



Minutes of the February 3, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting

Present: Via Teams: Bob Carlson (Chairman), Cheryl Blanchard, John Salomone. In-person: Lenny Bunnell.

SECOG staff In-person: Amanda Kennedy. Via Teams: Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage.

1) Call to Order:

- a) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carlson at 9 AM.

2) Roll Call:

- a) Ms. Kennedy determined that a quorum was present.

3) Program Updates:

- a) Staffing: There are currently three open positions: Housing Planner, Resilience Planner, and Stormwater Planner. Progress is being made on hiring, and updates are expected soon.
- b) After Hours Building Official Coverage: The Council is pursuing a part-time applicant for emergency and vacation coverage. The application process has been slow due to personal reasons, but completion is expected shortly.
- c) HB8002: Staff is waiting for further guidance from OPM in early March before beginning outreach to local commissions. A proposal was discussed to form a Housing Bill Policy Committee consisting of elected officials and town planners to guide the development of regional housing needs analysis and local Affordable Housing target recommendations. The committee will aim for a balance between rural, suburban, and urban municipalities.
- d) Regional Plan Schedule: SECOG's next RPOCD is scheduled for adoption by October 2027 (10 years since last plan adoption), but Staff recommended postponing this update until after the completion of the housing growth plan

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work. Ms. Kennedy verified that there would be no penalty in delaying the adoption. The committee agreed with the postponement.

- e) Coast Guard Academy Visit: The Academy offered to host a monthly board meeting followed potentially by a tour and lunch. The Committee expressed strong interest, preferring to schedule this in the spring or early Summer.

4) Council Meeting Structure:

- a) The Committee discussed a [draft proposal](#) to restructure board meetings to enable more time for discussion of SECOG projects and peer sharing. Ms. Kennedy reviewed other COG agendas and submitted a draft proposal for discussion. Key elements of the proposal included::
- Moving liaison updates to a quarterly basis to provide more time for speakers and member roundtables.
 - Shortening the Executive Director's written report.
 - Exploring the possibility of moving SEAT (Southeast Area Transit) board meetings to a separate time or a remote format to avoid rushing the Council meetings.

Chairman Carlson will introduce the concept at the next board meeting for feedback, and Amanda Kennedy will consult with the SEAT board chair, Tom Sparkman.

5) LOTICIP Application:

- a) LOTICIP Application: [Colchester Community and Schools Sidewalk Enhancements](#)
MOTION: to recommend that SECOG MPO Board endorse Colchester Community and Schools Sidewalk Enhancements LOTICIP application. (Bunnell, Blanchard)
Motion passed unanimously.

6) TIP Amendments:

- a) [0172-0560](#) Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations

- b) 0499-202RL Sec 5310 Prgrm-Enhanced Mobility of Seniors/Individuals
w/Disabilities-Rural FY24

MOTION: Motion to recommend that SECOG MPO Board endorse TIP amendments.
(Salomone, Blanchard) *Motion passed unanimously.*

7) New Business: None

8) Potential Speakers: CT DOT Commissioner Eucalitto has requested to attend the March meeting for a discussion and Q&A. Alison Dvorak from Senior Resources is also on the list for potential future speaker.

9) Adjournment:

- a) MOTION: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 am (Salomone, Bunnell)
Motion passed unanimously.