) I-95 Eastern CT PEL: CTDOT is refreshing and reframing this planning effort, which seeks to make improvements to I-95 and its junctions.

(3) CTDOT Capital Plan 2025-2029

- Transit

(1) Bus Shelter/Signage Program: SEAT continues the effort to request shelters through the statewide shelter program.

(2) SECOG has been assisting SEAT and the City of New London regarding options for continuing New London Smart Ride, currently funded through ARPA. At this point, we anticipate SECOG using some transportation planning funds to assess options for transit in New London to direct next steps on sustaining Smart Ride.

- Electric Vehicles: Contact Emily Bigl to be added to the SECOG EV info group.

D) Municipal Services

- Technical Assistance

(1) Planning: provided to Franklin, Bozrah, Lisbon, Sprague. As noted, Phil Chester has been contracted to provide services to Franklin in addition to Sprague. With the departure of Dan Robinson, SECOG is limited in its ability provide additional planning support.

(2) Building Inspection: provided to Bozrah, Franklin, Montville, Preston (supported by RPIP grant). Setting up additional vacation/emergency coverage. Most towns are now on year three of the RPIP grant, paying 75% of service cost. SECOG staff may be available for emergency/vacation coverage.

(3) Zoning/blight enforcement: provided to Bozrah, Griswold, Preston, Sprague (first three supported by RPIP grant)

(4) SECOG in conversation with Windham regarding additional OPM RPIP funding to support additional shared services, tbd.

E) Regional Planning

- Open Space/Conservation (Melonakos-Harrison):

(1) SECOG submitted letter of support and commitment to partner for TVCCA's application for funding through CT DEEP's Community Resource Hub program,

which will connect local communities to DEEP programs and information. SECOG also coordinated with Preston staff regarding data collection needs.

- Solid Waste: Next meeting 7/29.
- Utilities: SECOG has been in touch with the CT Port Authority regarding Buckeye's planned closure of their fuel terminal in Groton and continues to coordinate on this matter.
- GIS: With the support of state ARPA funds, SECOG is working with member town GIS contacts and consultants to improve the quality and consistency of municipal parcel/CAMA data. David Cook is working with vendors on tasks.
- Human Services Coordinating Council: On hold pending staff assignments.
- Regional Emergency Management: REPT CEO meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 3rd at 8:30 AM. Still waiting on grant information from Homeland Security. Deb Pierce working with Mike Caplet to restart RESF-1, Transportation, with a focus on coordinating potential evacuation resources.
- Brownfields: See above re EPA Coalition Assessment Grant. Existing grant-funded assessments underway in Windham and Waterford.
- Regional Plan of Conservation and Development: will begin in 2025 for 2027 adoption. seCTer and SECOG are discussing ways to collaborate on parallel POCD/CEDS planning processes.
- Resilience
 - (1) Hazard Mitigation Planning: SECOG has developed a map of HMP recommendations to better identify opportunities for implementation funding.
 - (2) Yantic River Flooding: Flood prevention planning underway in partnership with CIRCA, whose consultants are evaluating three target areas for further development. See note above re cancellation of BRIC grant. Staff evaluating other funding opportunities.
 - (3) Watersheds: (on hold) Mr. Robinson developing white paper on watershed planning in SE CT.
 - (4) Stormwater: **Next stormwater collaborative meeting 9/25 (hybrid).**

(5) Extreme Heat: See above, both potential grant programs have been defunded.

- Utilities

(1) Drinking Water: WUCC convening pending direction from CT DPH.

(2) Wastewater: 2019 Plan to be reviewed for next steps.

- Defense Industry Coordination

(1) SECOG working with Groton Utilities and Eversource on resiliency planning and submitted request for implementation funds (see page 1).

(2) SECOG held kickoff for DOD Compatible Use Plan project; additional grant funds for Town of Groton housing work.

(3) SECOG (HZ/AK) attending meetings with EB staff and partner organizations seeking to structure a more collaborative relationship on workforce development and retention issues.

- Housing:

(1) Hard copies of SECHA/SECOG's Achievable Housing Lookbook are available for widespread distribution.

(2) HB 5002. See page 1.

- Economic Development

- Letters of Support: no additional.

- Legislative: Ms. Lindo will prepare a summary of other major legislation impacting municipalities. I am coordinating with Comptroller Scanlon's office to schedule a briefing on his work on property tax reform.