



**SOUTHEASTERN
CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

5 Connecticut Avenue

Norwich, CT 06360

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July 1st, 2025 SECOG Executive Committee

Minutes

PRESENT: Via Zoom: Bob Carlson, John Salomone, Rob Brule, Dan Cunningham. In person: Cheryl Blanchard.

Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Dan Robinson.

- 1) Call to Order: Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- 2) Roll Call: A quorum was present.
- 3) Program Updates:
 - a) Buckeye Terminal Working Group
 - i) Mr. Brule and Mr. Cunningham provided an update on a meeting the working group held recently, noting the important contributions Mayor Keith Hedrick, City of Groton, and Mike O'Connor, CT Port Authority, made to the conversation. Mr. Brule and Mr. Cunningham spoke positively about where the group is heading.
 - b) DOD Compatible Use Plan
 - i) Ms. Kennedy shared that SECOG recently held its project kickoff for the Compatible Use Plan, with members of the steering and technical advisory committees. She and Ms. Helen Zincavage also recently attended a meeting, facilitated by DECD, on enhancing the relationship between EB, the SUBASE, and regional stakeholders. Courtney Murphy and Ross Gionfriddo attended the meeting along with other EB staff.
 - c) Shared Services Accounting Audit
 - i) Ms. Kennedy shared that she is making progress to comply with the audit findings and directives.

4) RSG Resolution

- a) MOTION: To recommend that the SECOG Board approve Resolution 26-1 to allow Executive Director to execute agreement with the State of Connecticut for a Regional Services Grant (Brule, Carlson). Motion passed unanimously.

5) Resolution: SECOG MPO Planning Certification

- a) MOTION: To recommend that the SECOG MPO Board approve Resolution 26-2 to self-certify that SECOG's transportation planning process meets applicable requirements (Brule, Cunningham). Motion passed unanimously.

6) Nomination to Southeastern CT Water Authority

- a) MOTION: To recommend that the SECOG Board recommend Harry Watson of the Town of Groton to sit on the Southeastern CT Water Authority Board for a 5-year term (Cunningham, Salomone). Motion passed unanimously.

7) Format of Future SECOG Board Meetings

- a) The Executive Committee discussed a member's recent request to enable remote attendance at board meetings. Meetings have been strictly in-person since the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but the Committee noted that state statute requires that public agencies allow remote access to meetings by any board member who requests it. Mr. Brule asked that meeting logistics be consistent between SECOG and SEAT. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of hybrid meetings. Pros: broader public access. Cons: much reduced in-person board attendance with resulting loss of information sharing and peer support. Ultimately, the Executive Committee agreed to continue fully in-person meetings to preserve the existing dynamic. However, they also decided to ensure a remote/hybrid meeting set-up in the event of severe weather (i.e. large storms and snow/ice events). This set-up will make use of the newly purchased "Owl" cameras/microphones to ensure a high-quality hybrid meeting environment.

8) 2025-2028 TIP Amendments

<i>0172-0556</i>	<u>REGION-WIDE</u> – Bridge improvements
<i>0058-0307</i>	<u>GROTON, NORTH STONINGTON, STONINGTON</u> -- Safety Improvements/Pavement Rehab, Exit 89 to RI State Line
<i>0163-0207</i>	<u>WINDHAM</u> – Air Line Trail Improvements

a) Ms. Rattan summarized the relevant TIP amendments.

i) MOTION: TO recommend that SECOG MPO Board adopt the relevant TIP Amendments (Brule, Carlson). Motion passed unanimously.

9) New Business – There was no new business to report on.

10) Potential Speakers

Ms. Kennedy shared that Captain Ken Curtin will be the guest speaker at the July SECOG Board Meeting held at SUBASE New London. She also highlighted that CT Comptroller Sean Scanlon is interested in speaking at a Board meeting to share a new report on property taxes and relief to municipalities. Ms. Kennedy suggested that SECOG could hold its regular August meeting (which is usually cancelled) to speak with Mr. Scanlon, to which the Executive Committee agreed.

11) Next meeting: SECOG Board meeting is July 16th at 8:30 AM at SUBASE New London. The next SECOG Executive Committee meeting is August 4th at 9:00 AM and will be a hybrid meeting at the SECOG Office and on Zoom.

12) Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Brule, Carlson). Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Blanchard adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Thomas DeVivo, Secretary