

In January 2016, the SCCOG hired Planner III, Kate Rattan. In November, both Stephanie Molden and Sam Alexander joined the SCCOG staff as Planner IIs.

In December, 2016, long time Senior Planner, Tom Seidel will fully retire after 46 years at SCRPA/SCCOG. We wish only the best for Tom in his retirement and thank him for 46 dedicated years of service to this agency.



Sam Alexander, Stephanie Molden and Kate Rattan

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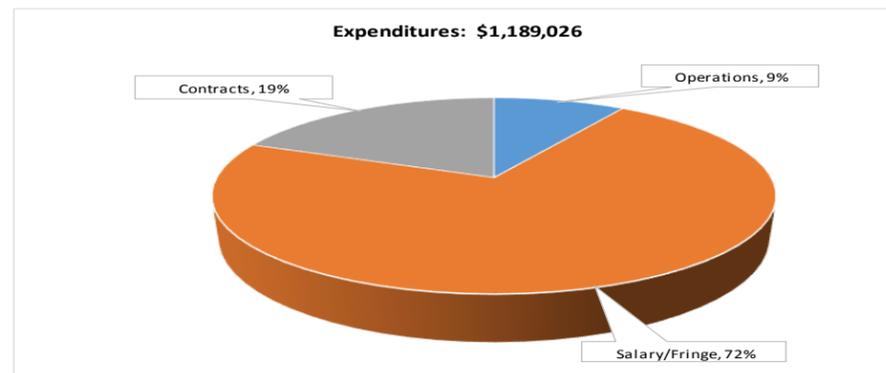
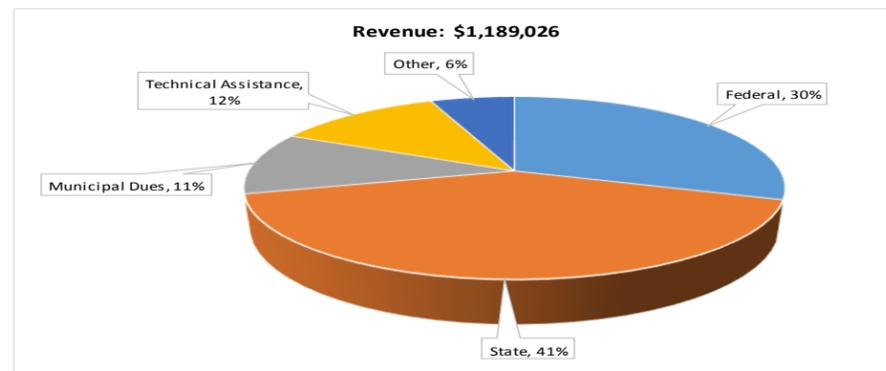
- SCCOG Staff:**
- James S. Butler, AICP
Executive Director
 - Richard Guggenheim
Assistant Director
 - Amanda Kennedy, AICP
Dir. of Special Projects
 - Samuel Alexander
Planner II
 - Stephanie Molden
Planner II
 - Katherine Rattan
Planner III
 - Thomas Seidel
Planner III
 - Richard Serra
Planner III
 - Wendy Leclair
Office Manager
 - 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 2016, 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 2015—30 JUNE 2016



Based on independent audit by Albert J. Rusilowicz, CPA. Copies of the FY 2016 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office and at www.seccog.org.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Member Municipalities:

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

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 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 2016 and provides financial information on the fiscal year ending 30 June 2016.

For the latest news and information about the 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 SCCOG consists of the municipal chief elected officials from the twenty-two 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 ten supports the work of the Council, its committees, and the Planning Commission. As of December 2016, the staff consists of an executive director, a part-time assistant director, five - time planners, one part-time planner, an office manager, and a GIS coordinator.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TRANSPORTATION:

The Council is the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the purposes of carrying out the regional transportation system planning and programming required under the Federal Transportation Act entitled, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST ACT), PL114-94. 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.

During 2016, SCCOG's Transportation Planning Program underwent a rigorous certification review by the

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ensure that the agency was fulfilling all of its planning requirements. The review resulted in a positive finding of compliance. As expected, FHWA and FTA made recommendations to help SCCOG both improve and grow its transportation planning program.

