



TO: SECOG Board of Directors
FROM: Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director
MEETING: May 6, 2025
SUBJECT: Monthly Executive Director's Report

1) Financial and Management Matters

A) Grants/funding:

- Yantic flooding: after the cancellation of the FEMA BRIC grant program, we have reached out to Sen. Osten regarding potential State funding of phase 2 work to design/engineer flood prevention projects.
- Extreme Heat: Our application for \$334,000 in funds to support extreme heat reduction actions in New London will not be funded as we learned that the program, Environmental Justice New England Thriving Communities, will not be funded in 2025.
- Solid Waste: Staff are evaluating a potential application for CT Sustainable Materials Management funds to further our solid waste program.
- Brownfields: Waiting to hear re November 2024 application for EPA Coalition Assessment grant (brownfields).

B) FY 2025 audit: Audit is nearing completion.

2) Transportation

• Funding Programs

(1) LOTCIP: Debra Pierce is assisting active towns in navigating this program. Expect **another solicitation for new projects this fall and \$5 million per year in funding** ongoing.

(a) Projects Completed/Pending Closeout:

- (i) Colchester - Halls Hill Road – none
- (ii) City of Groton - Poquonnock Road – working on audit packet
- (iii) Montville - Old Colchester Road – none
- (iv) New London - Jefferson Avenue – none
- (v) New London - Ocean Avenue – none

If disability or language assistance is needed, please contact SECOG at 860-889-2324, office@secogct.gov.

Si necesita asistencia lingüística, por favor comuníquese a SECOG.

如果需要残障或语言帮助，请联系 SECOG.

- (vi) Norwich - Dunham Street – none
- (vii) Waterford - Cross Road – none
- (b) Under Construction
 - (i) Colchester - Lebanon Avenue – addressing public feedback with District 2
 - (ii) Ledyard - Gallup Hill Road/Col Ledyard Highway – addressing final work
- (c) In Design/Received Commitment to Fund
 - (i) Bozrah - Fitchville Road – working on assessments
 - (ii) East Lyme - East Pattagansett Road – working on submittal requirements
 - (iii) Lisbon - Route 12 – addressing design change
 - (iv) New London - Broad Street/Williams Street – working on assessments
 - (v) Norwich/Montville - New London Turnpike – working on assessments
 - (vi) Preston - Poquetanuck Road Phase I – working on assessments with District 2
 - (vii) Stonington - Taugwonk Road Bridge – planning design team
- (d) Applications in Development (solicitation year)
 - (i) New London - Vauxhall Street (2024) – SECOG endorsed April 2025
 - (ii) Preston - Poquetanuck Road Phase 2 (2024) – on hold pending design funds
- (2) Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP):
 - a. In Design/Received Commitment to Fund: Preston - final design submitted to CTDOT, permitting underway
- (3) Transportation Alternatives (TAP)
 - a. CTDOT announced 2/11 that funding is expected to be awarded to the two pending applications from SE CT (Preston Poquetanuck Village Heritage Walk Phase 2 and Windham Air Line Trail Bridge Resurfacing).
 - (b) Projects underway:
 - (i) Norwich- NL Tpke S: City purchasing easements, contract documents approved.
 - (ii) New London- Williams St: Completing survey and starting design of improvements.
 - (iii) Groton- G&S Trail to Thomas Rd: Consultant selected, scoping underway.

