

OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES:

Funded by a grant from the Secretary of State, SCCOG provides its member municipalities a Regional Election Monitor. This position is currently held by Mrs. JoAnn Merolla-Martin who provides and coordinates training and assists the region's registrars of voters and election moderators during elections.

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's Executive Director serves as Treasurer of EWIB's Board of Directors.

SCCOG staff continue to participate in several regional initiatives and organizations. SCCOG's Executive Director serves as the Treasurer of the Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer) and chairs the Connecticut Association of Councils of Governments (CTCOG). Staff also participates in United Way's Emergency Food & Shelter Program, SE CT Health Improvement Collaborative, Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, and Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition's New London Roundtable.

In 2017, SCCOG was named a Great American Defense Community by the National Association of Defense Communities, an honor awarded to only eight municipalities/regions in the country.



SCCOG Assistant Director Richard S. Guggenheim retired in July after 48 years with SCCOG/SCRPA. In 2016, the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation awarded Mr. Guggenheim the "Friend of Public Transportation" award for his role in creating the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium, which coordinates paratransit services for elderly and disabled riders.

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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 intergovernmental cooperation for a wide range of issues facing southeastern Connecticut. This annual report reviews activities of the Council during calendar year 2017 and provides financial information on the fiscal year ending 30 June 2017.

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 or on Facebook.

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's bylaws provide for the participation on a non-voting basis of liaison representatives from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes, Naval Submarine Base New London, 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. As of December 2017, the staff consists of an executive director, an assistant director/director of special projects, three planners, 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.

Congestion Management Process: As a Transportation Management Area, SCCOG is required to adopt a Congestion Mitigation Process (CMP). The CMP uses a number of analytic tools to define and identify congestion within the region and selects appropriate strategies to reduce congestion or mitigate the impacts of congestion. SCCOG submitted its initial CMP report to FHWA and CTDOT in July 2017.

Regional Transportation Plan: SCCOG continued to work on implementation of the 2015-2040 Regional

Transportation Plan, adopted 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.

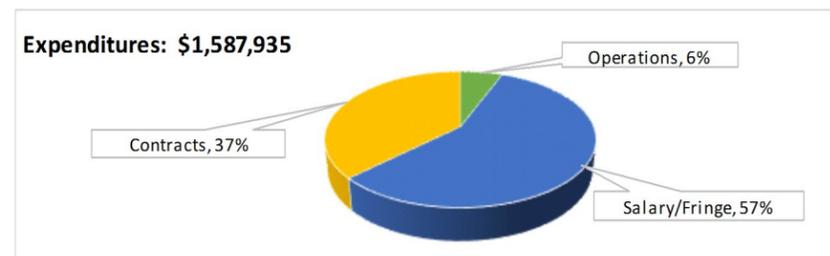
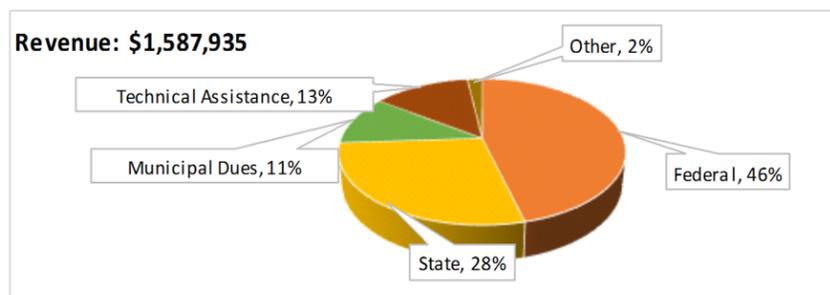
Regional and State Transportation Improvements Plans (TIP/STIP): In 2017, SCCOG approved ten amendments and nine actions to the FY2015-2018 and FY2018-2021 Transportation Improvements Programs (TIPs) for the region. SCCOG provided comments to the FY2018-2021 STIP in October of 2017.

Southeast Area Transit (SEAT): In 2017, SCCOG continued its long history of support and cooperation with SEAT. In addition to participating in the SEAT board, SCCOG submitted a joint application with SEAT for state funding to implement capital

FINANCING

During FY 2017, 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

OPERATING BUDGET, 1 JULY 2016—30 JUNE 2017



Based on independent audit by Hoyt, Filippetti, Malaghan, LLC. Copies of the FY 2017 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office and at www.seccog.org.