As an example of the new responsibilities resulting from the designation as a TMA, SCCOG is now required to develop a Congestion Mitigation Plan. Such a plan must identify and address specific locations in the region that are congested during portions of the day or week. During the previous year, 73 separate locations in the region were identified as having traffic volume-to-capacity ratios in excess of

SCCOG MEMBERS :
(AS OF 12/1/16)

Bozrah:
Glenn Pianka

Colchester:
Art Shilosky

East Lyme:
Mark Nickerson

Franklin:
Richard Matters

Griswold:
Kevin Skulczyck, Treasurer

Borough of Jewett City:
John Connelly
Timothy Sharkey (Alt)

City of Groton:
Marian Galbraith, Chairman

Town of Groton:
Bruce Flax
Mark Oefinger (Alt)

Lebanon:
Betsy Petrie

Ledyard:
Mike Finkelstein

Lisbon:
Thomas Sparkman

Montville:
Ron McDaniel, Vice Chairman

New London:
Michael Passero

North Stonington:
Shawn Murphy

Norwich:
Deberey Hinchey, Secretary
John Salomone (Alt)

Preston:
Robert Congdon

Salem:
Kevin Lyden

Sprague:
Catherine Osten
Denise Dembinski (Alt)

Stonington:
Rob Simmons

Borough of Stonington:
Jeffrey Callahan

Waterford:
Daniel Steward

Windham:
Ernie Eldridge
Neal Beets (Alt)

AFFILIATE
MEMBERS :

Mashantucket Pequot Tribe:
Rodney Butler, Chairman
Robert Hawyard (Alt)

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

U.S. Naval Submarine Base
CAPT Paul Whitescarver
Mark Schultz (Alt)

U.S. Coast Guard Academy
RADM James Rendon
LT JG Alexis Davis (Alt)

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

study to determine the extent of congestion relative to the other sites and suggest ways in which the conditions can be modified to reduce congestion.

SCCOG adopted an updated FY 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan in April, 2015. The Regional Transportation Plan addresses a variety of issues required by Federal law, as well as previously identified needs such as improvements to I-95, and regional transit improvements. In 2016, SCCOG worked toward Plan implementation.

In 2016, SCCOG approved 11 amendments and 52 actions to the FY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region.

In 2016, SCCOG learned from Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) that the FHWA has decided to no longer pursue an EIS for Route 11, effectively ending plans to extend the highway.

Council staff provides continuing planning support to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) and to the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC). In 2014, SCCOG applied to CTDOT for use of \$250,000 in STP-U funds to conduct a Comprehensive Operation Analysis (COA) of the SEAT system. The consulting firm of Nelson/Nygaard was selected by a committee of SEAT, CTDOT, and SCCOG representatives to conduct this study. The COA was completed in the fall of 2015, and during 2016, SCCOG staff assisted SEAT in the study's implementation phase.

Council staff continued to assist ECTC in managing the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC) which, since 1999, has grown into a multi-region system for employment-related transportation assistance to individuals on welfare who are seeking jobs, job training and day care services for children. During the 12-month period from November, 2015-October, 2016, a total of 20,447 trips were made under this program. These trips were enabled through the provision of bus tickets, taxi, vans and mileage reimbursement for people who owned cars. In addition, the JARC program provides up to \$1,000/lifetime limit to individuals for car repairs when the bus system cannot serve their employment needs due either to schedule limits or limits of geographical coverage. During the before mentioned program year, \$287,111 was spent on this program.

The New Freedoms program requires SCCOG to coordinate activities between JARC and new initiatives under the FTA Section 5310 Program which offers opportunities to both public and private non-profit agencies to address transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Annually, SCCOG solicits applications for vans to address the needs of these special populations. During 2016, SCCOG was successful in helping the Town of East Lyme, United Community and Family Services (UCFS), and The Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) in acquiring

new lift-equipped vans and mini-buses. Additionally, ECTC was successful in competing for funds for a mobility specialist to assist a variety of regional agencies to link with different transportation providers.

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).

Annually, SCCOG solicits its municipalities for applications under the Federal Local Road Accident Reduction Program. These are local roads where structural deficiencies can be linked to a high frequency of accidents. In 2016, the Town of Ledyard, the only applicant for these funds, applied to correct deficiencies on Shewville Road. It is anticipated that CTDOT will make awards under this program in the spring of 2017.

In 2013, the Connecticut General Assembly adopted legislation creating a new funding program for transportation improvements that has largely replaced the federal STP-U program for MPOs such as SCCOG. The program, called LOTCIP (Local Road Transportation Capital Improvements Program) provides regions with non-federal funds for local transportation infrastructure improvements. To date, Norwich and the City of Groton have completed projects under this program. In 2016, Norwich completed reconstruction of Wisconsin Avenue with funds awarded from this program. Also this past year, New London (Reconstruction of southern end of Ocean Avenue) and Montville (Old Colchester Road/Black Ash Road intersection improvements) awarded bids to be funded under LOTCIP. SCCOG conducted a third solicitation during the summer of 2016, resulting in applications for seven new projects, and for these projects, SCCOG is scheduled to award up to \$7.3 million in early 2017.

In the summer of 2016, SCCOG, on behalf of CTDOT, solicited projects for potential funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This program primarily funds pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Three municipalities submitted projects for consideration, and SCCOG will make a recommendation by December 31st to CTDOT for use of the \$1.17 million made available under this program to the southeast region.

SCCOG, on behalf of the Thames Maritime Heritage Park Foundation, is serving as that organization's fiduciary. In late 2015, the Foundation secured two 40-foot surplus Navy vessels to be used as water taxis that ran between Groton and New London on the Thames River during the summer of 2016.

