

MINUTES OF THE 9/10/18
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Michael Passero, Tom Sparkman, Art Shilosky, Mark Nickerson, Jim Rivers, Ron McDaniel

Staff: James Butler, Kate Rattan

Chairman Passero opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

1. Re-endorsement/Approval of Cost Increase for Halls Hill Road LOTCIP Project

The Executive Director reported that the Halls Hill Road LOTCIP Project in Colchester has increased in price from the \$594,355 originally estimated to \$709,095. The cost increase was the result of review by CTDOT, and SCCOG must approve of this prior to the State's Commitment to Fund. Ms. Rattan explained the cost increase is due to the need to increase the depth of milling and paving from 2.5 inches to 3 inches, and the addition of Minor Items at 10% as a line item, which also drives up the cost of Contingencies and Incidentals.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the re-endorsement/approval of the cost increase to \$709,095 for the Halls Hill Road LOTCIP Project in Colchester (Sparkman, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

2. Proposed Revisions to the SCCOG Public Participation & Consultation Process for Transportation Planning.

The Executive Director stated that this document has been revised to explain in more detail how the document will be reassessed on a regular basis, and in an attempt to improve its formatting. Changes were prepared by staff Planner Sam Alexander, and were in response to comments made by FTA at SEAT's Triennial review this past summer. SEAT follows SCCOG's public participation process, as the region's MPO, so this document was reviewed by FTA at that time and FTA commented upon the need to provide more detail on its revaluation. The document has been posted on the SCCOG web site, a legal ad has been run in the local newspaper, and a 45-day public comment period has been initiated. These revisions could be scheduled for SCCOG action at the October 17th meeting.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the adoption of the revisions to the SCCOG Public Participation & Consultation Process for Transportation Planning (McDaniel, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

3. U.S. Census Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP)

The Executive Director informed the Executive Committee that staff had accepted the Census Bureau's invitation to participate in the Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP), which will provide opportunity to review and update census tracts, block groups, and

census designated places. He said that SCCOG Planner Justin LaFountain has been designated as the staff person who will coordinate this SCCOG review.

4. Request to Address SCCOG – Oz Griebel, Gubernatorial Candidate

The Executive Director stated he had been emailed a request from Mr. Griebel to address the SCCOG regarding his candidacy for Governor. In response to the Executive Director's email back stating the SCCOG might be reluctant to meet with a single candidate for fear that it might appear to be an endorsement, he said Mr. Griebel suggested that the SCCOG invite all the gubernatorial candidates to such a meeting. After discussion, the Executive Committee decided they could not accommodate such a request, and that SCCOG members had other opportunities to meet with and hear the candidates.

5. Request to Address SCCOG – Angela Duhaime, SERAC, re: Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization

The Executive Director reminded the Executive Committee that CTDOT Commissioner Redeker would be addressing the SCCOG at their September 19th meeting. The Executive Committee agreed to invite Ms. Duhaime to address the SCCOG at their October 17th meeting.

6. Update on Closure of Goldstar Bridge Pedestrian Path

The Executive Director provided statistics from SEAT concerning ridership of the shuttle bus which has been running while the path has been closed. He said he received a telephone call from CTDOT this morning informing him that the pedestrian path project is on schedule and that the pathway should be re-opened in mid-October.

7. Update on Report to Task Force to Analyze Municipal Tax Impact of Non-Profit Agencies

The Executive Director distributed copies of his draft report to the Task Force. The Executive Committee agreed to his suggested invitees to the Task Force, and scheduled the first Task Force meeting for September 24th.

8. Ongoing Projects/RFP Responses

The Executive Committee received updates from the Executive Director concerning the JLUS Implementation Project solicitation for consultants, for which eight responses have been received and a short list of consultants to be interviewed has been prepared. He also reported on the posting of RFP/RFQs for the regional sewer study and the regional fiscal impact analysis, both of which are due back to the SCCOG by September 14th.

9. National Coast Guard Museum Supplemental Environmental Assessment

The Executive Director stated that the deadline to formally comment on the National Coast Guard Museum Supplemental Environmental Assessment had expired in early September, but

that he and SCCOG staff had concern about traffic and parking issues that this proposal might create. Mr. Passero stated that the City of New London shared these concerns.

10. New London Return of TAP Funds for Union Station

The Executive Director reported that he had met with New London Mayor Passero and new Development and Planning Director Reyes earlier this month to discuss this project. He was informed by the City officials that Union Station owner Jimmy Coleman is proceeding with station improvements without the use of the grant funds so that he does not have to break out their design for CTDOT to review from the rest of this renovation project. The Executive Director stated that he and staff will soon be meeting with CTDOT to discuss alternative projects in the region to which these funds might be applied.

11. Personnel Policy Issue

The Executive Committee discussed the use of flex starting time outside of what the SCCOG Personnel Policies currently allow one day a week by a staff person due to a child care issue. The Executive Committee expressed their support of the Executive Director providing that flexibility for this purpose.

12. Formation of SCCOG 2019 Legislative Agenda

The Executive Committee reiterated their desire to function as the SCCOG Legislative Committee this year. Several members stated that legislation assisting cities and towns impacted by the revenue drain due to property tax exemptions would be their number one priority this year. The Executive Committee asked that all SCCOG members be solicited for their top legislative priorities this year for discussion as the Legislative Committee begins to formulate an agenda.

13. Other

The Executive Director said that the SCCOG Auditor will begin their onsite visit in early October.

Mr. Passero provided information from Sleeping Giant Energy Grid interested in placing a micro-grid in New London, and suggested this would be a topic for the SCCOG to hear about. The Executive Director stated that staff would schedule a Lunch & Learn session.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director