

MINUTES OF THE 10/1/18
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Michael Passero, Tom Sparkman, Art Shilosky, Jim Rivers, Ron McDaniel
Staff: James Butler

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

1. LOTCIP Projects (Sprague, Waterford) Change of Scope and Budgets

The Executive Director reported that the Cross Road LOTCIP Project in Waterford and the Route 97 sidewalk LOTCIP Project in Sprague have been revised, resulting in decreased costs for both projects. The Cross Road project has been changed from full-depth reclamation to a mill and pave project at the request of CTDOT, reducing the project cost from \$3,645,600 to \$2,754,000 for a 24% reduction. The Route 97 sidewalk project has been reduced in length from 1,400 linear feet to 1,050 linear feet to include only the developed portion of Route 97, reducing the project cost from \$505,000 to \$424,000, for a 16% reduction. He referred to a memo from Senior Planner Kate Rattan in the agenda packet, which included both towns' response to CTDOT comments, and revised scopes and budgets. Per CTDOT guidance, since these are both reductions in cost, he can approve of the changes as Executive Director, but consistent with past LOTCIP practice, is bringing these proposed changes to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

MOTION: To endorse the Executive Director's recommended approval of the changes/reductions to the LOTCIP projects in Waterford (Cross Road) and Sprague (Route 97 sidewalk (McDaniel, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

2. Repurposing of New London TAP Funds

The Executive Director stated that he had previously informed the full COG that New London's TAP funded project at Union Station would not proceed, due to the Union Station private owner's decision to include these improvements as part of his overall rehabilitation of the station, thus not requiring him to prepare separate design plans required by CTDOT for this project. With the withdrawal by New London of their request for these funds, just over \$560,000 in TAP funds are now available to the region. Staff has worked with CTDOT to ensure these funds get spent in the region; CTDOT has advised they need to be spent on a project ready for delivery or they will be swept and spent elsewhere in the State. At the time the Union Station project was funded, SCCOG also submitted a project funding request for the Tri-Town Trail, but CTDOT has determined that project un-fundable under this program due to several factors including our TAP allocation being too small to fund the scope of the project; lack of logical termini to allow project phasing; and the complex federal permitting required for this project make it more suitable for state or local funding. CTDOT instead preferred and encouraged an extension of New London's TAP-funded Williams Street Improvement Project, extending the scope of this project along Williams Street from Briggs Street to Huntington Street. New London has estimated this project extension to cost

\$560,200, with \$448,000 being federal TAP funding, and \$112,200 being City matching funds.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the application of \$448,000 in federal TAP funds previously allocated to the Union Station project to TAP Project No. 94-258, the Williams Street Improvement Project, extending that project limit along Williams Street from Briggs Street to Huntington Street (McDaniel, Shilosky). So voted unanimously.

3. Ongoing Projects/Consultant Selection Update

The Executive Director reported on the status of hiring consultants for the JLUS Implementation project; the regional wastewater management plan; and the regional fiscal impact analysis.

4. Formulation of SCCOG Legislative Analysis

The Executive Committee discussed the one comment submitted in response to the Executive Director's email to SCCOG members asking for ideas for the 2019 Legislative Agenda. This was from Waterford First Selectman Dan Steward, who emailed that he felt that the grocery store plastic bag issue might be something the SCCOG wishes to weigh in on, noting that he feels this is a regional and not a local issue, and that he is opposed to a mandate on this or any law that is not enforceable. Members present felt that this was not an issue that should be added to the SCCOG legislative agenda at this time. The Executive Director reported that he had received a suggestion from former City of Groton Mayor Marian Galbraith, current Chair of the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation (TRHPF), that the SCCOG in its annual legislative agenda support state funding for the operation of the TRHPF water taxi. Members present said they would support the addition of this item to the SCCOG Legislative Agenda as a secondary issue this year. The Executive Committee then discussed what they had previously said will be their primary issue this year, which is the impact that the property tax exemption of non-profit agencies and other institutions have on cities and towns. The members stated that the Task Force that the SCCOG has formed on this issue, is supposed to develop recommendations that will lead to legislation to address this issue. These recommendations and suggested legislation will be the primary request by the SCCOG to the legislative delegation this year. The Executive Committee will discuss this issue again at their November 5th meeting, at which time they hope to have a report from the Task Force. The Executive Committee discussed the format and date for a meeting with the southeastern legislative delegation, and asked staff to attempt to schedule a morning session with coffee and Danish for Monday, November 19.

5. STIP/TIP Amendments

The Executive Committee reviewed four separate STIP/TIP amendments.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the adoption of the proposed STIP/TIP Amendments (Sparkman, McDaniel). So voted unanimously.

6. Other

The Executive Director reminded that he will be out of the county on vacation from October 19 to October 30.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director