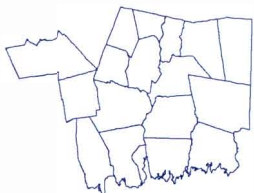


# ANNUAL REPORT 2009

## Member Municipalities:

- Bozrah
- Colchester
- East Lyme
- Franklin
- Griswold
- City of Groton
- Town of Groton
- Ledyard
- Lisbon
- Montville
- New London
- North Stonington
- Norwich
- Preston
- Salem
- Sprague
- Stonington
- Borough of Stonington
- Voluntown
- Waterford



## INTRODUCTION

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments was formed in the fall of 1992. The Council succeeded its predecessor agency, The Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (SCRPA), which had been in its existence since 1961. It was created through the adoption of membership ordinances by the towns, cities, and boroughs within the Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region. The Council is a governmental agency, formed and operating under the provisions of Sections 4-124i through 4-124p of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Council's mission is to provide a basis for inter-

governmental cooperation for a wide range of issues facing southeastern Connecticut.

This annual report reviews activities of the Council during calendar year 2009 and provides financial information on the fiscal year ending 30 June 2009.

For the latest news and information about SCCOG's programs, projects, meeting agendas & minutes, publications, newsletters and links to its member towns, visit us on the web at [www.seccog.org](http://www.seccog.org).

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The policy board of the SCCOG consists of the municipal chief elected officials from the twenty member municipalities. Additionally, the Regional Planning Commission, which functions as a sub-unit of the Council, is composed of one representative from the planning commission of each member municipality. As authorized by statutes, some municipalities also have appointed alternates to the Council and Commission. The Council has amended its bylaws to provide for the participation on a non-voting basis of liaison representatives from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes, Submarine Group Two/Naval Region Northeast, and the Coast Guard Academy.

In addition to the Regional Planning Commission, the Council has formed several standing committees and, as needed, may form ad hoc committees. Currently, a staff of eight supports the work of the Council, its committees, and the Planning Commission. In December, 2009, the staff consisted of an executive director, an assistant director, three planners, the director of the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance, an executive secretary and a GIS coordinator.

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### TRANSPORTATION:

The Council is the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for purposes of carrying out the regional transportation system planning and programming required under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

During this past year, staff began to prepare the Regional Transportation Plan for FY 2011-2040. The latest Regional Transportation Plan (2007-2035) addresses a variety of new issues required by SAFETEA-LU, as well as previously identified needs such as Route 11, I-95, and regional transit improvements.

In October 2009, the SCCOG adopted the FY 2010-

2013 Transportation Improvement Program for the region.

The Council is a member of and provides staff assistance to the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission. This commission, created by state statute, is charged with establishing standards for the development of a greenway which is integral to the Route 11 project. The Commission met monthly during the past year. In October 2006, the Commission acquired its first property, located in Salem. Additional parcels in Waterford, Montville and East Lyme have since been acquired. During 2009, the mission of the Greenway Authority Commission shifted toward constructing a bike/pedestrian facility. SCCOG initiated a STIP/TIP project for \$150,000, has selected a consultant to support this

## SCCOG MEMBERS:

**Bozrah:**  
William Ballinger

**Colchester:**  
Gregg Schuster

**East Lyme:**  
Paul Formica

**Franklin:**  
Richard Matters, Treasurer

**Griswold:**  
Philip Anthony, Jr.

**City of Groton:**  
Dennis Popp

**Town of Groton:**  
James Streeter  
Mark Oefinger, Town Mgr.

**Ledyard:**  
Fred Allyn, Jr.

**Lisbon:**  
Thomas Sparkman, V. Chair

**Montville:**  
Joseph Jaskiewicz, Chairman

**New London:**  
Rob Pero  
Martin Berliner, City Mgr.

**North Stonington:**  
Nicholas Mullane

**Norwich:**  
Peter Nystrom  
Alan Bergren, City Manager

**Preston:**  
Robert Congdon

**Salem:**  
Kevin Lyden

**Sprague:**  
Catherine Osten

**Stonington:**  
Ed Haberek, Jr.

**Borough of Stonington:**  
Donald Maranell

**Voluntown:**  
Ronald Millovitsch

**Waterford:**  
Daniel Steward

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

**Mashantucket Pequot Tribe:**  
Rodney Butler, Chairman  
William Satti, Dir. Public Affairs

**Mohegan Tribe:**  
Lynn Malerba, Chairman  
Chuck Bunnell, Chief of Staff

**U.S. Naval Submarine Base**  
CAPT Marc Denno  
Robert Yust, P.E.

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy**  
RADM J. Scott Burhoe  
LTCDR Camilla Bosanquet

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

effort, and is now awaiting approval of its contract with the State for funding.

