



SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
FY 2020 Annual Report

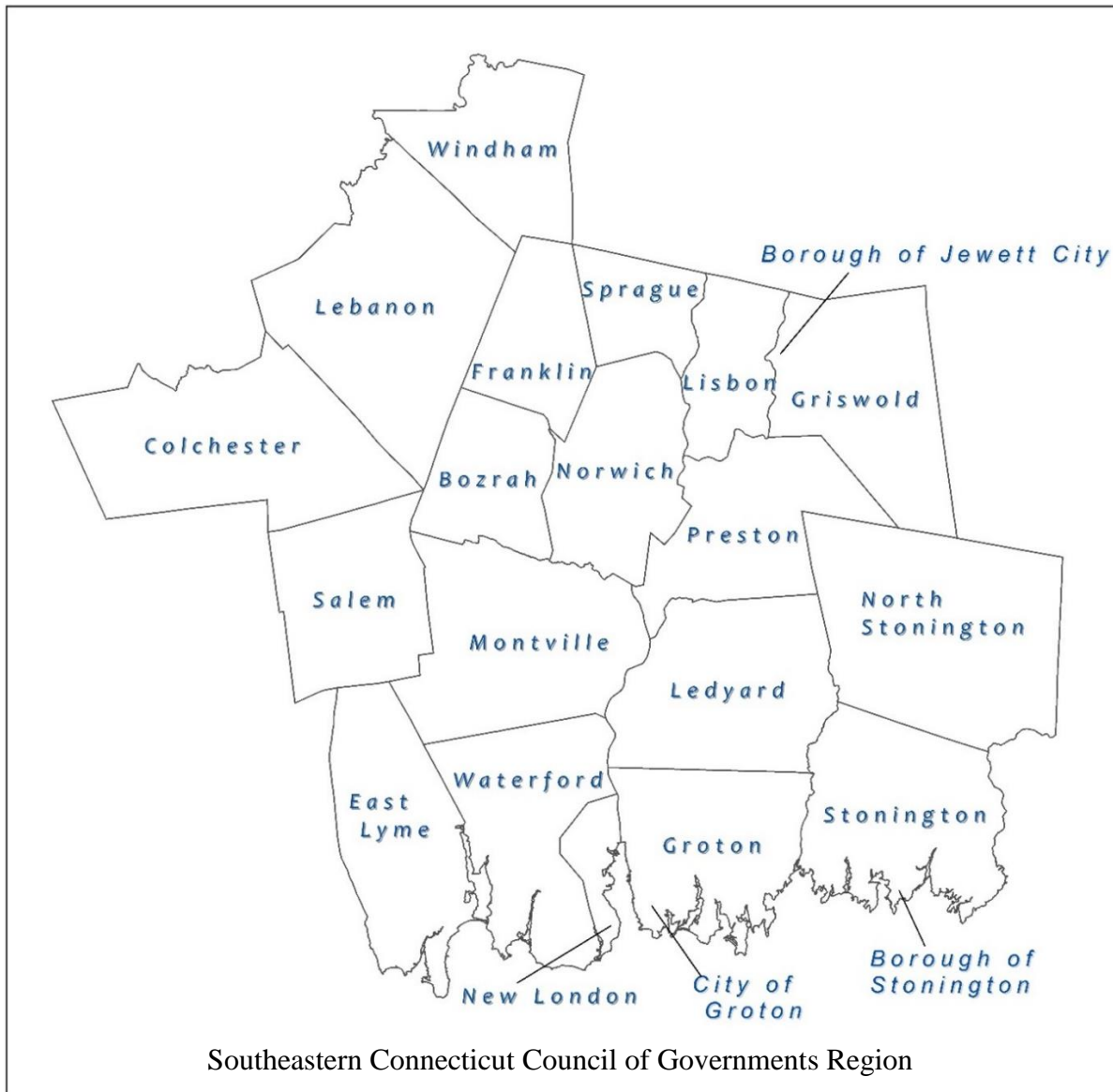
Submitted to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, and the
Planning and Development Committee and the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding
Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly

