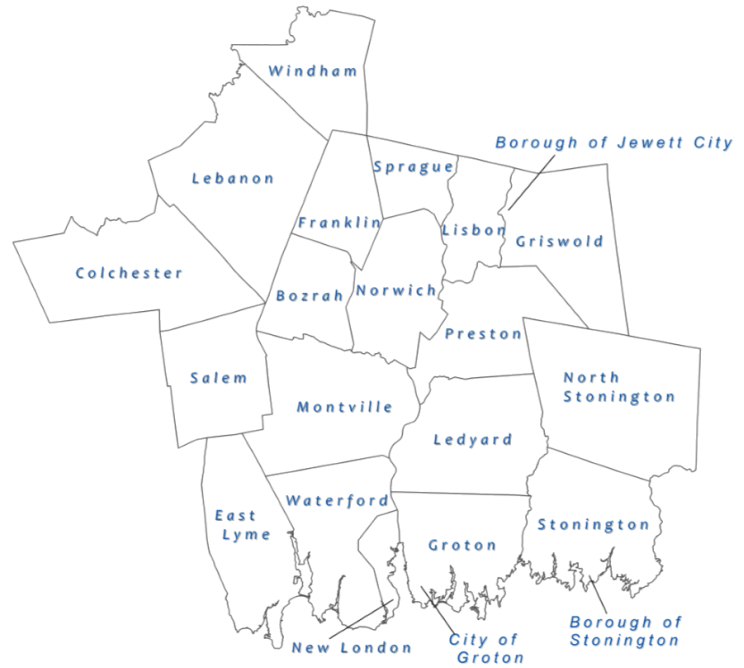


The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) is one of nine regional councils of governments in Connecticut, formed and operating under the provisions of Sections 4-124i through 4-124p of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Council's mission is to provide a structure for intergovernmental cooperation for a wide range of issues facing southeastern Connecticut. Its predecessor, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, was first established in January 1961. This annual report reviews SCCOG activities during the fiscal year (FY) ending June 30, 2020. For the latest news from SCCOG, visit us on the web at www.seccog.org or on Facebook ([SeCTCOG](https://www.facebook.com/SeCTCOG)).

Municipal chief elected officials from SCCOG's 22 member municipalities serve as SCCOG's policy board. The Council's bylaws provide for participation on a non-voting basis by representatives from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, Naval Submarine Base New London, and U.S. Coast Guard Academy.



TRANSPORTATION

SCCOG is the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the purposes of carrying out the regional transportation system planning and programming required under the Federal Transportation Act Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST ACT). In 2012, the SCCOG region was designated a Transportation Management Area (TMA) because its urbanized area has a population greater than 200,000, requiring SCCOG to establish a Congestion Management Process (CMP). The SCCOG underwent a Transportation Management Area Planning Certification Review by the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations in the spring of 2020 in advance of its recertification.

Major transportation tasks include the regional transportation plan; data collection and analysis; Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development and activities related to meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments; technical assistance to municipalities; public information; and participation with CTDOT in a variety of projects. Other tasks include further development of the Council's Geographic Information System capability (GIS); a comprehensive regional survey of local land use; and special studies as need-

ed. Since 2014, SCCOG has received funding from CTDOT to administer and manage the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) in the region.

Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan: SCCOG formally adopted the plan, promoted as Bike Walk SECT, in the fall of 2019. The plan lays out an ambitious vision for southeastern Connecticut to improve its regional bicycle/pedestrian network and local bike/ped facilities. Funding for this project was made available by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management through the 2017 Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Program. The plan's recommendations emphasize developing municipal frameworks to ensure that improvements to bike/ped conditions occur under existing budgets and processes, by, for example, adopting Complete Streets policies and conducting road diets as part of routine restriping/resurfacing.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): In 2019, SCCOG approved 20 amendments and 20 actions to the region's TIP, approved the FY 2021-2024 TIP, and provided comments to CTDOT on the FY 2021-2024 State Transportation Improvement Program.

Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310 Van Purchases):

SCCOG is required to coordinate the region's applications for funding to address special transportation needs. During FY 2020, funds were awarded for five accessible vehicles and for ECTC's Mobility Project and Voucher Program.

Local Road Accident Reduction Program (LRAR):

No additional funds were awarded in FY 2020 under this State program. New London continued to implement improvements to three downtown intersections under previously awarded funding.

Local Transportation Capital Improvements Program (LOTICIP):

This state grant program funds improvements to local roads. One project was completed in FY 2020, in Colchester; and five projects are in design, in the City of Groton, New London, Norwich, Sprague, and Waterford. In addition, SCCOG assisted municipalities with applications for funding for seven future projects.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):

In FY 2020, SCCOG recommended the Norwich-New London Turnpike project in Norwich for future funding. The City of New London continued implementing a \$1,415,000 project to enhance bicycle and pedestrian conditions on Williams Street.

