

In September, Amanda Kennedy joined the SCCOG staff as the new Director of Special Projects. In November, 20-year employee Jamie Rabbitt, left the SCCOG staff to take a position as Director of Planning in Simsbury, CT.



Director of Special Projects, Amanda Kennedy

**Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments**

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Norwich, CT 06360

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**SCCOG Staff:**

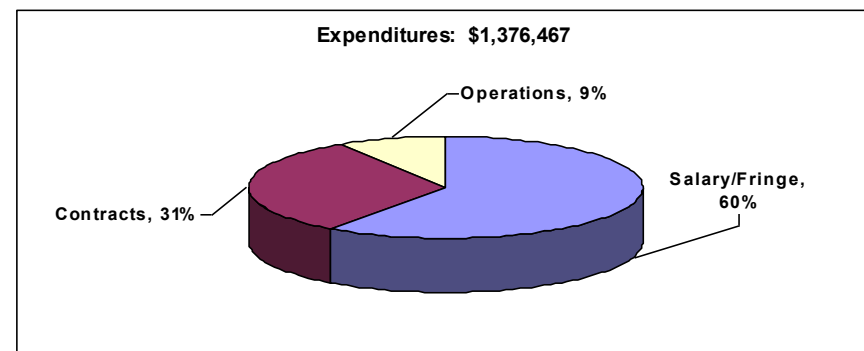
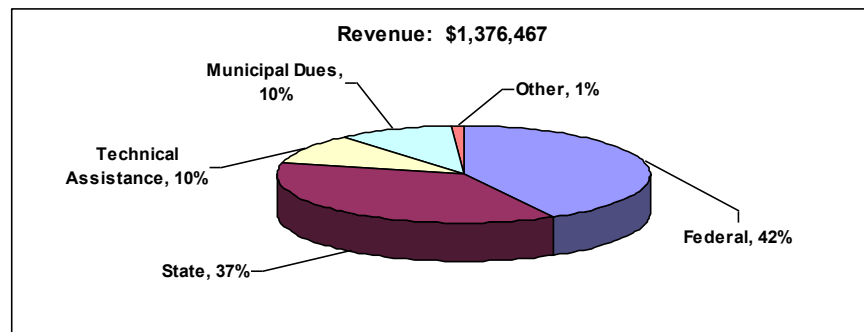
- James S. Butler, AICP  
Executive Director
- Richard Guggenheim  
Assistant Director
- Amanda Kennedy, AICP  
Dir. of Special Projects
- James Rabbitt, AICP  
Planner III
- Thomas Seidel  
Planner III
- Richard Serra  
Planner III
- Ned Connell  
Planner III
- Wendy Leclair  
Executive Secretary
- Liz Crutcher  
GIS Coordinator

Financed with Grants from the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management and Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and with funds provided by member Municipalities of the SCCOG

## FINANCING

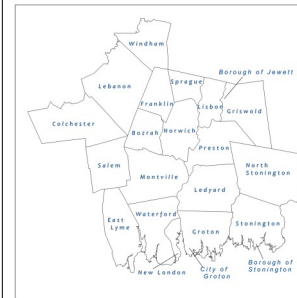
During FY 2015, the Council operated its program with a combination of funds from a variety of sources. Member municipalities contributed toward the support of the Council at the per capita rate of \$0.55. The charts below summarize both revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year.

### OPERATING BUDGET, 1 JULY 2014—30 JUNE 2015



Based on independent audit by Albert J. Rusilowicz, CPA. Copies of the FY 2015 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office and at [www.seccog.org](http://www.seccog.org).

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015



**Member Municipalities:**

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

## INTRODUCTION

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments was formed in the fall of 1992. The Council succeeded its predecessor agency, The Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (SCRPA), which had been in its existence since 1961. It was created through the adoption of membership ordinances by the towns, cities, and boroughs within the Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region. The Council is a governmental agency, formed and operating under the provisions of Sections 4-124i through 4-124p of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Council's mission is to provide a basis for inter-

governmental cooperation for a wide range of issues facing southeastern Connecticut.