Pursuant to CGS 4-66r

28 September 2020

ABOUT THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) is one of nine regional councils of governments in Connecticut. Its predecessor agency, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, was first established under the Connecticut General Statutes in January 1961. It transformed itself into a council of governments in October 1992 through the adoption of ordinances for this purpose by the twenty towns, cities, and boroughs that composed the region at that time. In 2014, as the result of legislation that consolidated regions, the Towns of Lebanon and Windham joined the SCCOG, and Voluntown left, bringing the number of SCCOG member municipalities to twenty-one. In 2015, the Borough of Jewett City, located in SCCOG member municipality Griswold, voted to join the SCCOG as its twenty-second member.



SCCOG member municipalities and the chief elected officials/chief executives who represent their municipality on the SCCOG board are:

Bozrah	Carl Zorn, First Selectman
Colchester	Mary Bylone, First Selectman
East Lyme	Mark Nickerson, First Selectman
Franklin	Charles Grant, First Selectman
Griswold	Todd Babbitt, First Selectman
Borough of Jewett City	Timothy Sharkey, Warden
City of Groton	Keith Hedrick, Mayor
Town of Groton	Patrice Granatosky, Mayor; John Burt, Town Manager
Lebanon	Kevin Cwikla, First Selectman
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III, Mayor
Lisbon	Thomas Sparkman, First Selectman
Montville	Ron McDaniel, Mayor
New London	Michael Passero, Mayor
North Stonington	Michael Urgo, First Selectman
Norwich	Peter Nystrom, Mayor; John Salomone, City Manager
Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier, First Selectman
Salem	Kevin Lyden, First Selectman
Sprague	Cheryl Allen Blanchard, First Selectman
Stonington Borough	Jeffrey Callahan, Warden
Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman
Waterford	Rob Brule, First Selectman
Windham	Victor Funderburk, Mayor; Jim Rivers, Town Manager

The SCCOG is unique in that it also counts as affiliate non-voting members the state's only two federally recognized Native American tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe, and has liaison representation from the region's two military installations, the United States Naval Submarine Base and the United States Coast Guard Academy.

A staff of eight currently supports the work of the Council. These include the Executive Director, Deputy Director/Director of Special Projects, Transportation Program Manager, three Planners, an Office Manager, and a GIS Coordinator. Operation of the staff is governed by personnel policies adopted by the Council.

FY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT TO OPM AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In accordance with CGS Sec. 4-66r (2018 Supplement), the annual report due by October 1st shall:

(1) summarize the expenditure of such grant funds, (2) describe any regional program, project or initiative currently provided or planned by the council, (3) review the performance of any existing regional program, project or initiative relative to its initial goals and objectives, (4) analyze the existing services provided by member municipalities or by the state that, in the opinion of the council, could be more effectively or efficiently provided on a regional basis, and (5) provide recommendations for legislative action concerning potential impediments to the regionalization of services.

1) SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE OF FY 2020 RSG FUNDS

In FY 2020, SCCOG received \$322,954 in Regional Service Grant (RSG) funding. SCCOG assigned the following expenditures to the RSG:

SCCOG Staff Expenditures

Direct Salary - \$164,414

BF&O – \$177,371

Direct Other - \$1,031

SUB-TOTAL - \$342,816

Contractual Expenditures

Regional Election Monitor - \$3,225

TOTAL - \$346,041

Pending completion of its Annual Audit, it appears that the SCCOG overspent its RSG by \$23,087. SCCOG funds will be used to cover this overage, thereby “leveraging” the FY 2020 Regional Service Grant.

