SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue

Norwich, CT 06360

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March 4th, 2025 Executive Committee

Minutes

PRESENT: In person: Cheryl Blanchard. Via Zoom: Rob Brule, Bob Carlson, John Salomone, Dan Cunningham, Tom DeVivo.

Staff (in-person): Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Dan Robinson.

1) Call to Order: Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2) Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3) Program Updates:
    a) Ms. Kennedy provided an update on discretionary grant funding applications, pending award announcements, and future grant opportunities that SECOG plans to apply for. She stated that SECOG is in the process of selecting a contractor for the SUBASE Compatible Use Plan. Ms. Kennedy shared that she will be keeping an eye on possible funding cuts to the OLDCC, which funds the CUP and the recently submitted Groton Utilities Grant. Additional applications that have been submitted include the EPA CHANGE Grant and the EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. Ms. Kennedy expressed her uncertainty about the potential for future grant awards due to changing priorities at the federal level. Staff time is fully-supported by other sources, primarily ongoing federal transportation planning formula funding and CT OPM RSG funds. She mentioned that Governor Lamont is proposing an additional $250,000 for stormwater/solid waste coordination to the COGs in the next State budget.

    Mr. Salomone inquired about shifting federal priorities and implications on SECOG's overhead and revenue streams. Ms. Kennedy assured that it will shrink the budget in that it would limit the ability to do projects with outside consultants. Overhead costs and rates would not be affected. Ms. Rattan shared that formula planning transportation funds are secured through FY 2026.

Kennedy provided an update on the Regional Performance Incentive Program grant award and stated that she would be submitting an extension to allow access to awarded funds beyond the initial three-year grant period.

4) Public Participation Plan:
    a) Ms. Rattan shared that no public comments were received on the plan as of yet, but she will present them at the March Board Meeting if any are submitted.
    MOTION: To recommend that SECOG MPO Board approve Public Participation Plan (Salomone, DeVivo). Motion passed unanimously.
5) 2025 LOTCIP Pre-Applications:
    a) Ms. Rattan provided updates on the current LOTCIP Applications in Stonington, Preston, Windham, and Waterford. She expressed that SECOG and DOT would ultimately like to see more road reconstruction projects submitted. Staff recommends all submitted projects be moved forward.
    MOTION: To recommend that SECOG MPO Board approve submission of full Applications for the proposed projects (Salomone, Carlson). Motion passed unanimously.
6) TIP Amendments
    a) Ms. Rattan summarized the relevant TIP amendments, sharing that she is holding off on recommending approval of two projects (0103-0284, 0120-0097) while she gets more information from DOT.
    MOTION: To recommend that SECOG MPO Board endorse TIP Amendments 0052-0284, 0170-3640, and 0170-5026 (DeVivo, Cunningham). Motion passed unanimously.
7) Board Attendance
    a) Ms. Kennedy expressed that the January and February meetings had relatively low attendance. She asked the committee for advice on how to boost attendance. Mr. Salomone wondered if the current legislative session, CCM meetings, and tough budget season have made people busier in January and February. Discussion as to

how to boost attendance. The committee settled upon Chairman Blanchard personally reaching out to select Board members to encourage attendance and participation at the SECOG Board meetings.

8) New Business – There was no new business to report on.
9) Potential Speakers

   Mr. Carlson recommended removing Flock Safety from the list, as they have not responded to our inquiry. America 250 has reached out to Mr. Carlson, and Mr. Salomone shared that Norwich already has a committee underway dedicated to the celebration taking place in 2026. Ms. Kennedy stated that it would be beneficial to reach out to Representative Courtney's office to reserve a speaker to talk about grant implications in the current federal funding landscape. Mr. DeVivo spoke about the ongoing Bird Flu epidemic in the United States and how it could be helpful to have a speaker share details on the issue. Mr. Salomone posited that the Health Districts could provide guidance, as well as info on their federal funding impacts. Ms. Kennedy will pursue a speaker for March who can provide a briefing on Bird Flu.
10) Next meeting: SECOG Board meeting is March 19th at 8:30 AM in person at the SECOG Office. The next SECOG Executive Committee meeting is April 1st at 9:00 AM and will be a hybrid meeting at the SECOG Office and on Zoom.
11) Adjournment:

   MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Salomone, DeVivo). Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Blanchard adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Thomas DeVivo, Secretary