This past year, SCCOG continued to support the efforts of the towns of Preston, Ledyard, Groton and the City of Groton in creating a multi-purpose trail connecting Bluff Point State Park in Groton with Green Memorial Park in Preston. The committee working on this project produced a master plan prepared by a consultant whose contract was managed by SCCOG staff.

Council staff provides continuing planning support to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) and to the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC). During the past year, SCCOG staff assisted SEAT by providing a GIS analysis of potential future bus stops.

Council staff continued to assist the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board in managing the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program, a multi-region system for providing transportation to individuals on welfare that are seeking jobs, job training, and day care services for their children. During the 12-month period from October 2008 through September 2009, a total of 314,288 trips were supported by this system. This represents a reduction from the previous year which is explained by a 3-month suspension of the program due to state budgetary difficulties.

Staff continues to work on a Locally Coordinated Health and Social Services Plan (LOCHSTP) which brings together the JARC, 5310 and New Freedoms Federal Transportation Programs. In 2009, three SCCOG municipalities (Colchester, Town of Groton, East Lyme), and the Eastern CT Transportation Consortium (ECTC) all received cash grants under the 5310 program to purchase new vans to transport elderly and disabled persons.

During this calendar year, SCCOG staff has been continuing to work with the Norwich Clean Cities Coalition.

The Council maintains and regularly updates a variety of information and statistics related to the region's transportation system. SCCOG staff maintains a regional Geographic Information System (GIS). In 2009, SCCOG initiated the creation of a web-based GIS for the region, using a Regional Performance Incentive Program grant from OPM in the amount of \$287,430. The regional GIS is expected to be up and running in December 2009.

In August 2008, SCCOG initiated a \$750,000 ConnDOT funded study of the Union Station/Regional Intermodal Transportation Center in New London. This study is being managed by SCCOG and should be completed in early 2010. The study will result in a plan to improve both the physical and operational connections between the various

modes of transportation. During 2009, the Steering Committee overseeing the study met three times with SCCOG's consultant, and held one public informational meeting.

During 2009, SCCOG staff continued participating on the local planning advisory committee for the updating of the Groton-New London Airport Master Plan. The current plan was developed in 1998. The plan will consist of four working papers that will take approximately eighteen months to be completed. The committee met to hear a presentation on working paper #2 entitled Demand/Capacity and Facility Requirements. These papers will be combined with recommended and approved changes to form the draft Master Plan, which will be reviewed and developed into the final report and airport layout plan. The plan will cover a 20-year period through the year 2028. Detailed information on the plan update process can be found at the airport master plan update website at <http://www.groton-newlondonairport-ampu.org>.

In December 2009, SCCOG staff began participating on an Advisory Committee for the Multi-Modal Study for the Mystic Seaport Area. A Congressional earmark is funding this study, which will consider options to aid vehicular and pedestrian movement, ease traffic congestion, investigate off-street parking options, capitalize on regional intermodal transportation options, and enhance the experience of visitors to Mystic.

In 2009, The SCCOG prioritized "shovel ready" transportation projects in the region, which would be forwarded to ConnDOT for the application of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, also called stimulus funding. SCCOG municipalities submitted 14 projects totaling more than \$57 million for consideration in applying the \$6.75 million stimulus funds available to the southeastern region. This list was then narrowed down based on adherence to ARRA funding criteria with six projects submitted to ConnDOT, including the Town of Groton's Mystic Streetscape project, the Town of Stonington Mystic Streetscape project, Waterford's Route 32/Lathrop Road project, New London's Phase I Montauk Avenue project, the City of Groton's Bridge Street Streetscape project, and Montville's Old Colchester Road Bridge project which was partially funded. Subsequently, the State funded the Stonington project out of another pot of stimulus funds, allowing the Montville project to be totally funded. In the summer of 2009, SCCOG approved of STIP/TIP amendments applying additional STP Urban funds in the amount of \$1.2 million to the Waterford and New London projects to account for refined cost estimates.