2) SCCOG’S REGIONAL PROGRAMS

This past year the SCCOG provided/planned to provide a number of different programs and projects that fall into four broad program areas, some of which are funded by the RSG and some by other funding sources:

A. Comprehensive Planning:

This program operates with a combination of funds from the annual municipal dues to the Council and the RSG grant from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. Major tasks within the program include: support of regional economic development efforts; administrative and technical support of the Council of Governments; the conduct of mandated review activities; legislative review; coordination with other agencies; training programs for members of local commissions; provision of assistance and training to local officials and the public in using census materials; analysis of census data; coordination with other agencies; non-reimbursed technical assistance to member municipalities; and the provision of information to the public. Of note are the following initiatives:

Regional Planning: In 2017, after a two-year effort, the Council adopted an updated Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (RPOCD), and work on implementing actions 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. In addition, SCCOG's statutorily-required review of municipal Plans of Conservation and Development includes documentation of how the contents of each municipal plan specifically relate to regional goals and strategies. SCCOG encourages municipal requests for state or federal funding to include statements of how proposed municipal activities relate to regional goals established in the RPOCD and has assisted municipal staff in preparing this information. Throughout the year, the SCCOG holds a quarterly meeting of the Regional Planning Commission (RPC), consisting of representatives of each of our member municipalities' planning commissions, to engage the 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.

Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Activities: Beginning in March with the advent of the pandemic locally, SCCOG staff assisted member municipalities in responding to this public health crisis. Activities included convening and holding weekly ZOOM meetings with the region's health district directors and SCCOG's municipal CEOs; discussion of actions being taken at large places of employment/facilities in the region operated by SCCOG's liaison members (SUBASE, USCGA, Foxwoods, and Mohegan Sun); surveying and gathering information from SCCOG members to share information and best practices; coordination of the purchase and delivery of 185,000 KN-95 masks for six SCCOG member municipalities and the local transit district; at the request of CT DPH, participating in discussions about the statewide re-opening of campgrounds; sharing and advising SCCOG member municipalities about the impact of/compliance with the Governor's Executive Orders; and responding to other requests for information from SCCOG members during this ongoing health crisis. In April SCCOG staff first became engaged in the State's Long-Term Recovery effort, as requested by the Governor's office. SCCOG staff has worked closely with the State's DEMHS Region 4 Coordinator in identifying local Recovery Committees and Coordinators; standing up the Region 4 Long-Term Recovery Steering Committee (LTRSC), co-chaired by the SCCOG Chairman; and has begun to convene the three working groups envisioned to work under the guidance of the LTRSC. SCCOG has joined the state's other COGs in an

application to OPM for State CARES Act funding to cover the work performed on these activities up through December 31, 2020, and an application to US EDA for funding for the two-year period through December 2022; as of this date, SCCOG has not received confirmation that this funding will be awarded.

Regional Economic Development Activities: During the fiscal year, the SCCOG continued to support the efforts of the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation, which coordinates activities involving close to 20 historic sites as a state park, and which for the sixth consecutive summer operated a water taxi on the Thames River connecting these sites. The SCCOG and its Executive Director also supported and participated in the work of the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer), which worked to implement its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) this past year, the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB), and the Eastern Regional Tourism District (ERTD).

Housing Planning: 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 the JLUS implementation project funded by the Department of Defense. SCCOG staff also worked with SECHA to hold briefings with land use commissioners in Colchester, Stonington, Sprague, and Franklin, and provided technical assistance to municipalities as needed. SECHA and SCCOG held a program in Ledyard in February 2020, providing information about affordable housing development in small towns and suburbs. As mentioned below in Part D, SCCOG encouraged its member municipalities to apply for CT Department of Housing Affordable Housing Plan Technical Assistance Grants; seven SCCOG municipalities received grants and SCCOG staff are assisting six towns with this work.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning: In late FY 2018, SCCOG began work on a Regional Bike – Ped Plan, which was funded with an OPM TOD Responsible Growth grant. SCCOG was the only Council of Governments in the state to receive a TOD Responsible Growth grant. This past November, SCCOG and its consultant completed work on this plan, which involved a robust public engagement process. The Plan makes recommendations for several regional-level connections, and includes recommendations at the municipal level contained in municipal toolkits intended to provide a streamlined approach to implementation.

