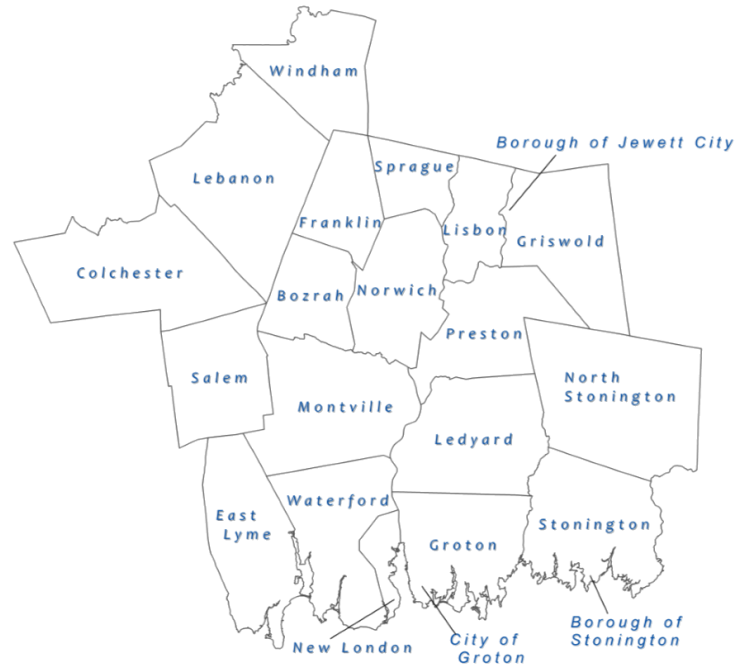


The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) is one of nine regional councils of governments in Connecticut, formed and operating under the provisions of Sections 4-124i through 4-124p of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Council's mission is to provide a structure for intergovernmental 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, 2021. 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 successfully completed a Transportation Management Area Planning Certification Review by the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations in the fall of 2020.

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 needed. Since 2014, SCCOG has received funding from

CTDOT to administer and manage the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) in the region.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan: (MTP): SCCOG amended its 2019-2045 MTP to include additional projects for potential earmark funds.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): In FY 2021, SCCOG approved 42 amendments and 29 actions to the region's TIP, approved the FY 2021-2024 TIP, and endorsed the FY 2021-2024 State Transportation Improvement Program.

Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan: Implementation of SCCOG's 2019 Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan continued, with activities including the preparation of Bicycle Facility Planning Study for Route 2 in North Stonington and technical assistance to the Bike Groton group. SCCOG also responded to a request for information from CT DOT planning regarding local bicycle plans and data. SCCOG's most recent UPWP includes staff time to plan for the proposed Eastern Shoreline Path.

Local Transportation Capital Improvements Program (LOTICIP): This state grant program funds improvements to local roads. Five projects are completed, seven are in development, and four are currently in construction (New London, Norwich, Groton, and Waterford).

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): This program is funding two improvement projects in the region: the City of New London's project on William Street to enhance bicycle and pedestrian conditions (under construction), and the City of Norwich's improvements to New London Turnpike (currently in design).

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, and completed a multi-use path feasibility study along the Route 2 corridor in North Stonington.

Enhanced Mobility (Section 5310 Van Purchases): SCCOG coordinates the region's applications for federal funding to address special transportation needs. During FY 2021, funds were awarded for six accessible vehicles for six applicants (Easter Seals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut, Inc., The Arc of Eastern Connecticut, Ledyard, Colchester, Griswold, and Waterford, and for ECTC's Mobility Project and Voucher Program. SCCOG assisted applicants for FY 22 funding.

Transportation Safety Program: SCCOG adopted a Regional Transportation Safety Plan in January 2021.

REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION

COVID-19 Response: SCCOG staff continued to assist member municipalities in responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis throughout FY 2021. Activities included convening regular special meetings with the region's municipal CEOs and health district directors to transmit current information and public health guidance, and regularly compiling information from member municipalities to enable consistency in COVID protocols. SCCOG continued to support Connecticut's Executive Branch agencies, particularly DEMHS, in coordinating a Regional Recovery Steering Committee and associated working groups, at the request of the Office of the Governor. SCCOG staff also attended weekly COVID response calls convened by the Departments of Agriculture and Department of Aging and Disability Services. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SCCOG

expanded its capacity to conduct virtual and hybrid meetings and provided guidance to member municipalities in complying with changing protocols for public meetings.

Regional Planning: Implementation of SCCOG's 2017 Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (RPOCD) continued this past fiscal year. The RPOCD recommends a number of strategies and specific activities that are being implemented via our hazard mitigation planning, shared services coordination, housing planning, planner and commissioner training, transportation planning and regional economic development activities discussed in this report. SCCOG encourages partner requests for state or federal funding to include statements of how proposed activities relate to regional goals established in the RPOCD and has assisted municipal staff in preparing this information.

Military/Community Planning: SCCOG staff continues to work with SUBASE New London and its neighboring municipalities to identify and resolve potential use conflicts. In 2020, SCCOG received its third grant from the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (formerly OEA), to address parking issues in the vicinity of Electric Boat in the City of Groton. That project commenced in late 2020 and is expected to be completed in 2022.

Hazard Mitigation – Community Rating System Assistance: Municipalities must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in order to receive certain federal funding for disaster planning and hazard mitigation projects. SCCOG satisfies this requirement for its member municipalities through its development of regional hazard mitigation plans. SCCOG has applied for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant to update its hazard mitigation plan in 2022.

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 2021, SCCOG staff assisted municipalities in obtaining technical assistance grants to prepare Affordable Housing Plans, and worked with six municipalities to prepare plans.

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 55 municipal referrals.

Water: Members of the Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) attended statewide coordination meetings. SCCOG staff has been strongly involved with the State WUCC's Interconnections/Regionalization Workgroup.

Stormwater: SCCOG continues to assist the regional stormwater collaborative administered by the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District.

Wastewater Management: In June 2019, SCCOG completed a Regional Wastewater Management Plan, the first in the region since the late 1960s. SCCOG staff have kept in contact with local wastewater staff to push forward projects identified in the plan.

Municipal Planner and Commissioner Training: SCCOG holds quarterly meetings of the Regional Planning Commission (RPC), consisting of representatives of each of our member municipalities' planning commissions. In FY 2021, SCCOG staff facilitated virtual meetings with the RPC with the primary topic of discussing how individual municipalities were responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. SCCOG continued to work towards the goal of educating regional commissioners and planners. The training video series started in the previous fiscal year was expanded with the addition of a dedicated Zoning Board of Appeals video.

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.

Fiscal Impacts of Development: SCCOG assisted municipalities with the use of the Fiscal Impact Analysis tool developed in 2019.

Human Services Coordination: SCCOG's Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (RHSCC) brings together representatives from the region's human service network and SCCOG chief elected officials to coordinate activities and to discuss matters of mutual concern. SCCOG completed an analysis of opportunities for shared services and regional collaboration among human services providers in 2020 and continues working on implementation, most recently supporting the development of a volunteer/board recruitment and training program.

Emergency Management Planning: SCCOG serves as the fiduciary for the Division of Emergency Manage-

ment and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT). In FY 2021, the REPT and its REPT Steering Committee approved a \$385,659 budget for equipment and training and administered six other ongoing emergency management grants during the past fiscal year.

Legislative Activity: SCCOG's 2020 and 2021 legislative agendas included proposals to stabilize education costs, reduce municipal waste management costs, authorize municipal stormwater authorities, and enable online gaming.