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SCCOG Staff:
 James S. Butler, AICP
 Executive Director
 Amanda Kennedy, AICP
 Assistant Director/
 Dir. of Special Projects
 Samuel Alexander
 Planner II
 Katherine Rattan, AICP
 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

SCCOG MEMBERS:
(AS OF 12/5/17)

Bozrah:
Glenn Pianka

Colchester:
Art Shilosky, Treasurer

East Lyme:
Mark Nickerson, Secretary

Franklin:
Charles Grant

Griswold:
Todd Babbitt

Borough of Jewett City:
Alan Geer

City of Groton:
Keith Hedrick

Town of Groton:
TBD
John Burt (Alt)

Lebanon:
Betsy Petrie

Ledyard:
Fred Allyn, III

Lisbon:
Thomas Sparkman

Montville:
Ron McDaniel, Chairman

New London:
Michael Passero

North Stonington:
Michael Urgo

Norwich:
Peter Nystrom
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:
Victor Funderburk
Jim Rivers (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 Tony Gregg (Alt)

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

projects indicated in the 2016 SEAT study; OPM has not yet made the awards on this solicitation. The COG also supports the services provided by ECTC which supplement the SEAT fixed routes service.

Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC): Council staff continued to assist the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC) in managing the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program. ECTC acts as both a broker and operator of transportation services for persons of low income, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and others who receive health, social, educational, and assistance services from public and private non-profit agencies. The federal JARC program funds employment-related transportation assistance to individuals, once on welfare, who are seeking jobs, job training, and day care services for children. During the 12-month period from November 2016 to October 2017, a total of 15,630 trips (bus tickets, taxi trips, vans, and mileage reimbursement) were funded under this program, supported by \$348,805 in program funds. In 2017 ECTC was also awarded \$6,000 to initiate a Bike Voucher Program, which supports the use of bicycles by able-bodied individuals to expand access to the existing fixed bus route services (provided by SEAT) and enables recipients to reduce transportation expenditures in their budget through greater mobility.

Van Purchases via New Freedoms: 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 2017, SCCOG was successful in helping the Town of Colchester, Easter Seals, and The ARC Connecticut in acquiring new lift-equipped vans and mini-buses. Additionally, ECTC was successful in competing for funds for the Mobility Management and Travel Voucher Program.

Local Road Accident Reduction Program (LRAR): Every year, SCCOG solicits its municipalities for applications under the Federal Local Road Accident Reduction Program, which funds improvements to local roads where structural deficiencies can be linked to a high frequency of accidents. The 2017 project solicitation yielded an application for a project in New London on Bank Street. The application has been submitted to CTDOT and is awaiting action. The 2016 application for Shewville Road in Ledyard was awarded in 2017, and the Town is contracting design services. The closing of Vergennes Court in Groton, a 2014 LRAR application, was withdrawn this year by the Town due to commercial constituent opposition.

Local Road Transportation Capital Improvements Program (LOTICIP): The LOTICIP program provides state funds for local transportation infrastructure improvements, with local matching funds required for design

services. To date, Norwich, the City of Groton and Montville have completed projects under this program. In 2017, Norwich and Montville completed construction projects on Wisconsin Avenue and Old Colchester Road, respectively. In 2017 New London began construction on improvements to Ocean Avenue to be completed in May of 2018. In 2017 SCCOG endorsed six new project applications in the towns of Colchester, Groton City, Norwich, Waterford, New London and Sprague. CTDOT is processing these applications, as well as Groton's 2016 application for Kings Highway; none have received a commitment to fund at this time.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP): In 2017, New London was awarded \$609,306 in federal funds for a bicycle and pedestrian mobility project on Williams Street between the Waterford town line and Briggs Street in New London. The 2012 New London Union Station project has initiated design work and a new site survey is underway. The 2003 Groton Thomas Road Multi-Use Path project, funded with several sources including TAP's predecessor Transportation Enhancement, is moving through final design and rights of way phases.

Corridor Studies: CTDOT periodically solicits requests for studies of regionally significant corridors; these are funded through several programs including the State Transportation Program, federal PL planning funds or LOTICIP state funds. CT DOT solicited requests in 2017 after several years of inactivity. In November 2017, the SCCOG endorsed corridor study requests for Route 32 in New London and Route 161 in East Lyme.

REGIONAL PLANNING/IMPLEMENTATION:

Regional and State Plans: SCCOG adopted a new Regional Plan of Conservation and Development in April 2017 after a two-year process of research and outreach. A revision to the new plan was adopted in November. SCCOG also distributed information to local planners regarding pending revisions to the Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan, which is due to be updated in 2018.

Regional GIS: Staff has completed the development of a region-wide online portal for maps filed at SCCOG municipal clerk offices. The online index, MapGeo Docs, works as standalone website or a component to SCCOG's Online Property Viewer. The unique feature of being able to visually search by location on a map provides a function not available in any other map index available in the region. The Online Property Survey Index was supported by a 2012 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) Grant from the State of Connecticut.