Regional Water Planning: The SCCOG has a Regional Water Committee, which serves as the region’s water planning body, with representation on that committee by the major municipal water purveyors in the region. The SCCOG is also a member of the Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (Eastern WUCC), which is statutorily charged with long-range water supply planning in eastern Connecticut. SCCOG plays an important role as a WUCC member, but also provides staff assistance and hosts WUCC meetings. SCCOG staff participated in three Eastern WUCC meetings in FY 2020. SCCOG staff also participated in the convening of a state-wide WUCC Implementation Workgroup, charged with implementing common goals and objectives of the Coordinated Water System Plans of the State’s three WUCC.

Regional Wastewater Management Planning: In July 2019, SCCOG adopted a Regional Wastewater Management Plan, produced in FY 2018 supported by OPM RSG funds. The plan assesses the current condition of the centralized wastewater system in the region, projects future

demand and facility capacity, identifies infrastructure at-risk to natural hazards, and establishes recommendations for local and regional solutions to meet projected wastewater demand. The SCCOG intends to form a Regional Wastewater Management Committee to assist in implementation of recommendations.

Regional Stormwater Planning: SCCOG continues to assist the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) in administering a regional stormwater collaborative. This collaborative brought together and assisted towns in the region which are required under CT DEEP's MS4 Program to implement stormwater control measures. SCCOG provides meeting space for the collaborative and is on-call to provide technical assistance.

Hazard Mitigation Planning: Municipalities must have a current FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan in order to receive certain federal funding for disaster planning and hazard mitigation projects. In 2011, SCCOG received a USEPA grant to prepare an update to the region's 2005 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, with the update completed in 2012; in 2015, SCCOG completed an update to the WINCOG Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the two WINCOG towns that recently joined SCCOG and for the four WINCOG towns that joined CRCOG; and USEPA funds most recently enabled SCCOG to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan for SCCOG municipalities this past fiscal year. Using another RPIP grant, in FY 2019, consultants to the SCCOG created a guidebook and toolkit to assist SCCOG member municipalities with enrolling 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.

Military/Community Planning: SCCOG staff continues to work with SUBASE New London and its neighboring municipalities to identify and resolve potential use conflicts. In December 2017, SCCOG completed a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) with SUBASE New London to identify current or potential conflicts between military activities and existing or planned uses in surrounding municipalities. This project was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (DOD OEA), with an in-kind match provided by the SCCOG and six participating municipalities. In 2018, SCCOG was granted additional DOD OEA funding to review and develop actions to address projected housing and transportation needs expected from increased employment at Electric Boat, located one mile south of the SUBASE. This project was completed this past fiscal year in December. This past spring, SCCOG received an additional grant from DOD OEA to address parking issues in the vicinity of Electric Boat in the City of Groton. That project is expected to begin in the fall of 2020 and be completed in early 2022.

Human Services Coordination: SCCOG continues to staff a Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (RHSCC) to support the capacity of the region's human service providers and encourage coordination and efficiencies. SCCOG formed the first COG-sponsored RHSCC in the state in 2011, prior to RHSCCs being required by State Statute. The 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. In FY 2019, a Regional Performance Incentive Grant enabled SCCOG to complete a study outlining opportunities for shared services and regional collaboration, and SCCOG convened the RHSCC several times in FY 2020 to explore recommendations and train agency representatives on resources available through United Way and The Alliance.

Municipal Shared Services: In late 2014, SCCOG received an RPIP grant to prepare a municipal shared services study; work was completed on this project during FY 2018 and work continues on implementing study recommendations. This past year, as recommended in the study, meetings were held with the region's Department of Public Works Directors to discuss best practices. This has resulted in the informal sharing of equipment and discussions of a formal MOA to manage that practice. In addition, 10 of SCCOG's 22 member municipalities participated in CRCOG's Capitol Region Purchasing Council during the year. Additional discussion of the shared services study's recommendations is included below in section 4.

