

OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES CONTINUED:

In November, the SCCOG responded to a request from the Montville Town Council and voted to create a Regional Ethics Commission. Member towns can elect to join or not join the ethics process created, and any finding made is advisory only and sanctions can only be imposed by the appropriate municipal authority.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

In FY 2012-2013, technical assistance to local land use commissions is being provided under contract to Bozrah (2), Franklin, Lisbon, Sprague and the Borough of Stonington. GIS assistance is being provided to Franklin and Griswold.

Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

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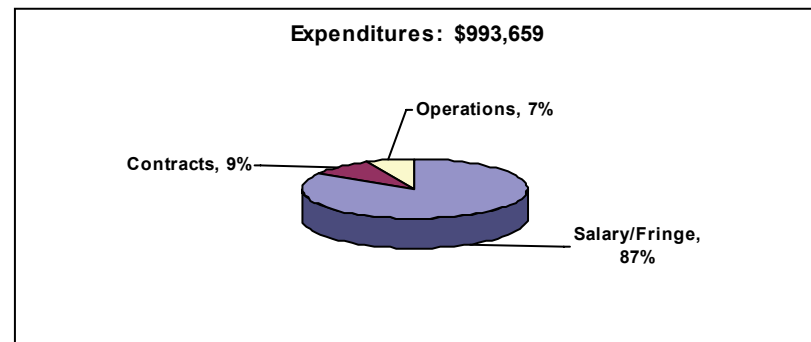
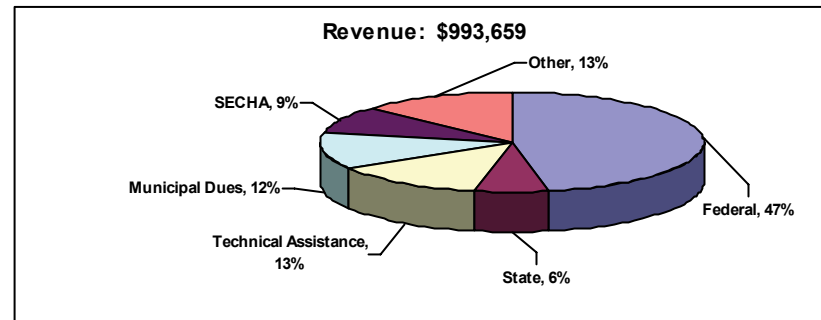
- James S. Butler, AICP
Executive Director
- Richard Guggenheim
Assistant Director
- James Rabbitt, AICP
Planner III
- Thomas Seidel
Planner III
- Richard Serra
Planner III
- Wendy Leclair
Executive Secretary
- Liz Crutcher
GIS Coordinator
- Nancy MacMillan
Director of SECHA

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 2012, 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 \$0.55. The charts below summarize both revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year.

OPERATING BUDGET, 1 JULY 2011—30 JUNE 2012



Based on independent audit by Albert J. Rusilowicz, CPA. Copies of the FY 2012 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office.

ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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
- Bor. 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 2012 and provides financial information on the fiscal year ending 30 June 2012.

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.

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 U.S. 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, 2012, 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). This Federal Act was replaced by Moving Ahead For Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). In 2012, SCCOG was designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) due to a 2010 Census figure of more than 250,000 population in the region.

needs such as Route 11, I-95, and regional transit improvements. In 2012, SCCOG worked toward Plan implementation.

In 2012, SCCOG approved 27 amendments and 14 actions to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) 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 bike-pedway/greenway which is integral to the Route 11 project. The Commission met three times during the past year. The Greenway Commission's main focus is now directed toward assisting the State in moving forward with completing the Environmental Impact Study including dev-

SCCOG adopted the FY 2011-2040 Regional Transportation Plan in April, 2011. The Regional Transportation Plan addresses a variety of new issues required by Federal law, as well as previously identified

SCCOG MEMBERS:

Bozrah:
William Ballinger, Secretary

Colchester:
Gregg Schuster

East Lyme:
Paul Formica, Vice Chair

Franklin:
Richard Matters

Griswold:
Philip Anthony, Jr.

City of Groton:
Marian Galbraith

Town of Groton:
Heather Somers
Mark Oefinger, Town Mgr.

