



Minutes of the May 5, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting

Present: Bob Carlson (Chairman), Tom DeVivo, Dan Cunningham, Cheryl Blanchard, John Salomone

SECOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage, Taylor Lussier

1) Call to Order:

- a) The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carlson at 9:00 AM.

2) Roll Call:

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

3) Program Updates:

- a) Emergency Management: Amanda Kennedy reported on the search for a new emergency management coordinator to replace Mark Paquette. Second interviews are scheduled for two candidates, with involvement from the new Region Four coordinator, Josh Cingranelli.
- b) Regional Planning: Helen Zincavage introduced new staff and updated the committee on housing meetings and the second allocation policy committee meeting. A new requirement to map culverts by 2028 was noted, which can be supported by The Nature Conservancy's ongoing coastal crossing (aka bridge and culvert) surveys work that will take place this summer throughout the SECOG region. Staff are also working on grant applications for the BRIC program and resilience projects. Amanda Kennedy noted the addition of three interns.
- c) Transportation Planning:
Kate Rattan reported that final interviews are underway to fill the vacant transportation planner position. One TRIP grant application has been submitted. The long-range transportation plan is slated for adoption next spring. Public

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outreach efforts continue in New London with a walk audit demonstration and coordination with the Office of State Traffic Administration regarding automated traffic enforcement education.

4) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) (Memo)

Ms. Rattan reviewed the 5310 program processes and request prioritization matrix.

MOTION: To recommend that the SECOG MPO endorse the 2026 Section 5310 application prioritization as indicated in the staff memo (DeVivo, Blanchard). So voted unanimously.

5) TIP Amendments:

- Resolution 26-5 Conformity with the Clean Air Act (Ozone)
- Resolution 26-6 SECOG MPO Planning Self-Certificate
- Resolution 26-7 Adopting the FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Rattan explained the three resolutions required as part of TIP adoption,

MOTION: to recommend that the SECOG MPO adopt the 2027-2030 SECOG Transportation Improvement Program and endorse the three included resolutions (Cunningham, Blanchard). So voted unanimously.

6) 2026 Legislative Session- Guidance on Summary to Municipalities

Amanda Kennedy requested guidance on what municipalities find helpful in summarizing annual legislation. The committee said last year's format was helpful. Ms. Kennedy plans to have the summary completed by the end of July with help from new staff and interns.

7) New Business:

Staffing and Retention: John Salomone raised concerns regarding increased turnover among newer, entry-level hires in Norwich and elsewhere and asked if others were experiencing this issue. Ms. Kennedy acknowledged challenges at SECOG which are impacted by the office's location and its WFH policy, which is less

generous than at the State and other COGs. The committee agreed to discuss potential solutions and adjusting remote work schedules at a future meeting.

8) Potential Speakers:

The committee discussed upcoming speakers, including the Coast Guard Academy and Eversource. John Salomone and Bob Carlson proposed holding quarterly open forums to address member concerns when guest speakers are not scheduled.

9) Adjournment:

a) The meeting adjourned at 9:32 am.