Municipal Planner and Commissioner Training: In FY 2020, the SCCOG began work on a series of Commissioner Training videos. These videos are intended to provide basic training and refreshers for local land use commissioners. Four videos were produced by the end of the fiscal year, with more planned for the future. SCCOG also convened the region's municipal planners five times during the year to present project findings and to identify issues of concern in their towns that the SCCOG might assist in addressing. Several of these meetings were held virtually in Spring of 2020 and addressed concerns and strategies during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Statutory Planning and Zoning Referrals: During this past FY, SCCOG staff reviewed and responded to 38 statutorily-required referrals from its member municipalities.

2020 Census Participation: In FY 2020, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments has worked with its municipalities and the community to prepare for the 2020 Decennial Census. Primarily, the work consisted of participation in Complete Count Committee meetings. These meetings were intended to ensure an accurate and complete count of residents during the Census. SCCOG staff worked with members of other community organizations to brainstorm ideas about reaching hard to count populations that might not readily respond to the Census. SCCOG staff also stayed informed of Census-related news to be able to provide answers to any municipalities with questions.

Election Monitoring: During the year, SCCOG provided Regional Election Monitor (REM) services to its member municipalities until almost halfway into the fiscal year. When this program was first required by State Statute, it was funded with a grant from the Office of the Secretary of State. All these grant funds were expended as of December 2018, and the SCCOG paid its REM using RSG funds up to December of 2019, when the Regional Election Monitor had to resign from her post for family reasons. At that time, SCCOG Board decided to not fill this position without additional funding assistance from the Secretary of State's Office.

Sustainable CT: This past summer the Institute for Sustainable Energy placed one Sustainable CT fellow with SCCOG, who assisted four towns seeking certification (two seeking bronze and two seeking silver). Currently, seven of SCCOG's 19 eligible municipalities have achieved bronze certification in this program.

Regional Geographic Information Systems: SCCOG continues to maintain and update a regional web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) portal, which SCCOG initially created with the support of a 2009 RPIP grant. SCCOG also complies with PA 18-175, which requires municipalities with digital parcel data to transmit that data to their Council of Governments, and for COGs to then

deliver that data to OPM annually. SCCOG gathers the data annually and provides the required material to OPM.

Regional Online Property Information: In 2013, SCCOG received another RPIP grant to prepare an online property survey index for SCCOG towns; this index geolocates documents that are used by property owners, engineers, and consultants, and are otherwise difficult to find as they are not similarly indexed in municipal applications.

Legislative Coordination: The SCCOG meets annually with the southeastern Connecticut legislative delegation to discuss issues important to SCCOG member municipalities that might be the subject of proposed legislation before the start of the legislative session. SCCOG's 2020 legislative agenda included calls for actions to ensure greater predictability and stability for education costs (particularly special education), actions to divert bottles and cans from municipal solid waste, authorization of municipal stormwater authorities, and for the State to work with the Mashantucket-Pequot and Mohegan Tribes on the expansion of gaming in Connecticut. In addition, representatives from the federal legislative delegation representing southeastern Connecticut regularly attend and report on their activities at the SCCOG's monthly meetings. This past fiscal year, the SCCOG continued to work closely with Congressman Courtney's office to coordinate and participate in the filing of an Amicus Curiae brief opposing New York's appeal (*Rosado v. Wheeler*) of US EPA's decision to approve the Eastern Long Island dredge disposal site; the SCCOG was able to convince all of the state's coastal COGs to join it and other stakeholders in filing this brief. The New York appeal was denied by a federal district court judge this past July.

B. Transportation Planning:

This program consists of three sub-elements.

