SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Representing 22 towns, cities, and boroughs in Southeastern Connecticut.

TO: SECOG Board of Directors
FROM: Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director
DATE: October 9, 2025
SUBJECT: Monthly Executive Director's Report

1) Financial and Management Matters
   a) Grants/funding:
      i) Solid Waste: Waiting on CT DEEP decision re $65,700 SMM grant for regional food waste diversion network scenario planning analysis and roadmap.
      ii) HB 5002 (Housing Omnibus): awaiting special session. SECOG will prepare regional buildout as part of our 2027 regional plan, which can serve as municipal housing capacity study as needed. Original bill called on COGs to provide services, but also included funding to support COG work.
      iii) Yantic River Flooding: SECOG submitted a grant to FEMA in partnership with the City of Norwich for $300,000 to remove the Upper Falls Dam. Timeline of the federal review process is uncertain.
      iv) Defense: Grant contract signed with OLDCC re $5.8 million in DCIP funding to support improvements to Groton Utilities water infrastructure serving SUBASE communities. Participating in DECD-led EB partnership. Compatible Use Plan in early stages.
      v) Resilience: SECOG waiting on review of application for $200,000 from CT Trees for Communities funding for tree plantings in New London.
   b) Staffing: Taylor Lussier joined SECOG September 15th as Municipal Program Specialist (Planner 1).
   c) Conference attendance: SECOG staff have attended several conferences in the past few months, evaluating which are most useful in the long term: AAMPO (Rattan), Natl Association of Regional Councils (Kennedy), Yimbytown (Zincavage). Several staff will attend SNEAPA on November 6-7.

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2) Transportation
   a) Recreational Trails:
   b) Safety Action Plan: SECOG staff and consulting team (BETA) meeting individually with municipalities for early input. Several walk audits were held in September and October.
   c) Active Transportation Microgrant Program: CTDOT has notified SECOG that there will not be a fourth quarter round but it is anticipated that this program will return in early 2026.
   d) An information session will be held the afternoon of October 15th for municipalities that are considering submitting a new project under the round this fall. Debra/our consultants are meeting with municipalities to provide guidance.

(a) Projects Completed/Pending Closeout (CTF year: final expenditures)

(i) CTDOT conducting closeout review

1. Norwich - Dunham Street (2018: $1,693,238)
2. Waterford - Cross Road (2018: $1,871,502)

(ii) Municipality working on audit packet submission

1. New London - Ocean Avenue (2016: $1,870,505)
2. Montville - Old Colchester Road (2016: $499,769)
3. Colchester - Halls Hill Road (2018: $784,240)
4. City of Groton - Poquonnock Road (2019: $2,308,154)
5. New London - Jefferson Avenue (2019: $3,615,660)

(b) Under Construction/Punchlist and Acceptance (CTF year: CTF amount)

(i) Municipality finalizing documentation

1. Ledyard - Gallup Hill Road/Col Ledyard Highway (2022: $3,190,724)
2. Colchester - Lebanon Avenue Phase III (2023: $1,068,196)

(c) In Design/Received Commitment to Fund (CTF year: CTF amount)

(i) Municipality working on Right-of-Way submission

1. Bozrah - Fitchville Road (2022: $1,582,800)
2. New London – Williams/Broad Streets (2022: $4,088,399)
3. Preston - Poquetanuck Road Phase I (2023: $2,850,578)

4. East Lyme - East Pattagansett Road (2024: $3,329,200)
5. Lisbon – River Rd/Route 12 (2024: $3,670,400)
6. Norwich/Montville - New London Turnpike (2024: $2,910,400)

(ii) Municipality received notice to proceed with design

1. Stonington - Taugwonk Road Bridge (2025: $2,628,000)
2. New London - Vauxhall Street (2024: $4,678,380)

(d) Applications (solicitation year: estimate)

(i) SECOG preparing for endorsement

1. Stonington – Route 1 (2025: $1,141,200)
2. Waterford – Niantic River Rd (2025: $1,430,670)

(ii) Municipality developing application for submission

1. Windham – multiple sidewalk gaps (2025: $907,200)
2. Preston – Route 2A (2025: $2,723,595)

e) Senior/Disabled Vans: CTDOT selected four SE CT recipients out of the most recent round (9 requests).

f) Corridor Studies:

i) Norwich: SECOG received follow up comments on Norwich and is working to provide CTDOT with requested data.

ii) New London: CTDOT is proceeding with programming New London Route 32 recommendations.

iii) East Lyme: SECOG consultant preparing additional information requested by CTDOT.

g) Transit: SEAT and City of NL working with CTDOT re Smart Ride Funding. SECOG will advance a New London-only transit study with PL funds.

h) Freight: SECOG updating Freight Profile (existing conditions).

3) Regional Planning

a) Resilient Yantic River: Yantic River work under CIRCA's Resilient 2.0 is near complete. SECOG submitted application for SECOG & project team presented proposals for three flood risk reduction strategies- removal of the Upper Falls Dam, voluntary retreat, and river channel widening in Norwichtown. SECOG exploring funding opportunities for

project design.

b) Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (adoption 2027). SECOG developing work plan for 2026 public engagement and baseline research.

c) Housing: See above re HB 5002.

d) Regional Emergency Management: REPT CEO Council approved budgets for training, shared equipment. SECOG's Deb Pierce co-chairing revamped RESF-1, Transportation, and met with partners earlier this month. SECOG's David Cook will participate in cybersecurity RESF.

e) Stormwater: SECOG staffing stormwater collaborative.

f) Drinking Water: WUCC met 9/3 to approve service area boundary changes.

g) Human Services Coordinating Council: Will reconvene October 17.

h) Brownfields: EPA grant contract has been fully executed. DECD-funded assessment projects are nearing completion. Staff are looking into applying for next round of DECD funds.

i) Defense: Town of Groton has begun public meetings for housing work funded through SECOG OLDCC grant.

j) Watersheds: SECOG provides staff support to the Thames River Basin Partnership and hosted a meeting on September 16th.

4) Municipal Services

a) Building Code Enforcement: Working with Norwich to access after-hours emergency coverage.

b) Permitting software: Supporting Bozrah, Preston onboarding IPS permitting system.

c) GIS: With the support of state ARPA funds, SECOG is working with member town GIS contacts and consultants to improve the quality and consistency of municipal parcel/CAMA data. David Cook is working with vendors on tasks.

d) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Reconvening Friday, 10/17.