SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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May 6, 2025 SECOG Executive Committee

Minutes

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

Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Dan Robinson, Emily Bigl.

1) Call to Order: Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2) Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3) Program Updates:
    a) Solid Waste: Materials Management Infrastructure Grant
        i) Ms. Bigl summarized SECOG and the Town of Windham's grant award through CT DEEP's Materials Management Infrastructure program. The award is for $425,000 to facilitate a pilot composting program in the Town of Windham. Windham will collect food waste at schools and around town, process it in an in-vessel composter at the transfer station, and then distribute it to the community. Ms. Bigl explained that this program will have a local beneficial impact for Windham, and can also be easily transferred to other SECOG municipalities.
            (1) MOTION: To add agenda item to approve receipt of grant award and allow SECOG Executive Director authorization (Brule, Cunningham). Motion passed unanimously.
            (2) MOTION: To approve receipt of grant award and allow SECOG Executive Director authorization (Brule, Cunningham). Motion passed unanimously.
    b) Amtrak: New Haven to Providence Capacity Planning Study
        i) Ms. Rattan summarized Amtrak's upcoming New Haven to Providence Capacity Planning Study. This visioning study is aiming to improve capacity,

timetables, and state of good repair for the rail corridor between New Haven and Providence. The study will be looking at improving express and regional service, as well as potential commuter rail expansions. Amtrak will host recurring meetings for municipal CEOs and legislators. Ms. Kennedy added that this study has a larger scope than previous efforts within the same general study area. Ms. Rattan stipulated that high-speed rail new alignments are not likely to appear in this study, but improvements to sidings and new high platforms will improve efficiency along the corridor.

c) Potential closure of Buckeye Fuel Terminal, Groton City

i) Ms. Kennedy summarized the state of Buckeye Fuel Terminal in the City of Groton. The heating oil system is in danger of closing. Many municipalities depend on the terminal, a network that spans across the region. CT Port Authority is in contact with the fuel terminal owners and are looking to help connect funds/grants to avoid closure. The Connecticut Energy Marketers Association is closely involved. Mr. Salomone asked how many fuel trucks in the region rely on the terminal, to which Mr. Brule replied that almost all of them do. The other closest terminals are in Providence and New Haven. Mr. Brule explained that SECOG must stay on top of this matter. Ms. Kennedy shared that she will keep in touch with Michael O'Connor at CT Port Authority and the folks at CEMA. Mr. Salomone asked about the amount of required funds to keep Buckeye operational, to which Ms. Kennedy replied that she is uncertain. Ms. Rattan added that the terminal is part of a strategic fuel reserve for emergencies. Mr. Cunningham thanked the Executive Committee for bringing this matter to attention and shared that he will be reaching out to locals involved with the terminal. Ms. Kennedy spoke about seCTer's ties to addressing the issue. Mr. Brule stated that he reached out to Senator Marx and Representative Gauthier and were given a heads up on the matter in writing.

4) 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program:
    a) UPWP
        i) Ms. Kennedy shared that the draft UPWP has been submitted to CTDOT for comment.
            (1) MOTION: To recommend that SECOG MPO Board approve draft of UPWP workplan for submission to CTDOT/FHWA (Carlson, Brule). Motion passed unanimously.
    b) Resolution – Delegation of Authority
        i) MOTION: To recommend that SECOG MPO Board approve resolution authorizing SECOG Executive Director to conduct administrative tasks related to SECOG's functions as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (Cunningham, Brule). Motion passed unanimously.
5) 5310 Funding – Senior/Disabled Transportation
    a) Ms. Kennedy stated that SECOG has a role in administering this grant. Eligible recipients are municipalities, non-profits, and for-profits (as long as they go through a transit district). Ms. Rattan explained that SECOG lost its Transportation Management Area designation in the latest census. SECOG has an obligation to score and prioritize applications to be sent to CTDOT for consideration and advancement.
        i) MOTION: To recommend that SECOG MPO Board endorse recommended prioritization of applications (Brule, Salomone). Motion passed unanimously.

6) Resolution – Amendment to Southeast CT MJ-HMCAP including SECOG-specific Annex
    a) Ms. Kennedy explained that this item is an administrative task. The annex to Southeast CT Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan is key for continuing eligibility under FEMA's BRIC program.
        i) MOTION: To recommend that SECOG Board adopt the amendment to the Southeast CT MJ-HMCAP via resolution (Brule, Carlson). Motion passed unanimously.
7) 2025-2028 TIP Amendments
    a) Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Rattan summarized the relevant TIP amendments, involving SEAT improvements, service plaza and sign and support replacements in the region, and a new study on the Mohegan Route 2A Bridge.
        i) MOTION: To recommend that SECOG MPO Board endorse the relevant TIP amendments (Brule, Salomone). Motion passed unanimously.
8) New Business – There was no new business to report on.
9) Potential Speakers

    Ms. Kennedy shared that she will be in touch with America 250 and that they will hopefully be available for May's SECOG Board meeting.
10) Next meeting: SECOG Board meeting is May 14th at 8:30 AM in person at the SECOG Office. The next SECOG Executive Committee meeting is June 3rd at 9:00 AM and will be a hybrid meeting at the SECOG Office and on Zoom.
11) Adjournment:

    MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Brule, Salomone). Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Blanchard adjourned the meeting at 9:41 AM.

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