

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360

(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: office@seccog.org

Minutes of the 9/21/22 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Held at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

PRESENT:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	Montville	Ron McDaniel
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Kevin Seery	Norwich	-
Franklin	Charles Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	-	Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	Tim Sharkey	Salem	-
City of Groton	-	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	John Burt	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	Kevin Cwikla	Stonington Borough	-
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III (Chairman)	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	-	Windham	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: LCDR Samuel Andriessen New London SUBASE: CAPT Curtin, Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, James Butler, Kate Rattan, Jessica Cobb, Kyle Casiglio.
SEAT: Mike Carroll. seCTER: Paul Whitescarver. CT DOT: Jennifer Pacacha. Eversource:
Teresa Jackman. Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. TVCCA: Deb Monahan. SE CT Cultural
Coalition: Wendy Bury. Office of Rep. Courtney: Ayanti Grant. CIRCA/Resilient Land and
Water, LLC: Dave Murphy. CIRCA: Mary Buchanan.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of 7/20/22 and 9/6/22:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 7/20/22 and 9/6/22 (Cwikla, Grant). So voted unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report (Cwikla, Grant). The Chairman noted that outstanding requisitions for REPT have continued. The Executive Director reported that DEMHS is making improvements to their payment process to speed up payments.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications: Communications included correspondence from CT DOT regarding ADA compliance assessment and an email from Eversource requesting SCCOG's comment on the Revolution Wind DEIS.
6. Public Comment: Ms. Monahan reported on available utility assistance, noting that the program has less funding than last year. Ms. Jackman spoke about Eversource's utility assistance programs as well as recent emergency planning drills conducted with the towns. Mr. Pianka complimented SCCOG on the driveway and landscaping improvements.
7. Guest Speaker: Dave Murphy, CIRCA/Resilient Land and Water reported on progress towards two projects being conducted in parallel: the Resilient CT resilience project pipeline development and SCCOG's Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. SCCOG will be the first combined climate adaptation plan/hazard mitigation plan, excluding Massachusetts' state plan. Mr. Murphy asked municipalities to be ready to review the draft plan in late October, especially municipal annexes, and noted that the State was about to announce the new Climate Resilience Fund program. Ms. Kennedy asked if the fact that our HMP includes adaptation would lengthen FEMA's review. Mr. Murphy answered that there was time in the schedule.
8. Committee and Liaison Reports
 - A) Executive Committee
 - i) Colchester LOTCIP Grant Application: Ms. Kennedy noted that the Executive Committee voted to recommend endorsement of Colchester's application.
 - ii) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments: Ms. Kennedy noted that the Executive Committee voted to recommend approval.
 - iii) Norwich- New London UZA Congestion Performance Targets: Ms. Kennedy noted that the Executive Committee voted to recommend approval.
 - iv) IJJA Safe Streets for All Grant: Ms. Kennedy reported that SCCOG submitted its application by deadline for \$29 million in federal funding for 18 projects in 13 municipalities, and noted SCCOG planner Nicole Haggerty's excellent work in preparing the application.
 - B) Legislative Committee- Mr. Grant stated that he would be requesting volunteers for this year's legislative committee at the next meeting and that members should begin thinking of agenda items.

- C) Tribal Liaison Representatives – Mr. Hayward passed around invitations to their December 6th Holiday Party, and stated that more members of the business community would be attending than in previous years.
- D) Military Command Representatives: CAPT Curtin reported two past events: USS Groton Sail Monument unveiling, and the return of the USS Nautilus to the SUBASE Museum. CAPT Curtin stated that the SUBASE is addressing capital items: building a new pier and demolishing existing piers prone to flooding, and updating the microgrid next year. The SUBASE just signed an IGSA with CT DOT for maintaining drainage ditches along Rte 12. LCDR Andriessen reported on a number of upcoming events, including the upcoming USX Symposium, 10/28 Admissions Day, and Parents Weekend 10/7-10/9.
- E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Grant reported that the applications for the loan forgiveness program are due by the end of October. Ms. McBride introduced herself as the new Outreach Assistance for Senator Murphy.
- F) seCTer: Capt. Whitescarver reported that seCTer and its partners did not receive BBBRC funding but will continue to pursue components of the project that are viable, particularly aspects of SCCOG's proposed work and Norwich's Business Park North. Capt. Whitescarver reported that their RISE program (seed money) will kick off in October. The Annual Meeting is November 10th.
- G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.
- H) SEAT: SEAT General Manager Mike Carroll reported ridership is the highest it's been since 2015, given the fare-free status, which runs through November. The State has issued its process for requesting reimbursement of fares. Overtime costs have been high due to staffing shortages.
- I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
- J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: No report.
- K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Monahan reported that the RHSCC will meet in October.
- L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Bury reported that summer activity was strong and that conditions are approaching near normal. SCCC is working to prepare municipal profiles and requests a municipal contact to answer any questions that come up. They are assisting with setting up cultural districts (two established in region), and are assisting with the next Arts and Economic Prosperity National Study.