## REGIONAL PLANNING:

The 2002 SCCOG Housing analysis led to the creation of the Blue Ribbon Housing Initiatives Panel

(BRHIP). The BRHIP became the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance (SECHA) in 2006, and a full-time staff person was hired to assist the SECHA board in carrying out its work. In 2007, SCCOG and SECHA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement, and, since that time, this staff person has been a SCCOG employee, demonstrating SCCOG's commitment to seeing more affordable housing built in the region. SECHA endeavors to work with the region's municipalities to enable creation of both multi-family and single-family affordable housing stock. In 2009, the SECHA Director worked with several SCCOG municipalities on the preparation of Incentive Housing Zones. She also worked with the City of New London on the implementation of that municipality's Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

SCCOG continued its emergency management planning efforts during the year as a participant in the DEMHS Region 4 emergency management process. Working under a Memorandum of Understanding between SCCOG, NECCOG and WINCOG, and using funding from a FY 2008 Homeland Security grant, a three-COG region Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT), chaired by Lisbon First Selectman Thomas Sparkman, adopted a spending plan for projects totaling \$792,050 in federal emergency management funding for eastern Connecticut. The Spending Plan was based on a SWOT Analysis which determined the three COG region's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats for emergency management. The SWOT Analysis was prepared by Region's 4 emergency providers working together on committees called Regional Emergency Support Functions (RESFs). In addition, in November 2009, the Region 4 REPT adopted a Regional Emergency Support Plan for transmittal to the Commissioner of DEMHS.

A \$22,000 grant was received from OPM to prepare GIS maps of sewer service areas in 11 SCCOG municipalities. SCCOG created this mapping for the towns of Colchester, East Lyme, Griswold, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich, Preston, Sprague, Stonington, and Waterford.

During the year, the SCCOG adopted a Policy on Regional Water Supply. In general, the SCCOG's policy is to work with constituent municipalities and tribal governments, taking a more active, pragmatic role in responding to regional water supply needs. In June, the SCCOG voted unanimously to form a reconstituted SCCOG Regional Water Committee, to which it invited participation from the region's three major municipal water utilities, the region's two tribal water utilities, the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA), and SCCOG chief elected officials interested in this issue. To date, the Regional Water Committee has met four times and has adopted a mission statement.

In 2009, SCCOG staff drafted a Transportation Plan for the Town of Montville, to be used as an element in their Plan of Conservation and Development.

In November 2008, SCCOG staff began participating

in the 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) of the U.S. Census Bureau. Following Census Bureau guidelines, staff will review and, in consultation with local officials, suggest modifications to the geographic boundaries for census tracts, block groups, and census designated places for reporting data from the 2010 census. The American Community Survey and other Census Bureau programs may also report data for these statistical areas following the 2010 Census.

The Council's Regional Planning Commission Reference Committee and staff reviewed 60 referrals (through November 18th) for member municipalities during the year.

#### OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES :

SCCOG continued to participate in the activities of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB). The EWIB is governed by a 35-member Board of Directors appointed by member towns' chief elected officials and oversees a network of workforce related programs and agencies.

SCCOG worked throughout 2009 with the region's legislative delegation. The repair of the State's tax system, funding for education and funding from the Mashantucket Pequot Fund were the most important issues discussed.

In January 2009, the SCCOG held separate meetings with both Congressman Joe Courtney and Senator Chris Dodd to discuss the Federal Stimulus package.

During 2009, the SCCOG adopted a resolution authorizing a "sister region" agreement with the District of Lixia, City of Jinan, Shandong Province, of the People's Republic of China.

In 2009, SCCOG member and Salem First Selectman Bob Ross was appointed by the Governor as the Director of the State Office of Military Affairs.

