

OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES— CONTINUED

governs EWIB activities are Stonington First Selectman Ed Haberek, Franklin First Selectman Rich Matters, and Lisbon First Selectman Tom Sparkman.

Assistant Director Dick Guggenheim and Senior Planner Tom Seidel both retired in the summer of 2013 after more than 40 years of service to the agency. Both will stay on staff, working half-time.



L to R, Kevin Lyden, Dick Guggenheim, Jim Butler, Paul Formica, Tom Seidel, Dan Steward

**Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments**

5 Connecticut Avenue  
Norwich, CT 06360

Phone: 860-889-2324  
Fax: 860-889-1222  
Email: office@seccog.org  
www.seccog.org

**SCCOG Staff:**

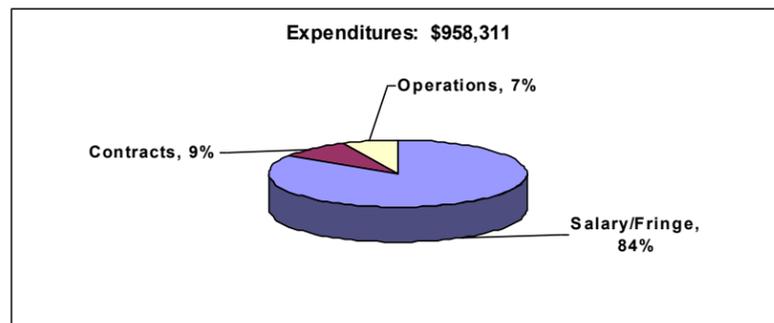
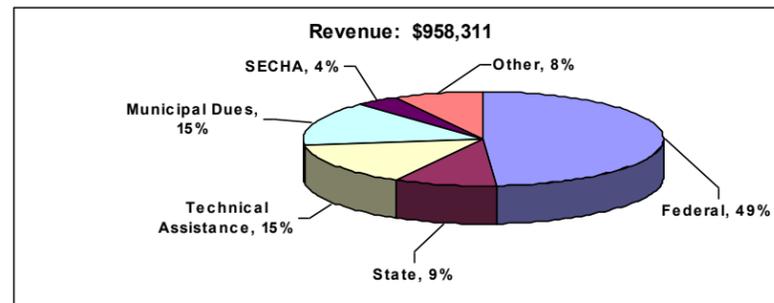
- James S. Butler, AICP  
Executive Director
- Richard Guggenheim  
Assistant Director
- James Rabbitt, AICP  
Planner III
- Thomas Seidel  
Planner III
- Richard Serra  
Planner III
- Wendy Leclair  
Executive Secretary
- Liz Crutcher  
GIS Coordinator

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 2013, 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 2012—30 JUNE 2013



Based on independent audit by Albert J. Rusilowicz, CPA. Copies of the FY 2013 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office and at www.seccog.org.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013



**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 2013 and provides financial information on the fiscal year ending 30 June 2013.

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 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 seven supports the work of the Council, its committees, and the Planning Commission. In December, 2013, the staff consisted of an executive director, an assistant director, three planners, 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 Federal Transportation Act entitled, 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 for the urbanized area of more than 250,000 population in the region which included a portion of Westerly, Rhode Island.

In 2013, SCCOG approved 89 amendments and 32 actions to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region, up from 27 amendments and 14 actions the previous year.

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 developing a financial and environmental mitigation plan.

SCCOG adopted the FY 2011-2040 Regional Transportation Plan in April, 2011. The Regional Transportation Plan addresses a variety of issues required by Federal law, as well as previously identified needs such as Route 11, I-95, and regional transit improvements. In 2013, SCCOG worked toward Plan implementation.

## SCCOG MEMBERS:

**Bozrah:**  
William Ballinger, Treasurer

**Colchester:**  
Gregg Schuster

**East Lyme:**  
Paul Formica, Chairman  
Mark Nickerson (Alt)

**Franklin:**  
Richard Matters

**Griswold:**  
Kevin Skulczyk

**City of Groton:**  
Marian Galbraith, Secretary

**Town of Groton:**  
Heather Somers  
Mark Oefinger (Alt)

**Ledyard:**  
John Rodolico

**Lisbon:**  
Thomas Sparkman

**Montville:**  
Ron McDaniel

**New London:**  
Daryl Finizio  
Michael Passero (Alt)

**North Stonington:**  
Nicholas Mullane

**Norwich:**  
Deb Hinchey  
Alan Bergren (Alt)

**Preston:**  
Robert Congdon

**Salem:**  
Kevin Lyden, Vice Chairman

**Sprague:**  
Catherine Osten  
Denise Dembinski (Alt)

**Stonington:**  
Ed Haberek, Jr.

**Borough of Stonington:**  
Jeffrey Callahan  
Michael Blair (Alt)

**Voluntown:**  
Robert Sirpenski

**Waterford:**  
Daniel Steward, Chairman

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

**Mashantucket Pequot Tribe:**  
Rodney Butler, Chairman  
William Satti (Alt)

**Mohegan Tribe:**  
Kevin Brown, Chairman  
Chuck Bunnell (Alt)

**U.S. Naval Submarine Base**  
CAPT Carl Lahti  
Robert Yust, P.E. (Alt)

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy**  
RADM Sandra Stosz  
LTCDR Brooke Millard (Alt)

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

Council staff provides continuing planning support to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) and to the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC). During the past year, at SCCOG's and SEAT member municipalities' request, the State of Connecticut took control of the management of the SEAT system.

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, 2012 through September, 2013, a total of 530,467 trips were supported by this system. This represents a significant increase from the previous year's total which was 372,012.

