SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue
Norwich, CT 06360
(860)889-2324
secogct.gov

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

Minutes of the October 21, 2026 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Present:

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	New London	Michael Passero
Colchester	-	North Stonington	-
East Lyme	Dan Cunningham	Norwich	-
Franklin	Judi Novosad	Preston	-
Griswold	Tina Falck	Salem	Sue Spang
Jewett City	Laurie Sorder	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
City of Groton	-	Town of Stonington	-
Town of Groton	-	Stonington Borough	Michael Schefers
Lebanon	-	Waterford	R. Brule (phone)
Ledyard	Fred Allyn	Windham	Tom DeVivo
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	SEAT Rep (MPO)	Tom Sparkman
Montville	Lenny Bunnell	CT DOT Rep (MPO)	Ricky Milliner
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: Lt. Clara Berry New London SUBASE: Capt. Craig Litty, Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: Chuck Bunnell Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: Bob Hayward		

Additional Attendees: SECOG: Amanda Kennedy, Taylor Lussier, Kate Rattan, Helen Zincavage, Tyler Frost, Karen Pham, Niko Xenophontos, Dominic Anziano. Office of Rep. Courtney: Noah Carver. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver. UNCAS: Patrick McCormack. SEAT: Mike Carroll. United Way: Dina Sears-Graves. Electric Boat: Ross Gionfriddo.

1) Call to Order:
   a) The meeting was called to order by Dan Cunningham at 8:30 am.
2) Roll Call:
   a) Ms. Kennedy determined that a quorum was present.
3) Act on Minutes of the September meeting *Action Item*
   a) MOTION: To approve the September meeting minutes *(Sparkman, DeVivo)*

Motion passed unanimously.

4) Treasurer's Report: Amanda Kennedy noted that the format of the Treasurer's Report will be updated starting next month. Mayor Allyn asked about outstanding reimbursements from DEMHS.
   a) MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report *(Pianka, Sparkman) Motion passed unanimously.*
5) Communications: None
6) Public Comment: Ricky Milliner (CTDOT) highlighted several upcoming CTDOT public project informational meetings:
   a) Project 0003-0007 / 0053-0048: Route 349 bridge replacements (Groton/New London area) – Virtual meeting on October 29 at 6:00 PM.
   b) Project 0120-0097: Bridge replacement over Eight Mile River in Salem – Meeting on November 19 at 7:00 PM.
   c) Project 0058-0341: Route 6 & I-95 improvements in Groton – In-person meeting at Groton Senior Center / 55+ Living Center.
   d) Project 0058-0341 (Crosswalk Upgrades): Installation of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) across Eastern Connecticut (Groton and 4 adjacent towns) – Virtual meeting on December 8 at 6:00 PM.
7) Speaker: Helen Zincavage, Director of Regional Planning at SECOG

   Helen Zincavage provided an overview on SECOG's work on Public Act 25-1 which is divided into three distinct phases:

   Phase 1 (Data Gathering & Outreach): Initial CEO/P&Z commission visits completed for all but one municipality; second-round deep-dive outreach is currently underway, analyzing local housing data, POCDs, and current affordable housing inventory.

   Phase 2 (Regional Needs Assessment & Goal Allocation): SECOG has front-loaded the goal allocation methodology. The assessment will incorporate custom regional growth metrics (focusing on manufacturing expansion such as Electric

Boat) rather than relying solely on statewide baseline projections. Final goal recommendations will be presented to towns in March 2027.

Phase 3 (Growth Plan Elements): Drafting of regional and local annex chapters will occur through 2027–2028, leading up to final municipal and regional adoption prior to the statutory deadline.

Goal Allocation Criteria (9 Statutory + 1 Infrastructure Factor):

1. Proximity to Transit: Bus stops/routes and rail stations with spatial buffers (excluding micro-transit).
2. Proximity to Jobs: Census block jobs plus a 17.5-minute commute radius from municipal boundaries.
3. Proximity to Downtowns: Distance to state conservation/development activity centers weighted by hierarchy.
4. Developable Land: Screening out steep slopes, wetlands, floodplains, open space, brownfields, public water supply watersheds, and zoning constraints.
5. Share of Multi-Family Housing: Census baseline data for structures with 3+ units.
6. Per Capita Equalized Grand List: Derived from OPM fiscal indicators.
7. Median Income: Census income metrics.
8. Poverty Rate: Share of population below poverty line.
9. Population Share in Multi-Family Housing: Census population distribution.
10. Sewer & Water Infrastructure (Added Factor): Evaluation of wastewater service areas and treatment plant capacity constraints based on capacity study (update in progress).