10. Executive Director's Report (note: there was no agenda item #9)

Ms. Kennedy introduced two new employees, Kyle Casiglio, planner, who will be working on environmental and transportation projects; and Jessica Cobb, GIS Coordinator.

Ms. Kennedy reported that improvements have been made to the building with a value of \$46,610: repaving the driveway and parking lot and adding gutters to the rear of the building.

Moisture issues in the rear of the building will be monitored. Senior Advisor Butler was responsible for seeking out contractor bids for these improvements.

SCCOG is in contact with OPM and UConn CLEAR regarding plans to conduct municipal commissioner training in 2023, and expects to be involved in some way in ensuring access.

Ms. Kennedy reported that SCCOG's contracted Building Official, Tom Weber, had a serious medical event for which he continues to be hospitalized, and will be unable for work indefinitely. Mr. Weber worked in four SCCOG towns, and SCCOG and the four towns are working to arrange coverage.

Ms. Kennedy stated that SCCOG submitted an application for RPIP funds in August which would underwrite costs to contract for additional code enforcement services (zoning enforcement, building inspection, blight) and that OPM will not review the application until October.

Lastly, SCCOG staff attended an affordable housing program on Tuesday, September 20th, for which SCCOG prepared a briefing paper on affordable housing funding resources. The event was co-sponsored by the Eastern CT Association of Realtors and Southeastern CT Housing Alliance.

11. Old Business:

A) COVID-19 Response Discussion. No discussion.

12. New Business:

A) LOTCIP Project #L028-002, Colchester, Lebanon Avenue Streetscape Improvements Phase 3- Request Endorsement. Kate Rattan described the subject project, which would extend and improve sidewalks from the village green to the Airline Trail Spur and housing in the vicinity. The project cost is \$679,400. The full application has been developed and, upon SCCOG endorsement, will be submitted to CT DOT for their Commitment to Fund. The Executive Committee recommended endorsement

Motion: To endorse Colchester's submission for LOTCIP funding (Burt, Grant). So voted unanimously.

B) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the three groups of TIP Amendments being proposed. The first is rehabilitation work on the Route 2A Bridge, programming this project to make use of available federal funds. The second is funding for various Asset Management activities statewide. The third is for activities related to Computerized Traffic Signal Systems improvements.

Route 2A Bridge

1. NHPP-BRX, 0085-0147, CT 2A, Montville/Preston, Rehab Br 02326 o/Thames River, NEC RR and P&W RR, PD, 2022, \$655,000, Add new project.
2. NHPP-BRX, 0085-0147, CT 2A, Montville/Preston, Rehab Br 02326 o/Thames River, NEC RR and

P&W RR, FD, 2024, \$454,000, Add new project.

3. BRFP, 0085-0147, CT 2A, Montville/Preston, Rehab Br 02326 o/Thames River, NEC RR and P&W RR, CN, FYI, \$7,600,000, Add new project.

Asset Management

1. STPA, 0170-3633, Statewide, Asset Management Group, PL, 2023, \$3,140,000, New Project.
2. STPA-BRX, 0170-3635, Statewide, Bridge Management Group, PL, 2023, \$2,400,000, New Project.
3. STPA, 0170-3636, Statewide, Pavement Management Group, PL, 2023, \$2,400,000

Computerized Traffic Signal Systems

1. STPA, 0170-3639, Statewide, Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project-AC ENTRY, OTH, 2023, \$0, Add new project.
2. STPA, 0170-3639, Statewide, Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project-AC CONVERSION, OTH, 2023, \$3,920,000, Add new project.
3. STPA, 0170-3639, Statewide, Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project-AC CONVERSION, OTH, 2024, \$4,360,000, Add new project.
4. STPA, 0170-3639, Statewide, Computerized Traffic Signal Systems Operational Improvement Project-AC CONVERSION, OTH, FYI, \$11,430,000, Add new project.

MOTION: To approve the proposed TIP Amendments. So voted unanimously.

C) UZA Congestion Performance Targets. Ms. Rattan reviewed CT DOT's request that SCCOG adopt the performance targets developed by CT DOT for the Norwich- New London Urban Area (UZA), in satisfaction of federal requirements that the UZA have such targets. The targets are for Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) and non-Single-Occupancy-Vehicle (SOV) travel.

D) MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 23-3 for Endorsement of Traffic Congestion Performance Measure Targets for the Norwich-New London Urbanized Areas (Allyn-Gauthier, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

13. Next Meeting:

The Chairman stated that the next meeting would be October 19, 2022.

14. Adjournment:

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting without exception at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Cheryl Blanchard, Secretary