Municipal Shared Services: SCCOG continues to implement the recommendations of SCCOG's 2018 municipal shared services study. In Fiscal Year 2021, SCCOG worked with its member municipalities to explore developing regional resources to address continued and emerging needs for qualified Building Services, Zoning Enforcement, and Inland Wetlands personnel. As a result, SCCOG contracted with a part-time Building Inspector to provide these services to two member municipalities. In addition, 13 of SCCOG's 22 member municipalities participated in CRCOG's Capitol Region Purchasing Council during the year.

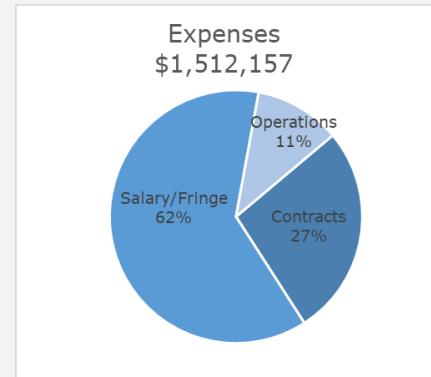
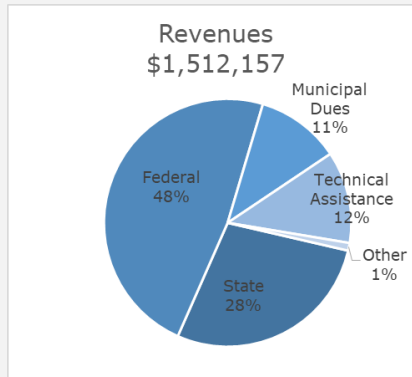
Regional Geographic Information Systems: SCCOG maintains regional GIS and property information systems originally developed with OPM grant funding. SCCOG also collects municipal parcel data and transmits it to OPM, in compliance with PA 18-175.

Sustainable CT: SCCOG staff worked with the Towns of Sprague and Lisbon to submit applications for federal funding under EPA's Community-Wide Assessment Grant program.

2020 Census Participation: In FY 2021, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments worked with its municipalities to support a complete count in the 2020 Decennial Census and tracked the release of Census results.

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 2021, 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 to the right summarize revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year.



Copies of the FY 2021 independent audit by Hoyt, Filippetti & Malaghan, LLC are available for review at the SCCOG office and at www.seccog.org.

SCCOG MEMBERS

Bozrah: Glenn Pianka	Lebanon: Kevin Cwikla	Preston: Sandra Allyn-Gauthier	Affiliate Members:
Colchester: Andreas Biskibos	Ledyard: Fred Allyn, III (Chairman)	Salem: Ed Chmielewski	Mashantucket Pequot Tribe: Rodney Butler Robert Hayward (Alt)
East Lyme: Kevin Seery	Lisbon: Tom Sparkman	Sprague: Cheryl Allen Blanchard	Mohegan Tribe: James Gessner, Jr. Chuck Bunnell (Alt)
Franklin: Charles Grant	Montville: Ron McDaniel	Borough of Stonington: Jeffrey Callahan	U.S. Naval Submarine Base: CAPT Ken Curtin Steve Sadlowski (Alt)
Griswold: Dana Bennett	New London: Michael Passero	Town of Stonington: Danielle Chesebrough	U.S. Coast Guard Acade- my: RADM William Kelly LCDR Samuel Andriessen (Alt)
Borough of Jewett City: Timothy Sharkey	North Stonington: Robert Carlson	Waterford: Rob Brule	
City of Groton: Keith Hedrick	Norwich: Peter Nystrom John Salomone (Alt)	Windham: Thomas DeVivo Jim Rivers (Alt)	
Town of Groton: Patrice Granatosky John Burt (Alt)			

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	Jenna Albers Planner II	Liz Crutcher GIS Coordinator	Michael J. Murphy, AICP Contract Planner
Katherine Rattan, AICP Planner III/ Transportation Program Manager	Justin LaFountain Planner II		Tom Weber Contract Building Official
	Carly Holzschuh, AICP Planner II		