This annual report reviews activities of the Council during calendar year 2015 and provides financial information on the fiscal year ending 30 June 2015.

For the latest news and information about SCCOG's programs, projects, meeting agendas & minutes, publications, newsletters and links to its member towns, visit us on the web at [www.seccog.org](http://www.seccog.org).

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The policy board of the SCCOG consists of the municipal chief elected officials from the twenty-two member municipalities. Additionally, the Regional Planning Commission, which functions as a sub-unit of the Council, is composed of one representative from the planning commission of each member municipality. As authorized by statutes, some municipalities also have appointed alternates to the Council and Commission. The Council has amended its bylaws to provide for the participation on a non-voting basis of liaison representatives from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes, Submarine Group Two/Naval Region Northeast, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

In addition to the Regional Planning Commission, the Council has formed several standing committees and, as needed, may form ad hoc committees. Currently, a staff of nine supports the work of the Council, its committees, and the Planning Commission. In December, 2015, the staff consisted of an executive director, an assistant director, five planners, an executive secretary, and a GIS coordinator. During this past year, the Borough of Jewett City joined the SCCOG to become its 22nd member municipality.

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### TRANSPORTATION:

The Council is the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for purposes of carrying out the regional transportation system planning and programming required under the Federal Transportation Act entitled, Moving Ahead For Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). In 2012, SCCOG was designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) due to a 2010 Census figure for the urbanized area of more than 250,000 population in the region which included a portion of Westerly, Rhode Island.

SCCOG adopted an updated FY 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan in April, 2015. The Regional Transportation Plan addresses a variety of issues re-

quired by Federal law, as well as previously identified needs such as Route 11, I-95, and regional transit improvements. In 2015, SCCOG worked toward Plan implementation.

In 2015, SCCOG approved 86 amendments and 39 actions to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region.

The Council is a member of and provides staff assistance to the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission. This Commission, created by state statute, is charged with establishing standards for the development of a bike-pedway/greenway which is integral to the Route 11 project. The Commission did not meet during the past year.

SCCOG MEMBERS:  
(AS OF 12/16/15)

**Bozrah:**  
Glenn Pianka

**Colchester:**  
Art Shilosky

**East Lyme:**  
Mark Nickerson

**Franklin:**  
Richard Matters

**Griswold:**  
Kevin Skulczyck

**Borough of Jewett City:**  
John Connelly  
Timothy Sharkey (Alt)

**City of Groton:**  
Marian Galbraith, Vice Chairman

**Town of Groton:**  
Bruce Flax  
Mark Oefinger (Alt)

**Lebanon:**  
Betsy Petrie

**Ledyard:**  
Mike Finkelstein

**Lisbon:**  
Thomas Sparkman

**Montville:**  
Ron McDaniel, Treasurer

**New London:**  
Michael Passero

**North Stonington:**  
Shawn Murphy

**Norwich:**  
Deberey Hinchey  
John Bilda (Alt)

**Preston:**  
Robert Congdon

**Salem:**  
Kevin Lyden

**Sprague:**  
Catherine Osten  
Denise Dembinski (Alt)

**Stonington:**  
Rob Simmons

**Borough of Stonington:**  
Jeffrey Callahan  
Michael Blair (Alt)

**Waterford:**  
Daniel Steward

**Windham:**  
Ernie Eldridge  
Neal Beets (Alt)

AFFILIATE  
MEMBERS:

**Mashantucket Pequot Tribe:**  
Rodney Butler, Chairman  
William Satti (Alt)

**Mohegan Tribe:**  
Kevin Brown, Chairman  
Chuck Bunnell (Alt)

**U.S. Naval Submarine Base**  
CAPT Carl Lahti  
Robert Yust, P.E. (Alt)

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy**  
RADM James Rendon  
LTCDR Brooke Millard (Alt)

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

Council staff provides continuing planning support to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) and to the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC). In 2014, SCCOG applied to CTDOT for use of \$250,000 in STP-U funds to conduct a Comprehensive Operation Analysis (COA) of the SEAT system. The consulting firm of Nelson/Nygaard was selected by a committee of SEAT, CTDOT, and SCCOG representatives to conduct this study. The COA was completed in the fall of 2015.

