



**SOUTHEASTERN
CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**

**5 Connecticut Avenue
Norwich, CT 06360
(860)889-2324
secogct.gov**

**Representing 22 towns, cities, and
boroughs in Southeastern
Connecticut.**

Minutes of the March 18, 2026, Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Present:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	New London	-
Colchester	-	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
East Lyme	-	Norwich	John Salomone
Franklin	-	Preston	Sandra Allyn Gauthier
Griswold	-	Salem	Sue Spang
Jewett City	-	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
City of Groton	Jill Rusk	Town of Stonington	Bill Middleton
Town of Groton	John Burt	Stonington Borough	Michael Scheffers
Lebanon	-	Waterford	Rob Brule
Ledyard	Fred Allyn	Windham	Tom DeVivo
Lisbon	-	SEAT Rep (MPO)	-
Montville	Lenny Bunnell	CT DOT Rep (MPO)	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: - New London SUBASE: Steve Sadowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Chuck Bunnell Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: -		

Additional Attendees: SECOG: Amanda Kennedy, Taylor Lussier, Wendy Leclair, Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage, Dominic Anziano
Office of Sen. Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver, Office of Sen. Blumenthal: Ellen Graham, seCTer: Paul Whitescarver, BL Companies: Dominic Celtruda, Health District: Jennifer Muggeo, DOT: Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, Mike Salter, Carlo Leone, Ricky Milliner.

1) Call to Order:

- a) The meeting was called to order by Bob Carlson at 8:37 am.

2) Roll Call:

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

*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.

3) Act on Minutes of the February 18th meeting *Action Item*

- a) MOTION: To approve the February meeting minutes (Brule, DeVivo). *Motion passed unanimously.*

4) Treasurer's Report *Action Item*

Tom reported that he reviewed the accounts and found them to be in good order.

- a) MOTION: To approve the March 2026 Treasurer's Report (Brule, Middleton).
Motion passed unanimously.

5) Communications:

- a) Ms. Kennedy noted that Eversource notified her that they will not be in attendance for this meeting.

6) Public Comment: None

7) Speaker: Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, CT DOT

Commissioner Eucalitto addressed the council regarding state transportation initiatives:

- a) Funding: 2026 is a busy year, and 2027 is expected to be more significant as more projects hit the streets. The federal infrastructure bill expires on September 30th, making it a "bread and butter" issue for the state's transportation program. Highway construction inflation has risen approximately 60% over the last four years.
- b) Safety Initiatives: A permanent work zone speed camera program will begin April 1st. The state is also studying a PILOT program for corridor-based speed enforcement on highways.
- c) Mohegan-Pequot Bridge: DOT is designing a rehabilitation project for the bridge. A study is also underway to determine the "purpose and need" for a potential new bridge, taking into account regional economic development and traffic forecasts. This study is expected to be completed by late June or early July 2026.
- d) Infrastructure Support: Commissioner Eucalitto commended his team's performance during the recent major blizzard. He also highlighted the use of

LiDAR and radar-equipped vans to monitor and rank pavement conditions across the state.

8) Committee and Liaison Reports

a) Executive Committee

i) [Minutes 3/3/26](#)

ii) LOTCIP Application: [LOTCIP Application: Waterford- Niantic River Road Sidewalks \(reendorsement\)](#)

MOTION: Endorse the application for Waterford-Niantic River Road Sidewalks for LOTCIP funding. (Burt, Brule) *Motion passed unanimously.*

b) Legislative Committee: Updates were provided on several bills, including the Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund, ECS funding, and House Bill 5507 regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The committee also noted Senate Bill 447, which proposes a \$50,000 homestead tax exemption local option.

c) Tribal Liaison Representatives: Chuck Bunnell (Mohegan) noted the 30th anniversary of Mohegan Sun and expressed appreciation for the continued regional relationship.

d) Military Command Representatives: Naval Submarine Base: Steve Sadowski (SUBASE) thanked the CT DOT for a partnership that has saved the SUBASE millions on drainage and pipe repair projects.

e) Congressional Office Reports: Noah Carver (Rep. Courtney's Office), Ellen Graham (Sen. Blumenthal's Office) Erin McBride (Sen. Murphy's Office): discussed IRS refund delays due to new paper check policies and encouraged municipalities to apply for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), with a deadline of April 6th.