Municipal Shared Services: In 2014 SCCOG received a \$150,000 RPIP grant to prepare a municipal shared services study and report of recommendations for expanded intermunicipal and regional partnerships. The

project will be completed and a final report of findings and recommendations issued in early 2018. The report will identify existing successful inter-municipal and regional partnerships and propose potential partnership expansions and new ways for municipalities to cooperate in the provision of services or sharing of equipment.

Resiliency: SCCOG completed several projects in 2017 related to improving the resiliency of the region to damage from future storms and continues to advance ongoing work. SCCOG completed an assessment of critical facilities located in or near flood zones, developing recommendations for short-term and long-term actions to prevent interruptions in services. The assessment was made possible by a grant from the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA). SCCOG also participated in activities organized by the Nature Conservancy as part of their work to develop a Regional Resilience Vision and Guidebook, published in 2017. A 2016 RPIP grant will allow SCCOG to pursue greater municipal participation in FEMA's Community Rating System program in 2018, which rewards municipalities for actions that reduce the likelihood of flood damage community-wide. Initial CRS project work was begun in 2017. In 2017, SCCOG completed the development of an updated Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the region and its member municipalities. Hazard Mitigation Plans identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events. They are a condition for receiving funding for hazard mitigation projects. SCCOG's plan was approved by FEMA in November and is pending adoption by its municipalities. Finally, CIRCA representative Bill Rath spoke to SCCOG members at the October 2017 SCCOG meeting, presenting new information on expected sea level rise and storm frequencies in southeastern Connecticut.

Emergency Management: 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 is the fiduciary for this program, which serves the 42 municipalities and two Tribal nations in the DEMHS 4 region. The REPT is chaired by SCCOG member and Lisbon First Selectman Thomas Sparkman.

Water Planning: SCCOG is a participant in and provides staff assistance to the Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordination Committee (WUCC), which continued to meet monthly in 2017. During the year, the WUCC completed its Water Supply Assessment and Exclusive Service Areas designation process. The WUCC will produce an integrated report in 2018, completing the Coordinated Water System Plan process. SCCOG's Regional Water Committee explored the potential for regional waste water planning during this past year.

Regional Human Services Coordinating Council/RHSCC: The SCCOG RHSCC functions as a special committee to SCCOG, as required by state statute.

Members include municipal elected officials, representatives from municipal and state agencies, and representatives of the region's non-profit human service agencies. The RHSCC continued to meet quarterly in 2017. During the year, a regional shared services study of human services was initiated, a project funded by a 2016 RPIP grant that will be completed in 2018.

SUBASE New London Joint Land Use Study (JLUS): SCCOG is working with SUBASE New London, the Town of Groton, the City of Groton, Ledyard, Waterford, Montville, and New London to develop a Joint Land Use Study, a cooperative land use planning effort between local government and military installations. The goal of the JLUS is to ensure continued compatibility of military installations and the neighboring communities. The 12-month effort was primarily funded by the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment, with an in-kind match provided by SCCOG and the participating municipalities. Activities in 2017 included several rounds of public open houses, meetings of the policy and technical committees, site visits, and publication of the final JLUS report.

Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance (SECHA): SCCOG staff continued to provide support to SECHA, an organization created in 2006 to facilitate a regional approach to dealing with the shortage of affordable housing. 2017 activities included a tour of new housing at Spruce Meadows and Thread Mill Apartments in Stonington and the development of a regional housing needs assessment to be published in early 2018.

Thames River Heritage Park Foundation: The SCCOG continues to support the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation, a collaboration between the City of Groton, Town of Groton, and City of New London, along with the State of Connecticut and historic visitor attractions located along the Thames River. In 2017, for the second consecutive year, the Foundation successfully operated a water taxi linking Fort Griswold in Groton and Fort Trumbull and City Pier in New London. The SCCOG served as fiduciary for the Foundation until January 2017 when it incorporated as an independent non-profit organization.

Municipal Referrals: SCCOG staff reviewed 54 proposed statutorily required referrals in 2017. State law requires that certain proposed zoning amendments/changes, subdivisions, and Plans of Conservation and Development be reviewed by the council of governments and its findings transmitted to the municipality prior to the relevant public hearing.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

In FY 2017-2018, technical assistance to local land use commissions is being provided under contract to Bozrah (2), Franklin, Lisbon, Sprague, and Salem.

RPC MEMBERS:

Bozrah:
Seymour Adelman

Colchester:
Art Mathieu

East Lyme:
Brian Schuch, Secretary

Franklin:
Matt Calvert
Peg Ayer

Griswold:
Martin McKinney

City of Groton:
Paul Kunkemoeller

Town of Groton:
Jeffrey Pritchard

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:
Vacant

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