The general transportation planning program is funded with municipal dues, a CTDOT grant, and funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Major tasks include: updating of the regional transportation plan; data collection and analysis; assessment of the transportation impact of large trip generators including the region's casinos and tourist attractions; updating of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); activities related to meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments; technical assistance to municipalities on a non-reimbursable basis; public information; participation with CTDOT in a variety of projects. Other tasks include further development of the Council's geographic information system capability; a comprehensive regional survey of local land use; analysis and interpretation of MAP21 performance measures, Title VI analysis and engagement activities, and special studies as needed. Since 2014, SCCOG received funding from CTDOT to administer and manage the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) in the region. During the spring of FY 2020, the SCCOG underwent a Transportation Management Area Planning Certification Review by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA); this review is required of all MPOs every four years. In July 2020, the FHWA and FTA notified SCCOG that its Transportation Planning Process had been certified.

The transit planning program is funded with municipal dues and CTDOT's transportation planning grant, which includes funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The primary activities include: technical planning assistance to Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) and the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC); forecasting SEAT's financial needs and revenues;

activities related to meeting the requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments and the Americans With Disabilities Act; and public information. Included in the technical assistance to SEAT is support of efforts to implement new transit initiatives such as “microtransit” in Stonington. In 2014, SCCOG received CTDOT approval to use \$250,000 in STP funding to conduct a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) of the SEAT bus system, which was completed in December 2015. During FY 2020, the JLUS Housing and Transportation Needs Analysis revised the recommendations of the SEAT COA and SCCOG staff continued to work with SEAT staff and the SEAT Board of Directors to implement those recommendations.

A number of special projects important to improving travel in the region have been conducted under this program. The OPM funded SCCOG Regional Bike and Pedestrian was completed in November of 2019, providing a region-wide recommendations for infrastructure improvement, routing and encouragement. Subsequently, staff has continued to engage advocates and carry out recommendations for data collection. Scoping of corridor studies on Route 161 in East Lyme and Route 32 in Norwich is ongoing. During FY2020 staff coordinated with CTDOT on the I-95 Interchange 74 project which aligns with the Route 161 corridor study.

C. Emergency Management Planning:

SCCOG has played several roles in coordinating emergency management planning in the region. In 2014, upon the dissolution of WINCOG, SCCOG assumed the role of lead fiduciary for the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT), which it continues to do. In FY 2020, the REPT and its REPT Steering Committee approved a \$303,659 budget for the purchase of equipment and services and for the provision of training to the region’s emergency responders. In addition to these grant funds, SCCOG administered six other ongoing emergency management grants during the past fiscal year.

D. Technical Planning Assistance to Municipalities:

In FY 2020, SCCOG contracted with six of its member municipalities to provide municipal planning services to member towns on a reimbursable basis. Towns receiving this service include Bozrah (two contracts: one for Planning and Zoning, and one for Inland Wetlands); Franklin (two contracts: one for Planning and Zoning, and one for Inland Wetlands); Lisbon (Planning and Zoning); Salem (Planning and Zoning); and Sprague (Planning and Zoning). In addition, under a contract with the Town, the SCCOG prepared a series of Trail Maps for Ledyard. During this past year, SCCOG staff provided a total of 1,527 hours of technical assistance to the participating municipalities under this program. In addition, SCCOG stands ready to provide on-call planning assistance on an emergency or temporary basis to its member towns, such as when a town requires additional support of existing staff or when a town is in the process of conducting a search for a new planner.

3) PERFORMANCE OF SCCOG’S REGIONAL PROGRAMS

The SCCOG adopts a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) every two years as required by federal law in order to receive transportation planning funds in its capacity as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Each year, SCCOG prepares an annual Work Program that summarizes the work planned in that particular year including that work outlined in the UPWP. These two documents collectively document SCCOG’s goals and objectives, planned tasks, and

budgets allotted for specific tasks and programs. The SCCOG’s 2019-2020 Work Program, adopted by the SCCOG on December 19, 2018, is as follows. A review of this document in comparison to the above-described regional programs and services would indicate that the SCCOG achieved its goals and objectives with the funding which was actually made available to it this past fiscal year.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROGRAM:

Anticipated Funding:	OPM Regional Services Grant	\$300,000	
	SCCOG (Municipal Dues)	86,052	*
	DOD JLUS Grant	200,000	
	SECHA	12,000	
	Investment Income	500	
	DEMHS FY 17 RCG	12,000	
	DEMHS FY 18 RCG	12,000	
	DEMHS FY 19 RCG	12,000	
	DEMHS FY 17 EMPG	1,500	
	TOTAL:	\$636,052	**

* Total dues to be collected is \$157,688, with \$71,636 used to match federal and state transportation funds.