f) seCTer: \$90,000 in grants was provided to regional small businesses. The agency is also working with Electric Boat on a partnership to support the hiring of 8,000 new employees.

g) Eastern CT Tourism District

- h) SEAT
 - i) Regional Water Committee
 - j) Regional Emergency Planning Team: The council discussed the "Blizzard of '26," which was described as the largest since 1978. Despite the severity, the region fell short of the \$5.5 million threshold required for federal reimbursement. The council reached a consensus to support a regional request to the state for reimbursement consideration given the extraordinary local costs. It was also announced that Mark Piquette will retire as a consultant on June 30th, and Josh Cingranelli has been named the new regional coordinator.
 - k) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council
 - l) Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition
 - m) Health Districts: Jen Muggeo (Ledge Light Health District) highlighted significant concerns regarding recent legislation and funding:
 - i) Private Well Data: There is an ongoing issue with legislation passed several years ago that made private well data confidential. This change has caused "a lot of problems at the local level," and the districts are seeking to have the law updated.
 - ii) Lead Abatement Funding: Muggeo noted a "nightmare" situation regarding funding for lead abatement. There are complications with how these funds are being used or accessed, and the districts are attempting to engage with the state to resolve these issues.
- 9) Executive Director's Report:
- a) Ms. Kennedy announced several new hires, including a regional Stormwater Management/Watershed Coordinator (Michelle Maitland), a Resiliency and Sustainability Coordinator, and a Housing Planner.
 - b) Helen Zincavage detailed SECOG's strategy for addressing the regional affordable housing allocation required by recent legislation:
 - i) Allocation Formula Meeting: A virtual meeting is scheduled for April 8th at

- 9:00 AM to discuss the formal housing allocation formula. This group will determine how to break down the regional affordable housing unit target for each individual municipality.
- ii) Planning Commission Chairs (PZC) Engagement: SECOG has begun holding introductory meetings with local Planning Commissions. The goal is to build relationships, provide an overview of the housing bill, and explain the regional approach.
 - iii) Subregional Introductions: The first "inter-municipal introductions" were successful, with a grouping that includes Colchester, Bozrah, and Franklin. Future meetings are being coordinated for Stonington, Ledyard, and the Borough.
 - iv) Future Outreach: The process will eventually mirror the Hazard Mitigation plan, with the regional team branching out to hold individual town workshops and public sessions to drill down into town-specific housing goals over the next two years.
- c) Kate Rattan provided a comprehensive update on several transportation initiatives and deadlines:
- i) Safety Action Plan: A regional safety action plan will be brought to the board for adoption next month. This plan is critical for the upcoming "Safe Streets for All" grant notifications.
 - ii) Public Comment Periods: Both the Participation Improvement Program and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) are currently live for public review. A hybrid public hearing (Zoom and in-person) for the STIP is scheduled for March 26th at 6:30 PM at the SECOG office.
 - iii) Grant Opportunities and Deadlines:
Active Transportation Microgrant: Applications for this no-match \$5,000 grant for municipalities and school districts are due on March 20th.
Section 5310 Program: Applications for senior vans are due by March 31st.

LOTICIP: Applications for the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program are due April 24th. Staff member Tyler Frost is available to help towns refine their concepts to be more competitive.

10)Old Business

11)New Business:

a) TIP Amendments

i) 0094-0267 GOLD STAR BRIDGE PED IMPRV (BR 02514A) O/ THAMES RIVER

ii) 0103-0274 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS FROM MAPLE STREET TO FAIRMOUNT STREET

iii) 0103-0275 SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN NEW LONDON TPKE AND DUNHAM ST

iv) 0133-0100 REPLACE DETERIORATED 30" CORRUGATED METAL PIPE

MOTION: to endorse the 4 TIP amendments. (Allyn, Scheffers) *Motion passed unanimously.*

b) SECOG Meeting Structure: Chairman Carlson decided to postpone potential changes to the SECOG meeting structure until June to allow for further engagement on critical municipal issues.

12) Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 8:30 am at SECOG.

13) Adjournment: MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 am. (Brule, Allyn) *Motion passed unanimously.*