Ledyard:
John Rodolico

Lisbon:
Thomas Sparkman

Montville:
Ron McDaniel

New London:
Daryl Finizio

North Stonington:
Nicholas Mullane

Norwich:
Peter Nystrom
Alan Bergren, City Manager

Preston:
Robert Congdon

Salem:
Kevin Lyden, Treasurer

Sprague:
Catherine Osten

Stonington:
Ed Haberek, Jr.

Borough of Stonington:
Paul Burgess

Voluntown:
Ronald Millovitsch

Waterford:
Daniel Steward, Chairman

A F F I L I A T E
M E M B E R S :

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

Mohegan Tribe:
Bruce Bozsum, Chairman
Chuck Bunnell, Chief of Staff

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

U.S. Coast Guard Academy
RADM Sandra Stosz
LTCDR Anna Hickey

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

eloping a financial and environmental mitigation plan.

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.

Council staff provides continuing planning support to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) and to the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC).

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, 2011 through September, 2012, a total of 372,012 trips were supported by this system. This represents an increase from the previous year which is explained by a leveling in funding for the program.

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.

During this calendar year, SCCOG staff has been continuing to work with the Norwich Clean Cities Coalition on acquiring new clean fuel vehicles and the establishment of CNG fueling stations in the region.

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 2012, SCCOG continued the development of a web-based GIS for the region which was created using a Regional Performance Incentive Program grant from OPM in the amount of \$287,430.

During 2012, SCCOG solicited proposals from the regions' municipalities for potential projects to be funded under the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program (TE). SCCOG reviewed and ranked the projects forwarding a total of three and a fourth back-up to CONNDOT for consideration. In order of priority these projects were:

1. Town of Ledyard: Bluff Point to Preston, Tri-Town Trail, Northern Section
2. City of Groton: Shennecossett Road, Multi-Use Pathway Link
3. City of New London: Martime Museum at Union Station (Phase I)

At the end of the year, SCCOG learned that due to the new MAP-21 legislation, available funding for these projects along with CONNDOT's refinement of project costs, could require SCCOG to re-order its priorities.

During 2012, SCCOG issued a solicitation for eligible projects to be funded under the Federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ). A total of 10 projects statewide were selected for advancement. Of those, a \$2 million proposal for a natural gas fueling station by the City of Norwich was selected by CONNDOT to be advanced. The scoping process for that project is presently underway to determine its feasibility.

During 2010, SCCOG aggressively initiated its STP-U Program under SAFETEA-LU. This program annually provides approximately \$3 million in federal funds to the region for municipalities to use for transportation improvement projects. A total of 11 projects in 7 municipalities were selected by SCCOG for funding under this program that year. During 2012, SCCOG worked with CONNDOT's Project Development staff to see projects from its 2010 solicitation advanced.

In November 2012, SCCOG issued a third solicitation for local transportation improvement projects to be funded under the STP-U Program. The objective of the solicitation is to develop a set of viable projects that can be programmed into FY 2015-2016. This will afford SCCOG the option for advancing projects programmed for future years earlier in the event that there is slippage in projects presently being advanced.

In May, SCCOG staff participated in a statewide "Bike to Work" event by organizing two (2) "Bike to Work" venues; one in Norwich at the new Intermodal Transportation Center and one in New London at Union Station. Food, prizes and gifts were given out to those who participated.

SCCOG annually conducts a solicitation for projects federally funded under the Local Road Accident Reduction Program. This funding source allows municipalities to correct structural deficiencies on local roads not on the federal aid system where a link can be demonstrated between the deficiency and recorded accidents.

SCCOG also annually solicits for projects under the Federal Transit Administration 5310 Program which provides capital funds to public and private non-profit agencies for handicapped-accessible vans and buses. During 2012, the Towns of Ledyard, Montville, Sprague, and Waterford along with the City of New London all received one vehicle each under this program.

During 2012, although not implemented, SCCOG

staff worked to assist SEAT in seeing a shuttle from Norwich to Foxwoods restored.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

The Southeastern CT Housing Alliance (SECHA), formed in 2006, employs as its Director a SCCOG staff member pursuant to an MOA between the two agencies, and demonstrating the SCCOG's commitment to affordable housing. SECHA highlights in 2012 included: redesign of the Alliance website at www.secha.org; provision of an historic tax credits workshop; organization of a regional housing forum held at the Mohegan Sun; the award to SECHA and the Eastern CT Association of Realtors (ECAR) of a \$5,000 grant from the National Association of Realtors, which will be matched by an ECAR grant of an additional \$2,000, to perform a Workforce Housing Needs Survey; and the award to SECHA of \$10,000 in funds from the Interest on Real Estate Brokers Trust Account for use toward operational expenses.

