

# SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360  
(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org)

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February 6, 2024 Executive Committee  
Minutes

PRESENT via Zoom:

Rob Brule (Chairman), Tom DeVivo, Danielle Chesebrough, John Salomone, Cheryl Blanchard.

Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan.

Chairman Brule opened the meeting at 8:31 AM.

## 1. Capital Improvements

No report.

## 2. Resolution Regarding Continued Transportation Management Area Status.

Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Rattan summarized the need for this resolution, which requests that the Norwich-New London area be designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA), granting SCCOG additional influence over transportation spending allocations and also requiring more detailed transportation planning. The region was designated a TMA in the last ten years but lost its designation with the 2020 census redefinition of urban areas, which shrunk the Norwich-New London Urban Area and separated Westerly-Stonington, bringing the region's urban population below the 200,000 threshold for designation. A request must be made to USDOT by Governor Lamont, and USDOT requires a resolution showing that SCCOG approves the request. CTDOT, the Governor's Office, and the RI Office of Planning are in favor of the re-designation. Mr. Brule asked if there are any funding ramifications and Ms. Rattan answered no, but that SCCOG would have a larger role in influencing funding decisions.

MOTION: To recommend approval of the resolution (Salomone, Blanchard). So voted unanimously.

## 3. TIP Approvals

Ms. Rattan reviewed the proposed amendments and the results of her coordination with

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### Member Municipalities:

Bozrah \* Colchester \* East Lyme \* Franklin \* Griswold \* Borough of Jewett City \* City of Groton \* Town of Groton \* Lebanon \* Ledyard \* Lisbon \* Montville \* New London \* North Stonington \* Norwich \* Preston \* Salem \* Sprague \* Stonington \* Stonington Borough \* Waterford \* Windham

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CTDOT staff and local representatives. TIP project amendments address projects in Colchester (Route 2), I95 East Lyme to New London, Montville/Preston (Rehab of Rte 2a Bridge), North Stonington (culvert replacement Route 201), Groton I-95 at Exit 89, and highway illumination replacements.

Motion: To recommend approval of the TIP amendments (Blanchard, Salomone).

#### 4. Yantic River Scoping Activities

Ms. Kennedy provided a report of SCCOG's activities since the January 10<sup>th</sup> Yantic River Flooding, which included working with DEMHS to submit a grant application for funding to support a Yantic River Scoping Study. The study would evaluate the impacts of specific mitigation strategies to reduce flooding. SCCOG also worked with CIRCA to request their involvement in initial data collection and assessment of potential actions. If the grant request is successful, CIRCA's project would last approximately one year and the BRIC-funded work would commence at that point. The BRIC grant would cover 75% of the \$350,000 project cost, with in-kind staff and partner time and \$7,500 from the City of Norwich making up the 25% match. Mr. Salomone and Ms. Kennedy discussed how SCCOG's work is related to a meeting Mayor Nystrom planned for the next day.

#### 5. Speaker Requests/Scheduling

Ms. Kennedy reviewed speaker requests which include Congressman Courtney (for February), Eversource (March), Safe Futures, America 250, a speaker regarding homelessness, and most recently, Theresa Jackman from Eversource regarding an interconnection project.

#### 6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director