Council staff continued to assist the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board in managing the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program, a multi-region system for providing transportation to individuals on welfare that are seeking jobs, job training, and day care services for their children. During the 12-month period from November, 2014 through October, 2015, the Department of Social Services (DSS) and CTDOT supported a total of 184,598 trips by this system. A shift in funding during 2015 explains the reduction, down from 284,448 trips the previous year. In addition, there was a lapse in funding for the program during July and August of 2015 so no trips were recorded during that period.

Staff continues to work on a Locally Coordinated Health and Social Services Plan (LOCHSTP) which brings together the JARC, 5310 and New Freedoms Federal Transportation Programs.

During this calendar year, SCCOG staff has been continuing to work with the Norwich Clean Cities Coalition on acquiring new clean fuel vehicles and the construction of a CNG fueling station in Norwich. Funding for a new fueling station in the region was supported by the federal CMAQ program.

The Council maintains and regularly updates a variety of information and statistics related to the region's transportation system. SCCOG staff maintains a regional Geographic Information System (GIS).

In 2013, the Connecticut General Assembly adopted legislation creating a new funding program transportation improvements that has largely replaced the federal STP-U program for MPOs such as SCCOG. The program, called LOTCIP (Local Road Transportation Capital Improvements Program) provides regions with non-federal funds for local transportation infrastructure improvements and shifts responsibility for the management of funds and the projects undertaken to MPOs and municipalities. Since the source of funds is the State, and the administrative requirements are less than those of the federal STP-U program, the schedule by which these projects are approved, engineered, and constructed can be accelerated. To date, SCCOG has undertaken two new transportation projects utilizing funds provided under the LOTCIP program. These projects include improvements to Connecticut Avenue in the Norwich Business Park, and improvements to Thames Street in the City of Groton. A second solici-

tation for LOTCIP projects was made to all SCCOG municipalities in 2015, which resulted in 7 new applications totaling more than \$10M. Selection by the SCCOG of projects to be funded is scheduled for early 2016.

SCCOG annually conducts a solicitation for project federal fundd under the Local Road Accident Reduction Program. This funding source allows municipalities to correct structural deficiencies on local roads not on the federal aid system where a link can be demonstrated between the deficiency and recorded accidents. No applications were received in 2015.

As Connecticut's newest Transportation Management Area (TMA), SCCOG is now required to develop a Congestion Mitigation Plan to address specific locations in the region that have demonstrated adverse conditions of traffic volumes in relation to their existing capacity. In 2015, SCCOG staff has identified 73 locations where the volume-to-capacity ratios exceed 1.0 during a portion of the day. Each of these locations will require a mitigation strategy that may involve a structural alteration ranging from the addition of turning lanes to the creation of a new bridge or highway section.

In 2014, SCCOG staff began assisting the City of New London in analyzing and making recommendations for traffic circulation and parking, in anticipation of the future location of the National Coast Guard Museum in the downtown. This assistance continued in 2015.

In 2015, SCCOG, on behalf of CTDOT, solicited and prioritized applications under the Section 5310 program, which will result in funding for the purchase of new elderly and disabled vans by SCCOG members; Colchester, Groton, Sprague, Waterford as well as the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC).

The SCCOG, on behalf of the Thames Maritime Heritage Park Transition Team, is serving as that organization's fiduciary. In November, the Transition Team has secured two 40-foot surplus Navy vessels to be used as water taxis that will run between Groton and New London on the Thames River beginning in the summer of 2016.

## REGIONAL PLANNING:

Staff continued work with its consultant to prepare an on-line property survey index using a \$436,400 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant from OPM.

The Southeastern CT Housing Alliance (SECHA), formed in 2006, and pursuant to an MOA entered into by both agencies, functions as a committee of the SCCOG. Until December 2012, the SCCOG em-

ployed a staff member who served as Director of SECHA. When the former Director resigned to take a new position, the SECHA Board decided to not fill the position due to funding constraints and SCCOG staff now fills that role. SECHA highlights in 2015 included: a second bus tour of affordable housing projects in the region held in November.