REGIONAL PLANNING :

Staff continued work with its consultant to prepare an

on-line property survey index using a \$436,400 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). This project is expected to be completed at the end of 2016.

In the fall of 2016, SCCOG was informed by OPM that it had been awarded 2016 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grants to conduct a study of possible shared human services, and to prepare a model Community Rating System (CRS) plan. Work under these grants is expected to start in early 2017.

The Southeastern CT Housing Alliance (SECHA), continues to function as a special committee of the SCCOG pursuant to an MOA entered into by both agencies. In October 2016, SECHA organized a highly successful forum at Three Rivers Community College that brought in experts on housing trends, demographics, and land use policy. The subject of the forum was how to meet the increasing need by millennials and retirees for low-maintenance homes and rentals. Nearly 100 people attended the forum, which was organized in partnership with the Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association.

SCCOG continued its emergency management planning efforts during the year as a participant in the DEMHS Region 4 emergency management (REPT) process. With the dissolution of WINCOG on June 30, 2014, SCCOG assumed the role of fiduciary for this program, which serves the 42 municipalities and 2 Tribal Nations in the DEMHS 4 region. The REPT is chaired by SCCOG member and Lisbon First Selectman Thomas Sparkman.

During the year, the SCCOG participated in the Eastern CT Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC). WUCC meetings are held monthly at the SCCOG office. During 2016, the Eastern CT WUCC completed a draft Water Supply Assessment and began its designation of Exclusive Service Areas (ESAs) process.

The SCCOG Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (RHSCC) functions as a special committee to SCCOG, as required by State Statute. In January, the RHSCC held its first Regional Human Services Expo, which brought together over 100 participants to the City of Groton Municipal Building to share information with municipal and school department staff across the region as well as between and among the twenty-four human services providers that exhibited at the Expo. The Expo provided a great opportunity for staff at the region's agencies to become familiar with one another and with services offered by the different agencies.

During the year, the SCCOG hosted a number of guest speakers at its monthly meetings including U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney, CT State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, CTDOT Commissioner James Redeker, Executive Director of the CT Airport Authority Kevin Dillon, and Deputy Secretary of the State James Spallone.

SCCOG staff continued to develop an update to the Re-

gional Plan of Conservation and Development (RPOCD) with a goal of completing a draft for public review by the end of 2016. In September, planners from most of SCCOG's member municipalities visited SCCOG's office in Norwich for an interactive workshop to further develop recommendations for plan goals and objectives and to discuss implementation. A second workshop was held in December.

In February of 2016 SCCOG formed a committee to identify how the Council of Governments and its member municipalities can help address the growing levels of opioid abuse in the region and the resulting increase in drug-related fatalities and need for emergency and health services. The Committee was comprised of eight of the region's municipal chief elected officials. Over the course of six months, the Committee convened sessions with law enforcement, educators, and health care and human service providers to identify what conditions are contributing to opioid abuse in the region. The Committee issued a report in December, with recommendations that will assist in addressing the crisis.

SCCOG staff reviewed 51 legislatively required referrals in 2016 for member municipalities during the year.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE :

In FY 2016-2017, technical assistance to local land use commissions is being provided under contract to Bozrah (2), Franklin, Lisbon, Sprague, and Salem.

OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES :

In May 2016, SCCOG hosted two nights of training for local land use commissioners, conducted by the staff of UConn's Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) as part of their Land Use Academy program. CLEAR staff returned to SCCOG in October for an information session with the region's municipal planners about changes to regulations for municipal storm sewer systems (MS4) and CLEAR's upcoming technical assistance program.

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 representatives to the CEO Council that governs EWIB activities are Franklin First Selectman Rich Matters, Lisbon First Selectman Tom Sparkman, and Montville Mayor Ron McDaniel.

SCCOG members and the Executive Director serve on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer). During 2016, the SCCOG Executive Director served as the Treasurer of the seCTer Board.

R P C MEMBERS :

Bozrah:
Seymour Adelman

Colchester:
James Ford

East Lyme:
Brian Schuch, Secretary

Franklin:
Matt Calvert
Peg Ayer

Griswold:
Martin McKinney

City of Groton:
Paul Kunkemoeller
Jeffrey Pritchard

Town of Groton:
Vacant

Lebanon:
Francis Malozzi
Kathleen Smith

Ledyard:
Mike Cherry, Chairman

Lisbon:
Ronald Giroux, Vice Chair
Ryan Donaldson

Montville:
Bart Ferrante, Jr.

New London:
Barry Levine
Timothy Ryan

North Stonington:
Elaine Boissevain

Norwich:
Arthur Sharron
Richard Morell

Preston:
Art Moran, Jr.
Fran Coviello

Salem:
Vacant

Sprague:
Vacant

Stonington:
Curtis Lynch
Frances Hoffman

Stonington Borough:
David Atkinson

Waterford:
Vacant

Windham:
Vacant