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 2010 Homeland Security grant, a three-COG region Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT), chaired by Lisbon First Selectman Thomas Sparkman, adopted a spending plan for the fiscal year.

During the year, SCCOG's Regional Water Committee, including participation from the region's three major municipal water utilities, and the Mohegan Tribal Utility continued work on its Regional Water Plan. One of the keys to this plan is the East Lyme-New London regional water project, which SCCOG has endorsed, and on which work toward implementation began this year. In 2012, the SCCOG also retained a consultant to prepare an emergency response plan and permit applications needed to implement the regional water supply response plan.

In 2011, the SCCOG worked with seCTer to update the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). This document was endorsed by the SCCOG and adopted by seCTer in November, and was accepted by EDA in December. In 2012, seCTer, with the SCCOG's support, requested that EDA designate Southeastern Connecticut as an Economic Development District (EDD). A response from EDA is pending.

The SCCOG formed a Regional Human Services Coordinating Council in 2011. The Council, which functions as a special committee of the SCCOG, met several times this past year, including meeting with Congressman Courtney to discuss the future of federal funding for social service programs. The Council is co-chaired by TVCCA Executive Director Deborah Monahan and Chuck Seeman, President of UCFS.

The SCCOG Regional Human Services Coordinating Council held an information session for SCCOG mem-

bers in April.

On October 24th, SCCOG was notified by FEMA that the Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved. Franklin, Norwich and the Mohegan Tribe have adopted resolutions approving of the Plan, making them eligible for FEMA mitigation funding. All other SCCOG municipalities and tribal nations should also adopt resolutions making them eligible for this source of funding.

SCCOG staff prepared formal comments for submission on the State's Plan of Conservation and Development for submission to OPM. These were approved by the SCCOG Executive Committee. OPM will submit a draft of the State's Plan to the Continuing Legislative Committee on State Planning and Development which will hold a legislative public hearing in February 2013 after which the General Assembly considers the final draft State Plan for adoption during the 2013 session.

SCCOG staff reviewed 43 legislatively required referrals in 2012 (through November 26th) for member municipalities during the year.

OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES:

During 2012, eight education training sessions were presented at the SCCOG offices in Norwich for members of municipal land use commissions. In the spring five sessions were presented by the UConn Community and Natural Resources Planning Program staff dealing with economic development, community character, town planning, subdivision design and utilization of CLEAR web tools. In the fall, three sessions sponsored by the Last Green Valley's sustainable communities program, were presented by UConn CLEAR's Land Use Academy staff concerning legal responsibilities of land use boards, roles and responsibilities of land use commissioners, and map reading and low impact development. These educational training sessions help new and existing members of land use commissions, municipal staff, and citizens interested in learning more about land use issues in their community.

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.

In November 2010, a HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant in the amount of \$225,000 was awarded to a consortium consisting of SCCOG, SECHA, WINCOG, NECCOG and EWIB, one of only 45 such grants awarded in the country. Work began on this project in 2011 and continued this past year. The firm of Fitzgerald & Halliday is assisting the consortium with this project.

RPC MEMBERS:

Bozrah:
Seymour Adelman

Colchester:
James Ford
Stacey Brown

East Lyme:
Christopher Sandford
Luane Lange

Franklin:
Calli Carboni
Peg Ayer

Griswold:
Martin McKinney

City of Groton:
David Rose
Hubert Poppe

Town of Groton:
Peter Roper
James Sherrard

Ledyard:
Mike Cherry, Vice Chair
John Phetteplace

Lisbon:
John Dempsey, Jr.
Lawrence Alice

Montville:
Robert Baron
Bart Ferrante, Jr.

New London:
Mark Christiansen, Secy.

North Stonington:
Elaine Boissevain

Norwich:
Arthur Sharron, Chair
Richard Morell

Preston:
Thomas Fenton

Salem:
David Bingham

Stonington:
Paul Holland

Stonington Borough:
David Atkinson

Waterford:
Edwin Maguire
Thomas Ward