SCCOG continued its emergency management planning efforts during the year as a participant in the DEMHS Region 4 emergency management process. With the dissolution of WINCOG on June 30, 2014, SCCOG assumed the role of fiduciary for this program, which serves the 42 municipalities and 2 Tribal Nations in the DEMHS 4 region. The REPT is chaired by SCCOG member and Lisbon First Selectman Thomas Sparkman.

During the year, SCCOG's Regional Water Committee, including participation from the region's three major municipal water utilities, and the Mohegan Tribal Utility continued work on its Regional Water Plan. It also learned of and began to prepare for the CT DPH's consolidation of the state's WUCCs.

The SCCOG formed a Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (RHSCC) in 2011, the first of its kind in Connecticut. The Council, which functions as a special committee of the SCCOG, met quarterly during the year. In 2014, the legislation which consolidated Councils of Governments from 15 down to 9, also required all COGs to form RHSCCs, and to add representation from State human service agencies. During the year, the RHSCC prepared and published a directory of major human service providers in the region, and began planning for a human services expo to be held in January, 2016. The Council is co-chaired by TVCCA Executive Director Deborah Monahan and Chuck Seeman, President of UCFS.

During the year, the SCCOG hosted a number of guest speakers at its monthly meetings including U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney, CT State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, Kristine Newman-Scott, Director of the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism, Thomas Maziarz, Chief of CTDOT's Bureau of Policy and Planning, and Joel Rinebold of the CT Center for Advanced Technology. In February, the SCCOG met with the southeastern CT Legislative delegation.

In the fall of 2015, SCCOG was informed by OPM that it had been awarded a 2013 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant to conduct a study of possible shared municipal services. Work on this study commenced in the summer of 2015.

In June of 2015, staff began drafting an update to SCCOG's 2007 Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. A public forum on the Regional Plan was held in June and a Steering Committee has been formed.

SCCOG staff reviewed 41 legislatively required referrals in 2015 for member municipalities during the year.

## RPC MEMBERS:

**Bozrah:**  
Seymour Adelman

**Colchester:**  
James Ford

**East Lyme:**  
Brian Schuch, Secretary

**Franklin:**  
Matt Calvert  
Peg Ayer

**Griswold:**  
Martin McKinney

**City of Groton:**  
Paul Kunkemoeller  
Jeffrey Pritchard

**Town of Groton:**  
James Sherrard

**Lebanon:**  
Francis Malozzi  
Kathleen Smith

**Ledyard:**  
Mike Cherry, Chairman

**Lisbon:**  
Ronald Giroux  
Ryan Donaldson

**Montville:**  
Bart Ferrante, Jr.

**New London:**  
Barry Levine  
Timothy Ryan

**North Stonington:**  
Elaine Boissevain

**Norwich:**  
Arthur Sharron  
Richard Morell

**Preston:**  
Art Moran, Jr.  
Fran Coviello

**Salem:**  
Rich Amato

**Stonington:**  
Curtis Lynch  
Frances Hoffman

**Stonington Borough:**  
David Atkinson

**Waterford:**  
Dana Award

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

In FY 2015-2016, technical assistance to local land use commissions is being provided under contract to Bozrah (2), Franklin, Lisbon, New London, Sprague, and Salem.

## OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES:

During 2015, SCCOG planners providing technical assistance to member municipalities, informed their local commissions of the UCONN CLEAR Land Use Academy Program education training sessions. These sessions focused on legal responsibilities of land use commissions, and with the basic elements of reading site and subdivision plans.

SCCOG continued to participate in the activities of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB). The EWIB is governed by a 35-member Board of Directors appointed by member towns' chief elected officials and oversees a network of workforce related programs and agencies. SCCOG representatives to the CEO Council that governs EWIB activities are Franklin First Selectman Rich Matters, Lisbon First Selectman Tom Sparkman, and Montville Mayor Ron McDaniel.

SCCOG members and the Executive Director serve on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer). In November, the SCCOG Executive Director was elected as the Treasurer of the seCTer Board.



Congressman Joe Courtney addressed the SCCOG at their May meeting