** Includes funding for unallocated/return to Reserve. Actual funds available for comprehensive planning program are \$512,961.

Tasks		
1.	Program management	\$50,000
2.	Public information and participation	\$5,000
3.	Provide administrative and technical support for the Council of Governments including its Regional Planning Commission (RPC), Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (RHSCC), and other committees as needed	\$146,461
4.	Support economic development efforts with planning services including ongoing implementation of the regional CEDS; participation in seCTer; and EWIB	\$10,000
5.	Coordinate and cooperate with other agencies	\$10,000
6.	Provide technical assistance to municipalities, including training programs	\$20,000
7.	Perform Census-related activities, including assistance to the Bureau of the Census in reviewing and analyzing information from the 2010 Census and preparation for the 2020 Census	\$1,000
8.	Provide technical and administrative support to the SCCOG Regional Water Committee, the Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC), and other efforts to promote a regional water network, including follow-up to Waste Water Management Study.	\$5,000
9.	Perform advisory reviews of matters referred under Federal and State law	\$2,000
10.	Monitor and act on legislation affecting the region	\$2,000
11.	Serves as fiduciary and participates in DEMHS Region 4	\$37,500

	Collaboration with NECCOG to support Regional Emergency Planning Team, including administration of HazMat program	
12.	Ongoing implementation of the 2017 Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (non-transportation elements)	\$5,000
13.	Complete the two-part Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) begun in FY 2019, using Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment funds.	\$200,000
14.	Continue to provide Regional Election Monitor services.	\$7,000
15.	Continue to assist the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance (SECHA) in their advocacy for more affordable housing in the region	\$12,000

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM:

Anticipated Funding:	CTDOT Grant	\$506,059
	SCCOG	71,636
	LOTICIP	40,000
	TOTAL:	\$617,695

Tasks:		
1.	Program management	\$65,000
2.	Public information and participation	\$30,000
3.	Coordination and cooperation with other agencies, including CTDOT	\$40,000
4.	Data base development and management	\$50,000
5.	Prepare and adopt an updated Regional Transportation Plan	\$25,000
6.	Prepare and adopt an updated Regional Transportation Improvement Program	\$10,000
7.	Coordinate tasks in FY 2019-21 Unified Planning Work Program; prepare and adopt a FY 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program	\$3,000
8.	As needed, participate in ongoing statewide transportation initiatives	\$10,000
9.	Continue implementation of the 2017 Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (transportation related elements)	\$10,000
10.	Maintain and implement the SCCOG's Congestion Mitigation Process (CMP)	\$25,000
11.	Prepare and implement the requirements of the agency's Title VI Program	\$5,000
12.	Monitor and assist with major projects/issues:	\$50,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up activities related to: Rtes. 2, 2A, and 32 improvements; Rte. 85 improvements, and other regional transportation priorities. • Participate in preparation of updated I-95 study • Port of New London/State Pier • Ferry service improvements • Rail: electrification/other improvements; passenger service revitalization; including advocate for expansion of SLE 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-modal facilities development and preservation of multi-modal function at Union Station 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LetsGoCT projects in the region 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groton-New London Airport development 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist Norwich Alternative Fuels Initiative 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preston/Ledyard/Groton Bikeway Initiative 	
13.	Prepare a regional transportation safety plan in accordance with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan	\$5,000
14.	Follow-up to preparation of regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan	\$5,000
15.	Provide technical assistance to member municipalities, assistance may include:	\$80,000
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use/traffic corridor studies 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation elements of local plans 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic counts 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access management study follow-up 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation facilities, including multi-modal 	
16.	Review applications and oversee grants for Section 5310, vehicle replacement, and other Surface Transportation Programs such as, the Municipal Grants for the Elderly; LOCHSTP; the Local Road Accident Program, the Enhancement Program and STP-U funding program	\$20,000
17.	Within available resources, conduct regional studies/planning activities:	\$139,695
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperate with CTDOT, affected municipalities, and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Indian Tribes in developing strategies to manage casino impact on the region's transportation system 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist SEAT in the following areas: implementing the Comprehensive Operational Analysis completed in 2015; projecting financial needs; designing routes and schedules; updating the plan to provide transit services under the Americans With Disabilities Act; integration with LOCHSTP and conducting facility improvement studies as needed 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in interagency planning and coordination related to transit support for the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute/Welfare-to-Work Program 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop the Geographic Information System for the region, including maintaining a web-based Regional GIS 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance to the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC) in the area of paratransit service 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with SEAT, ECTC, and the Rideshare Company and other organizations to coordinate their separate transit and paratransit services for the region, including Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program, welfare to work, Municipal Grants for the Elderly, Groton-Dial-A-Ride and other programs into a LOCHSTP program. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Environmental Justice program 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and analyze 2020 Census information for use in COG's transportation planning program 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Congestion Management System (CMS) Strategy reports 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with CTDOT efforts to examine freight movements through and to the region 	
18.	Manage the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program	\$40,000