Corridor Analyses: With funding from CTDOT, SCCOG is assisting two of its municipalities with corridor studies for Route 32 in New London and Route 161 in East Lyme.

REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION

COVID-19 Response: SCCOG's assistance to its member municipalities has included hosting weekly virtual meetings with the region's public health directors and municipal CEOs, surveying and gathering information and best practices, coordinating the purchase and delivery of 185,000 KN95 masks for the SEAT transit district and six municipalities, participating in discussions regarding the opening of campgrounds, and distributing guidance regarding compliance with Executive Orders. SCCOG is assisting with the State's Long Term Recovery effort, and works closely with the State's DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator to convene a regional steering committee and working groups.

Regional Planning Commission: SCCOG's Regional Planning Commission (RPC) meets quarterly to engage-

municipal commissions in regional initiatives, share best practices, provide training on specific topics, and identify issues of concern that the SCCOG might assist in addressing. In FY 2020, at the request of the RPC, SCCOG staff prepared a white paper on regulation of short-term rentals and also provided information to the RPC regarding bicycle-pedestrian planning and resiliency planning.

SCCOG encourages municipal requests for state or federal funding to include statements of how proposed municipal activities relate to regional goals established in the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (2017) and has assisted municipal staff in preparing this information.

Military/Community Planning: SCCOG completed a plan to identify and address housing and transportation issues affected by local defense industry growth and received an additional Joint Land Use Study grant to address parking issues in the vicinity of Electric Boat in the City of Groton. That project began in late 2020 and is expected to be completed in 2022.

Fiscal Impacts of Development: SCCOG used Regional Services Grant (RSG) funding to contract with consultants to develop fiscal impact analysis tools for SCCOG's member municipalities, which can be used to estimate the impact of new construction to municipal revenues and expenses. The assessment matrices and tutorials are complete, and SCCOG staff is now supporting municipal staff in their use.

Hazard Mitigation – Community Rating System Assistance:

In FY 2019, SCCOG received a State Program grant to support municipal enrollment in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS), which allows a reduction in flood insurance rates for residents in municipalities that have become members of this program. In 2020, with the assistance of SCCOG staff and SCCOG's consultants, the City of Norwich was approved as a Class 9 CRS community and several other municipalities made progress toward certification.

Housing/SECHA: SCCOG and its staff continue to support the work of the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance (SECHA) and to provide technical assistance in housing planning and implementation to its member municipalities. In FY 2020, SCCOG updated its estimates of regional housing needs and regional strategies as part of a JLUS implementation project funded by the Department of Defense. SCCOG staff also worked with SECHA to brief several local planning and zoning commissions, provided technical assistance to municipalities as needed, and held an informational

program about affordable housing development in small towns and suburbs. SCCOG staff will be assisting six member municipalities with the preparation of Affordable Housing Plans, supported by municipal grants from the Department of Housing.

Planning and Zoning Reviews: Connecticut General Statutes require that municipalities advise Councils of Governments of certain changes to zoning or subdivision regulations to allow COGs to assess potential intermunicipal impacts. During the past FY, SCCOG staff reviewed and responded to 38 municipal referrals.

Water: The Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC), in which SCCOG staff plays an important role, held its first meeting following completion of its Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP).

Stormwater: SCCOG continues to assist the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District with the regional stormwater collaborative by providing meeting space for the collaborative and providing technical assistance.

Wastewater Management: In June 2019, SCCOG completed a Regional Wastewater Management Plan, the first in the region since the late 1960s. Implementation activities are proceeding at the local level and SCCOG is working to convene a Regional Wastewater Management Committee to advise and implement additional actions.

Municipal Planner and Commissioner Training: SCCOG staff created a series of online training videos that provide basic training and refreshers for local land use commissioners. SCCOG also convened the region's municipal planners to present project findings and to identify issues of concern in their towns that the SCCOG might assist in addressing. Several of these meetings addressed concerns and strategies specifically related to processes disrupted by COVID-19 precautions.

Technical Planning Assistance to Municipalities: SCCOG provides municipal planning, zoning, and/or Inland Wetlands services to Bozrah, Franklin, Salem, Sprague, and Lisbon under seven contracts. In FY 2020, SCCOG also produced trail maps for the Town of Ledyard under contract.

Human Services Coordination: SCCOG convened its Regional Human Services Coordinating Council several times in FY 2020 to explore the recommendations of SCCOG's 2018 Human Services Shared Services Study and to share resources with agency representatives.

Emergency Management Planning: SCCOG is the lead fiduciary for the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT). In FY 2020, the REPT and its REPT Steering Committee approved a \$303,659 budget for equipment and training and SCCOG administered six other ongoing emergency management grants during the past fiscal year.