8) Committee and Liaison Reports
   a) Executive Committee
      i) Minutes

b) Legislative Committee - A meeting will be scheduled for November (via Teams) Members were asked to submit legislative requests to Taylor Lussier for consolidation.

c) Tribal Liaison Representatives:

   i) Bob Hayward reported that the Joint Healthcare Center project with Hartford HealthCare is moving forward on schedule with building enclosure underway. David Burke's reopening is set for November 6 following complete renovations. Starbucks drive-thru facility is taking over the former Burger King location on Route 2.

   ii) Chuck Bunnell reported on the Mohegan Sun 30th Anniversary events continue. The Preston Riverwalk property closing and key exchange for the Preston land is set for November 5.

d) Military Command Representatives:

   i) Lt. Clara Berry reported on the Community Day and football game is on Saturday, October 31 (costume parade and food trucks); theatrical production of Arsenic and Old Lace on November 6.

   ii) Capt. Craig Litty reported on Pier 31 construction remains on track for Block V Virginia-class submarines; Pier 8 extension and demolition of older waterfront piers planned next. Groundbreaking held for Groton Sail Memorial Park. "Red, White, & Bundled" drive distributed infant supplies to military families.

e) Congressional Office Reports: Noah Carver reported on the U.S. House of Representatives returns to session November 9 (continuing resolution funding through December 11). Connecticut received $75M in federal assistance funds. Major defense contracts awarded to regional submarine supply chain vendors.

f) seCTer: Paul Whitescarver reported on Eastern CT Defense Industry Partnership active across four working groups (Housing, Childcare, Transportation, Supply Chain- SECOG leads housing and transportation). Electric Boat has hired approximately 6,500 employees so far in 2026. Annual Meeting scheduled for

December 9 featuring Bruce Katz.

g) Eastern CT Tourism District- none

h) SEAT: Mike Carroll reported on recorded ~90,000 boardings in September. Severe driver shortages and absenteeism continue to strain operations. Received 6 new gasoline cutaway buses. New battery electric bus ops/admin facility in Preston is at 90% design.

i) Regional Water Committee - none

j) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Amanda Kennedy noted that annual MOA documents are being dispatched electronically via DocuSign by Grants Administrator Niko Xenophontos for chief executive signatures.

k) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Dina Sears-Graves reported on preparing annual work plan for the RHSCC. Provided guidance on prescreening resources for upcoming federal Medicaid and Husky D work requirement changes via MedicaidMattersCT.org.

l) Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition - none

m) Health Districts: Patrick McCormack reported on the following:

i) PFAS Water Testing: DPH monitoring schedule active for public water systems; up to 30% of well-served public schools could hit action level triggers requiring future mitigation by 2029.

ii) Housing & Relocation Issues: Reports of failed heating systems in winter rentals and concerns over state homelessness programs housing clients in unpermitted or condemned units. SECOG staff is developing educational guidance on municipal responsibilities under the Uniform Relocation Assistance Act ($4,800 cap per household).

iii) Outdoor Oil Tanks: Noted environmental hazard risks and severe property lien liabilities ($150k–$200k) resulting from leaking residential heating oil tanks.

n) Solid Waste Committee: Hybrid meeting scheduled for November 3 at 8:30 AM to discuss legislative priorities and solid waste hauling updates.

o) Affordable Housing Goal Policy Committee: (September Minutes) See above re 25-1.

9) New Business:

a) FY2027 Safety Performance Target Measures Resolution

Kate Rattan reviewed proposed calendar year 2027 transportation safety performance targets aligned with CTDOT statewide targets:

i) Fatalities: 270 (Fatality Rate: 0.85 per 100M VMT)

ii) Serious Injuries: 1,300 (Serious Injury Rate: 4.30 per 100M VMT)

iii) Non-Motorist Fatalities & Serious Injuries: 280

MOTION: To approve FY2027 Safety Performance Target Measures *(DeVivo, Sparkman) Motion passed unanimously.*

b) TIP amendments

ID	Title
0113-0114	POQUETANUCK HERITAGE TRAIL
0152-0164	REPLACE COMPUTERIZED TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM
0170-3806	REPLACE VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS
0170-3818	INSTALL NEW VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS
0414-0073CN	CTDOT/SEAT – FACILITY MODERNIZATION & DEPLOYMENT OF BEBS
0474-0106	CTDOT/WRTD FACILITY REHAB/EXPANSION - LOW-NO DISC

MOTION: To approve of the TIP amendments (Allyn, Scheffers) *Motion passed unanimously.*

10) Executive Director's Report

Amanda Kennedy reported on the following:

a) Staff Certifications: Phylicia Adams achieved CDBG Administrator certification to assist local small cities housing programs.

b) Solar Energy Initiative: SolSmart cohort webinar scheduled for November 2 to assist towns with solar zoning/policy guidance.

c) Financial Recovery: DEHMHS rendered full payment of $20,000 for outstanding hazard mitigation planning fees.

d) Grant Submissions: Submitted $7.5M PROTECT discretionary grant application for regional transportation resilience and hazard mitigation planning. Supported City of Norwich $2M grant submission for Yantic River flood mitigation.

e) Municipal Services: Hired Dan Coley as part-time building inspector for municipal

vacation/emergency coverage.

f) Rail & Corridor Meetings: Amtrak capacity study meeting scheduled for November 5 at Fresh 55; CTDOT Project 5341 informational meeting scheduled for December 10.

11) CEO Roundtable: Tabled due to time constraints.

12)Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th, 2026, at 8:30 AM.

13) Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 AM.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting *(DeVivo, Sparkman) Motion passed unanimously.*