- (4) **Active Transportation Microgrants (up to \$5,000 for bike/ped muni/education/non-profit/health districts):** SECOG received five applications for microgrants in the last round. \$750,000 is available statewide for CY2025. Program changes include expanded eligibility for bike racks and health districts. Municipalities are encouraged to review appendix E of the 2019 Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan for potential bike rack locations. Additionally, CTDOT has offered event assistance for awardees (contact bridget.moriarty@ct.gov).
- (5) **Recreational Trails:** News from DEEP: DEEP has established a policy and process for signing trail crossings. New contact for CT Trail Finder is Laura Kelly.
- (6) **Community Connectivity: CTDOT is accepting applications through May 21st for funding for municipal construction projects between \$100,000 and \$800,000 that improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. SECOG issuing letters of support showing regional significance/coordination.**
- **SECOG Plans/Studies**
 - (1) Metropolitan Transportation Plan
 - (2) Transportation Improvement Plan: **secogct.gov's [TIP Map](#) has been revised to provide easier access to transportation project information.**
 - (3) Safety Action Plan: Project kick-off held in January. Vizion Zero (steering) committee has been formed. Website is being constructed. (SS4A discretionary planning funding)
 - (4) Congestion Mitigation Process: SECOG working with consultant (VN) to update CMP, which will include outreach to municipalities.
 - (5) Regional Bike/Ped Plan
 - (6) Corridor Studies:
 - (a) Route 32: **CTDOT has begun advancing implementation of the Rte 32 corridor study recommendations.**
 - (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 I95 and its junctions.

(3) CTDOT Capital Plan 2025-2029:

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

(5) Waterford Route 1

(6) New London Bank/Truman

(7) Norwich- Occum Business Park: SECOG (Rattan/Kennedy) met with NCDC.

- Transit

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

(2) SECOG coordinating with SEAT re upcoming Operations Analysis (Bus Study) and revising MOA describing roles and responsibilities for planning.

- 5310/MGP: **SECOG received multiple applications and staff have recommended prioritization for approval.**

- Federal Grants: SS4A 2023 funds awarded, see Safety Action Plan under Studies/Plans. Federal discretionary grants not yet obligated are being reviewed. New federal policies may affect obligated discretionary grants.

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

- Letters of Support: SECOG issued letters of support for Colchester and Groton applications for Community Connectivity funding.

- **Speed Feedback Signs: CTDOT approved funding for CT T2 center to provide speed feedback signs and training to municipalities at no charge. T2 center staff will be reaching out to each town to discuss participation.**

B) 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. SECOG GIS assisting Colchester with POCD preparation. SECOG staff are training to be able to provide interim/ongoing 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. BO Trainee has transitioned to Montville employment. 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.

C) 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 4/22. **Bus tour planned for 5/8. SECOG submitted testimony in favor of solid waste bills. Press event celebrating receipt of CT MMI grant for Windham composting infrastructure was held in Windham on Thursday, April 23.**
- GIS: SECOG will receive \$200,000+ in 2025-2026 to support improvements to municipal parcel/CAMA data. **OPM approved SECOG's workplan submitted 3/31. David Cook will begin working with vendors on tasks.**
- Human Services Coordinating Council: On hold pending staff assignments.
- Regional Emergency Management: Deb Pierce met with Mike Caplet to plan a restart of RESF-1, Transportation, with a focus on coordinating potential evacuation resources.

- Brownfields: SECOG submitted application for EPA Coalition Assessment Grant in partnership with Eastern CT Land Bank, UConn TAB, and CT RC&D to support assessment and remediation. Initial sites in Windham, Sprague, Preston, and Griswold. 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 is developing 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: Mr. Robinson developing white paper on watershed planning in SE CT.
 - (4) Stormwater: **Next stormwater collaborative meeting 6/26 (virtual).**
 - (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, with intent to apply for DCIP implementation funds later this year.
 - (2) SECOG will begin new Compatible Use Plan project shortly; additional grant funds for Town of Groton housing work.
- Housing:
 - (1) Hard copies of SECHA/SECOG's Achievable Housing Lookbook are available for widespread distribution.

(2) State Fair Share study- I continue to coordinate with other COGs on the products of this work.

- Economic Development
 - (1) No update. Was: Legislatively appointed Mystic Tourism Working Group has met over the fall and will issue a report for the end of the year with recommendations for transportation, infrastructure and development.
- Letters of Support: none.
- Legislative: no update.