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 2013, SCCOG continued the development of a web-based GIS for the region.

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 2013, 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 January 2013, SCCOG approved of an increase in FY 2013 funding for the Willets Avenue repaving project in Waterford from \$267,834 to \$648,860.

Due to holes in the programming of STP-U funds available to SCCOG, the Council voted in April of 2013 to add a Safety and Operational Improvement project for Route 82 in Norwich to its STP-U program. This project was originally estimated to have a total cost of \$3,914,200 and will be phased over several years where STP-U funds are available. During the year, SCCOG staff worked with CONNDOT and City of Norwich staff to further refine this project and its costs.

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.

During the year just ended, the General Assembly adopted legislation creating a new program that will alter both the source of funds available for transportation improvements as well as the process for implementing them. The program, called "LOTICIP" (Local Transportation Capital Improvements Program) will provide regions with non-federal funds for local transportation infrastructure improvements. Since the source of funds is State, and the requirements are less, it will, thereby, accelerate the schedule by which these projects are approved, designed and constructed. SCCOG is presently in the process of preparing to undertake new transportation projects utilizing funds provided under the LOTICIP program.

In March 2013, at the request of CONNDOT, the SCCOG Executive Committee re-reviewed the three projects submitted in 2012 for Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding. The three projects originally submitted by SCCOG were the Bluff Point to Preston Trail project in Ledyard; the Shennecossett Road Multi-Use Pathway in the City of Groton; and upgrades at Union Station in New London. CONNDOT asked regions to identify a single priority due to the increased cost of projects and a reduction in TE funding statewide under MAP-21 than what was originally anticipated. After meeting with the chief elected official of each of the affected municipality, the Executive Committee voted to inform CONNDOT that its top priority for TE funds available to the SCCOG was the Union Station upgrades project.

CONNDOT informed SCCOG that due to changes associated with the adoption of the new federal transportation legislation (MAP-21), its FY 2013-14 transportation planning funding would be reduced by 10%. During the year, SCCOG and the State's MPOs convinced CONNDOT to spread this reduction out over the ensuing two fiscal years.

## REGIONAL PLANNING:

In January 2013, SCCOG entered into an MOA with seCTer to provide management assistance while seCTer searched for a permanent Executive Director. Under this agreement, the SCCOG Executive Director served as seCTer's Interim Executive Director through July, 2013. Accomplishments during this tenure included the adoption of amendments to seCTer's Bylaws; revision to seCTer's Employee Handbook; securing from EDA the recognition of seCTer as an Economic Development District; and the recruitment and hiring of both a new PTAP Director and Executive Director.

Staff began work on the retention of a consultant to prepare an on-line property survey index using a \$436,400 Regional Performance Incentive Program grant from OPM.

The Executive Director was named to and served on the MORE Commission's Regional Entities Subcommittee, which advised the General Assembly concerning the consolidation of Regional Planning Organizations in Connecticut. In October, OPM's preliminary plan for consolidation was released, and it proposes that the Southeast planning region remain intact.

The Executive Director was named to and served on the Connecticut Clean Energy Task Force, which is examining the Preston Riverwalk site and other sites in the region for the location of a clean energy R&D facility.

The Southeastern CT Housing Alliance (SECHA), formed in 2006, entered into an MOA with SCCOG. Until December 2012, the SCCOG employed a staff member who served as Director of SECHA. When the former Director resigned to take a new position, the SECHA Board decided to not fill the position due to funding constraints. SECHA highlights in 2013 included: using the award to SECHA and the Eastern CT Association of Realtors (ECAR) of a \$5,000 grant from the National Association of Realtors, matched by an ECAR grant of an additional \$2,000, performed a Workforce Housing Needs Survey; and adoption of an updated Strategic Plan, addressing how SECHA will work without staff, relying on its close relationship with SCCOG.

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 2011 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 construction began this year. In 2012-2013, the

## RPC MEMBERS:

**Bozrah:**  
Seymour Adelman

**Colchester:**  
James Ford  
Stacey Brown

**East Lyme:**  
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

**Lisbon:**  
John Dempsey, Jr.

**Montville:**  
Bart Ferrante, Jr.

**New London:**  
Mark Christiansen, Secy.

**North Stonington:**  
Elaine Boissevain

**Norwich:**  
Arthur Sharron, Chair  
Richard Morell

**Preston:**  
Art Moran, Jr.  
Fran Coviello

**Salem:**  
Rich Amato  
David Bingham

**Stonington Borough:**  
David Atkinson

**Waterford:**  
Dana Award  
Thomas Ward

SCCOG also retained a consultant to prepare an emergency response plan and permit applications needed to implement the regional water supply response plan. The SCCOG Regional Water Committee, with the Department of Public Health's concurrence, convened the Southeastern Water Utility Coordinating Committee (SEWUCC) in 2013, and the SEWUCC agreed to revise its Coordinated Water System Plan, which will be recognized as the region's Water Supply Plan.

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. Salem First Selectman Kevin Lyden was appointed to the Council as SCCOG's representative in 2013.

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 the Plan was completed and adopted by the consortium and endorsed by SCCOG in 2013.

SCCOG staff reviewed 54 legislatively required referrals in 2013 (through November 26th) for member municipalities during the year.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

In FY 2013-2014, technical assistance to local land use commissions is being provided under contract to Bozrah (2), Franklin, Lisbon, Sprague, Griswold and Salem. GIS assistance is being provided to Franklin and Griswold.

## OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES:

During 2013, several education training sessions were presented at the SCCOG offices in Norwich for members of municipal land use commissions. 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.