Legislative Activity: SCCOG's 2020 legislative agenda included proposals to stabilize education costs, reduce municipal waste management costs, authorize municipal stormwater authorities, and enable online gaming.

Municipal Shared Services: SCCOG continued implementing the recommendations of SCCOG's 2018 municipal shared services study by convening the region's municipal assessors and directors of public works to review the potential for intermunicipal or regional services. In addition, 10 of SCCOG's 22 member municipalities participated in CRCOG's Capitol Region Purchasing Council during the year.

Regional Geographic Information Systems: SCCOG maintains and updates regional GIS and property information systems originally developed with OPM grant funding in 2009 and 2013. SCCOG also collects municipal parcel data and transmits it to OPM, in compliance with PA 18-175.

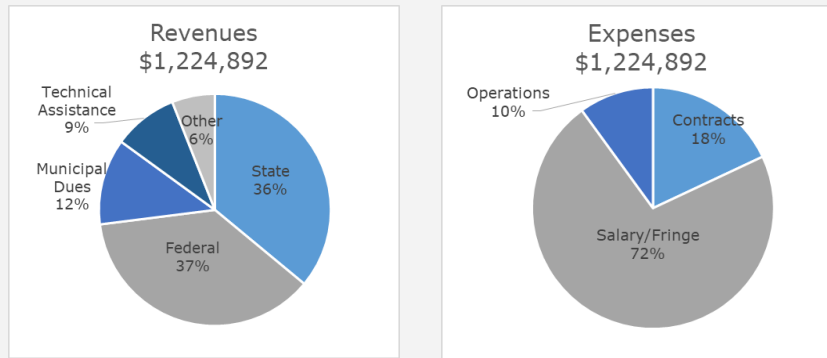
Sustainable CT: SCCOG hosted Sustainable CT fellows in the summers of 2019 and 2020 to assist municipalities with certification. Nine member municipalities are certified as of October 2020.

2020 Census Participation: In FY 2020, the SCCOG worked with its municipalities and the community to prepare for the 2020 Decennial Census, participating in Complete Count Committee meetings and contributing ideas on reaching hard-to-count populations. SCCOG staff also stayed informed of Census-related news to be able to provide answers to any municipalities with questions.

Other Regional Partnerships: During the fiscal year, SCCOG staff participated in or supported efforts of other regional initiatives and organizations in southeastern Connecticut, including the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation, the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer), the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), the Eastern Connecticut Health Collaborative and the Health Improvement Collaborative of Southeastern Connecticut.

During FY 2020, the Council operated its program with a combination of funds from a variety of sources: municipal member dues, Federal grants and programs, State grants and programs, fee-for-service technical assistance, and miscellaneous other sources. Member municipalities contributed toward the support of the Council at the per capita rate of \$0.55. The charts below summarize revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year.

Copies of the FY 2020 independent audit by Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC are available for review at the SCCOG office and at www.seccog.org.



SCCOG MEMBERS

Bozrah: Carl Zorn	Lebanon: Kevin Cwikla	Salem: Kevin Lyden	Affiliate Members:
Colchester: Mary Bylone	Ledyard: Fred Allyn, III	Sprague: Cheryl Allen Blanchard	Mashantucket Pequot Tribe: Rodney Butler Robert Hayward (Alt)
East Lyme: Mark Nickerson, Chairman	Lisbon: Tom Sparkman	Borough of Stonington: Jeffrey Callahan	Mohegan Tribe: James Gessner, Jr. Chuck Bunnell (Alt)
Franklin: Charles Grant	Montville: Ron McDaniel	Town of Stonington: Danielle Chesebrough	U.S. Naval Submarine Base CAPT Todd Moore Adam Wright (Alt)
Griswold: Todd Babbitt	New London: Michael Passero	Waterford: Rob Brule	U.S. Coast Guard Academy RADM William Kelly LCDR Daniel Stepler (Alt)
Borough of Jewett City: Timothy Sharkey	North Stonington: Michael Urgo	Windham: Victor Funderburk Jim Rivers (Alt)	
City of Groton: Keith Hedrick	Norwich: Peter Nystrom John Salomone (Alt)		
Town of Groton: Patrice Granatosky John Burt (Alt)	Preston: Sandra Allyn-Gauthier		

SCCOG STAFF

James S. Butler, AICP Executive Director	Sam Alexander, AICP Planner III	Wendy Leclair Office Manager	Phil Chester, AICP Contract Planner
Amanda Kennedy, AICP Deputy Director/ Dir. of Special Projects	Justin LaFountain Planner II	Liz Crutcher GIS Coordinator	Michael J. Murphy, AICP Contract Planner
Katherine Rattan, AICP Planner III/ Transportation Program Mgr.	Carly Myers, AICP Planner II		