In the fall of 2009, the SCCOG voted to amend its Bylaws to restructure the role of the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). The RPC will now meet, at a minimum, once annually and as needed to convene the voluntary process for pre-application review of proposed projects of regional significance as required by PA No. 09-165. Staff will now conduct the reviews and comment upon the other referrals required by State statute, under SCCOG Executive Committee oversight.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE :

In FY 2009-2010, technical assistance to local land use commissions is being provided under contract to Bozrah (2), Franklin, Lisbon, Sprague, and Volun-town.

#### R P C M E M B E R S .

##### **Bozrah:**

Seymour Adelman

##### **Colchester:**

James Ford, Secretary  
Stacey Brown

##### **East Lyme:**

Christopher Sandford  
Luane Lange

##### **Franklin:**

Calli Carboni  
Peg Ayer

##### **Griswold:**

Martin McKinney  
Robert Parrette

##### **City of Groton:**

David Rose  
Hubert Poppe

##### **Town of Groton:**

Peter Roper  
James Sherrard

##### **Ledyard:**

Mike Cherry  
John Phetteplace

##### **Lisbon:**

John Dempsey, Jr.  
Lawrence Alice

##### **Montville:**

Robert Baron, Chairman  
Bart Ferrante, Jr.

##### **New London:**

Mark Christiansen

##### **North Stonington:**

Elaine Boissevain

##### **Norwich:**

Arthur Sharron, Vice Chair  
Richard Morell

##### **Preston:**

Thomas Fenton

##### **Salem:**

Richard Dalkowski  
David Bingham

##### **Stonington:**

Paul Holland

##### **Stonington Borough:**

Lissa vanDyke

##### **Waterford:**

Edwin Maguire  
Thomas Ward

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 Council of Governments**

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 Fax: 860-889-1222  
 Email: office@seccog.org  
 www.seccog.org

**SCCOG Staff:**

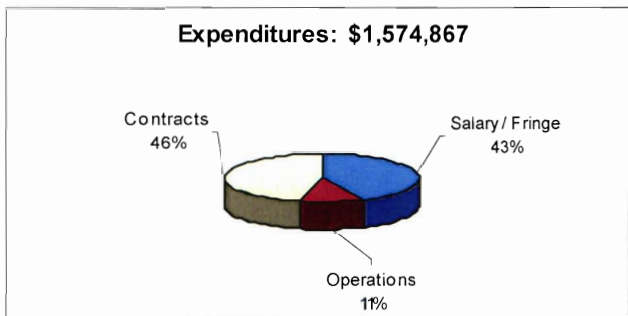
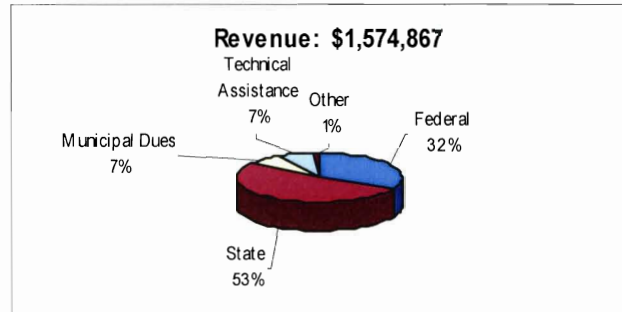
- James S. Butler, AICP  
 Executive Director
- Richard Guggenheim  
 Assistant Director
- James Rabbitt, AICP  
 Planner III
- Thomas Seidel  
 Planner III
- Richard Serra  
 Planner III
- Wendy Leclair  
 Executive Secretary
- Claudia Tamayo  
 GIS Coordinator
- Jane Dauphinais  
 Director of SECHA

Financed with Grants from the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management and Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and with funds provided by member Municipalities of the SCCOG

## FINANCING

During FY 2009, the Council operated its program with a combination of funds from a variety of sources. Member municipalities contributed toward the support of the Council at the per capita rate of \$0.50. The charts below summarize both revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year.

### OPERATING BUDGET, 1 JULY 2008 — 30 JUNE 2009



Based on independent audit by Albert J. Rusilowicz, CPA. Copies of the FY 2009 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office.