

MINUTES OF THE 6/4/18
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Michael Passero, Tom Sparkman, Art Shilosky, Mark Nickerson, Jim Rivers
Staff: James Butler, Kate Rattan

Chairman Passero opened the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

1. FY 2017-2018 Budget Adjustments

The Executive Director presented a series of proposed amendments to the budget ending June 30, 2018. He said due to the fact that this budget is adopted 18 months before the end of the fiscal year, this is not uncommon. He presented both proposed expenditure and revenue changes, citing the reason for each change. The most significant were numerous grant funds not contemplated at the time of budget adoption, allowing for expenditure on consultants affecting the Professional Services line item. He noted that the primary reason for the SCCOG now having to use Reserve funding to balance the budget was due to OPM's reduction of the Regional Services Grant by 25%, resulting in the loss of almost \$60,000 to the SCCOG. The proposed amended budget would use \$17,383 from Reserve; the original budget would have returned more than \$190,000 to Reserve.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the proposed FY 2017-2018 budget adjustments recommended by staff (Nickerson, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

2. Possible BUILD Transportation Grant Application

The Executive Director provided background on the NOFA received for Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) transportation discretionary grants program. This program replaces the TIGER grant program, and is intended for large-scale, regionally significant transportation projects costing between \$5M and \$25M. He said the SCCOG was made aware of this program a couple of weeks ago, and he asked Senior Planner Kate Rattan and Assistant Director Amanda Kennedy to recommend projects in the region which might be subject of a grant application. He referred to a memorandum he distributed to the Executive Committee they had prepared on this subject.

Ms. Rattan detailed staff's recommended project, which would be the build-out of the SET Bus Study expansion plan "C". She said this is estimated to cost \$10.12M in capital costs, which would be the basis of the grant application, but did note that it would result in an additional \$1.7M annually in operating expenses.

The Executive Director stated that the most significant challenge to submitting this grant application would be the required 20% local match, which for this project would be more than \$2M. He said that staff has contacted CTDOT to see if they might participate, but has not yet received an answer. Ms. Rattan outlined why CTDOT might agree to fund the local match, due to their recent emphasis on transit statewide. The Executive Director said that

other challenges to this application include the fact that SEAT currently does not have the staffing needed to manage this project should it be funded; the application requires a detailed cost-benefit analysis which would be difficult to prepare; and a tight deadline for submission of applications (July 18).

Mr. Passero said that New London had previously submitted a TIGER grant to address parking problems in the downtown which was not funded, and that this may be resubmitted under the new BUILD grant program. He described New London's project as being an enhancement of the regional multi-modal transportation center.

It was agreed that staff should continue to discuss this project with CTDOT and SEAT, and then to inform the full SCCOG board of the status of those conversations at the June 21 meeting, at which time the SCCOG can decide whether to authorize staff to submit an application or not.

3. Resolution No. 18-6, For Endorsement of Targets for Various Performance Measures Established by CTDOT

The Executive Director noted this resolution, required by CTDOT in order to comply with the new FAST Act, is related to other recent SCCOG actions concerning the adoption of performance measures.

MOTION: That the SCCOG adopt Resolution No. 18-6, For Endorsement of Targets for Various Performance Measures Established by CTDOT (Sparkman, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

4. Shared Services Meeting with Assessors Follow-up

The Executive Director reported on his May 23rd meeting at the SCCOG office with the region's municipal assessors to discuss the potential for jointly bidding revaluation services. Mr. Sparkman said he was at the meeting and he commented on the push-back from many of the local assessors. The Executive Director stated that he has only heard from the Colchester Assessor as to what it would take to make him comfortable with bidding this service regionally, and said his comments were very helpful. He planned to follow-up with the other assessors in the near future.

5. Non-Profit Impact Task Force

The Executive Director presented the Executive Committee with a white paper recommending the formation of a task force to study the impact that non-profits have on SCCOG member municipalities' tax base, and to recommend changes to the statutes that address this problem and to provide a more uniform and predictable approach as to how assessors view the non-exempt status of non-profits. The Executive Committee discussed this issue, who should be on the task force, and asked that an organizational meeting be held with the CEOs of several SCCOG municipalities and SCCOG staff, for the purpose of refining what will be studied, who will be invited to be on the task force, and a schedule for this project.

6. JLUS Implementation Grant Application Amendment

The Executive Director reported on the amendment to the JLUS Implementation Grant application to address housing and transportation impacts resulting from the EB ramp-up which CT OMA Executive Director Bob Ross had suggested at a recent SCCOG meeting. SCCOG staff is working closely with DOD OEA staff on the amendment, and we have received early indications that this will be approved. He stated that the full SCCOG should authorize the submission of this grant application amendment.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the authorization of an amendment to the JLUS Implementation Grant application (Nickerson, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

7. SCCOG Appointment to REPT Steering Committee

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the appointment of Groton Town Police Chief/EMD to the DEMHS Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) Steering Committee to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Joe Sastre (Sparkman, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

8. FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the approval of the FY 2018 STIP/TIP Amendments (Sparkman, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

9. Other

The Executive Director reported on staff's communications with CTDOT concerning the planned closure of the pedestrian pathway on the Gold Star Bridge this summer for several weeks concerning mitigation that will provide alternative ways for pedestrians to travel back and forth between New London and Groton. He will keep the SCCOG informed as to what CTDOT agrees to provide.

The Executive Director presented a request from Rob Simmons to the SCCOG to renew its membership on the CT Tourism Coalition Board of Directors at \$1,500 annually. The Executive Committee discussed this request.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG that the SCCOG not renew its membership on the CT Tourism Coalition Board of Directors at \$1,500 annually (Sparkman, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted, James S. Butler, Executive Director