	(LOTICIP) in the Region, including application review and prioritization, and design review of proposed municipal projects	
19.	Assist CTDOT in conducting the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvement in this region	\$5,000

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

Anticipated Funding:	Contracts with Municipalities	\$170,000

Tasks:		
	Provide planning services to municipalities on a fee-for-service basis. The assistance would include advisory services to local commissions, the conduct of special studies, the updating of local plans or regulations, and GIS assistance. In FY 2020 it is anticipated that contracts for this assistance will be requested by Bozrah (2), Franklin, Lisbon, Salem, and Sprague.	

303,659

4) ANALYSIS OF SERVICES THAT COULD BE PROVIDED REGIONALLY

As stated in section 2) above, using an RPIP grant, the SCCOG completed work in FY 2018 on a Shared Services Opportunity Study for its member municipalities. The key objectives of this study was to examine current examples of shared services in the region; identify and evaluate potential impact of new shared service opportunities; and provide a process template that could be transferrable to other regions and municipalities in Connecticut. The study identified 33 existing shared arrangements where services are shared in 15 service areas. Opportunities for sharing services were examined for potential cost savings, potential service enhancement, and for potential improvement in service sustainability. Some of the opportunities for new or expanded shared service arrangements include: regional animal control; increased number of municipalities contracting with SCCOG for planning services; shared assessment operations; joint bidding for revaluation services; selling/swapping unique public works services and specialty equipment; shared marketing of recreational programs through use of a common website for registration and scheduling; sharing of training opportunities; potential formation of regional district to administer recreation functions; evaluation of alignment of municipal and board of education financial software under joint license using a common system; migration to single Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and Document Management system across the region; integrated municipal and boards of education Human Resources offices; and joint bidding/procurement of IT hardware and software. The final shared services report that was prepared by the SCCOG may be read in full at seccog.org/publications.

5) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Our first recommendation is for a stable source of funding for Councils of Governments which is important to allow us to continue to provide the programs and services that we do now, and that we might be able to do if the State and our member municipalities so requested. This includes the maintenance of Regional Service Grants at or in excess of the FY 2020 appropriation, and restoration of funding for the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP).

A second recommendation is to further clarify in state statute that Councils of Governments can provide any service regionally that its member municipalities can, whether expressly stated in statute or not. As an example, our attempt to establish a regional ethics commission was put on hold in response to our attorney's opinion that this was not expressly allowed in state statute, and therefore could pose a problem in terms of appeals taken against the findings and recommendations of a regional commission. This lack of a statute allowing COGs to perform services for its members collectively that towns can perform individually, continues to be an impediment raised when regionalization of services is discussed.