

**Professional Organizations:** SCCOG staff continues to support and participate in activities run by the American Planning Association (APA) and its Connecticut chapter (CCAPA) as well as the Northeast ARC Users Group (NEARC). Assistant Director/Director of Special Projects Amanda Kennedy has served as CCAPA Government Relations Co-Chair since 2015. SCCOG staff presented on housing and transportation planning to APA members at the 2017 Southern New England APA Conference (2017) in Providence. GIS Specialist Liz Crutcher presented a review of the online property survey index to NEARC members at their fall 2017 conference in Newport.

**Other Regional Initiatives:** SCCOG staff continue to participate in several regional initiatives and organizations including participation in the Emergency Food & Shelter Program, SE CT Health Improvement Collaborative, Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area, and Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition's New London Roundtable.



Newest SCCOG Planning Staff: Justin LaFountain and Carly Myers hired in January 2018.

## INTRODUCTION

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) is one of nine regional councils of governments in Connecticut. 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 structure for intergovernmental cooperation for a wide range of issues facing southeastern Connecticut. Its predecessor, the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency, was first established under the Connecticut General Statutes in January 1961. The agency became a Council of Governments in 1992. This annual report reviews SCCOG activities during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. For the latest news about SCCOG, visit us on the web at [www.seccog.org](http://www.seccog.org) or [www.facebook.com/SeCTCOG](https://www.facebook.com/SeCTCOG).

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Municipal chief elected officials from SCCOG's 22 member municipalities serve as SCCOG's policy board. The Council's bylaws provide for the participation on a non-voting basis of representatives from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, Naval Submarine Base New London, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

A staff of eight support the work of the Council. As of June 2018, the staff consists of an executive director, assistant director, four planners, GIS coordinator, and office manager. January 2018 saw the retirement of long-time SCCOG planner Richard Serra and the addition of Carly Myers and Justin LaFountain to SCCOG's planning staff.

## 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 Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST ACT), PL114-94.

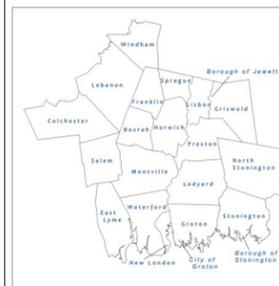
**Congestion Management Process:** SCCOG is required to adopt a Congestion Mitigation Process (CMP) as a transportation management area region with greater than 200,000 residents. The CMP uses a number of analytic tools to define and identify congestion within the region and selects appropriate strategies to reduce congestion or mitigate the impacts of congestion. SCCOG completed its initial CMP report 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 highway and transit improvements. The SCCOG implements projects identified in the Regional Transportation Plan through various state and federal infrastructure and operational programs. Several

projects included in the 2015 plan advanced in FY 2018, including improvements to Crystal Lake Road in Groton, Route 82 in Salem, the purchase of new buses for SEAT, upgrades to freight rail, and major rehabilitation work to the Gold Star Bridge.

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

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning:** SCCOG was the only COG to receive a 2017 TOD Responsible Growth grant from OPM, which is supporting the development of a Regional Bike/Ped plan. The Plan will present a comprehensive region-wide bicycle network and accessible pedestrian facilities that support existing population centers and transit. The Plan will inform infrastructure spending prioritization, and seeks to create grassroots advocacy for the non-motorized modes in our region. This Plan will be written over a 10-month period and will include robust data collection and public outreach.



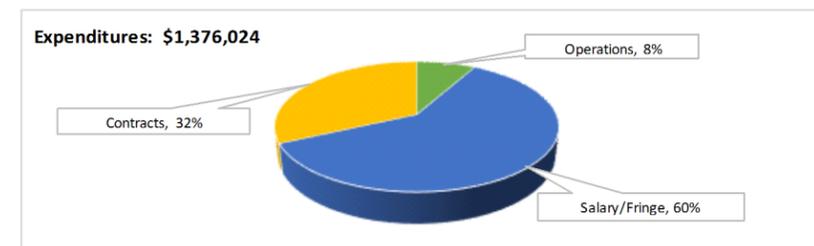
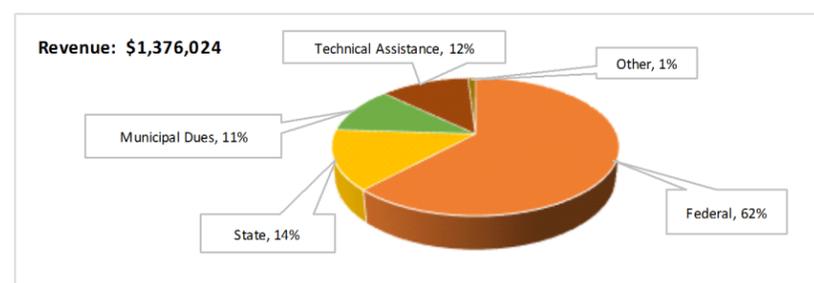
### Member Municipalities:

- 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

## FINANCING

During FY 2018, 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 2017—30 JUNE 2018



Based on independent audit by Hoyt, Filippetti, Malaghan, LLC. Copies of the FY 2018 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office and at [www.seccog.org](http://www.seccog.org).

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### SCCOG Staff:

- James S. Butler, AICP  
Executive Director
- Amanda Kennedy, AICP  
Assistant Director/  
Dir. of Special Projects
- Katherine Rattan, AICP  
Planner III
- Samuel Alexander  
Planner II
- Justin LaFountain  
Planner II
- Carly Myers  
Planner II
- 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:  
(ASOF 11/26/18)

**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:**  
Patrice Granatosky  
John Burt (Alt)

**Lebanon:**  
Betsy Petrie

**Ledyard:**  
Fred Allyn, III

**Lisbon:**  
Tom Sparkman, Vice Chair

**Montville:**  
Ron McDaniel

**New London:**  
Michael Passero, Chairman

**North Stonington:**  
Michael Urgo

**Norwich:**  
Peter Nystrom  
John Salomone (Alt)

**Preston:**  
Robert Congdon

**Salem:**  
Kevin Lyden

**Sprague:**  
Catherine Osten

**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  
Adam Wright (Alt)

**U.S. Coast Guard Academy**  
RADM James Rendon  
LT Tony Gregg (Alt)

**PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED**

and will include robust data collection and public outreach.

**Transit Planning:** SCCOG continues to cooperate with and support Southeast Area Transit (SEAT), which operates the region's fixed route bus service; and Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC), which operates the region's paratransit services. A portion of grant funds awarded to SCCOG by the U.S. Department of Defense will support an update of the 2016 SEAT Bus Study to recommend improvements to transit serving the SUBASE and General Dynamics Electric Boat. The SCCOG also coordinates with two inter-regional transit districts: Estuary Regional Transit District and Windham Regional Transit District. The SCCOG continued to advocate for expansion of service and greater interoperability between bus and regional and commuter rail services amid challenging fiscal circumstances during FY2018.

**Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC):** The federal JARC program funds employment-related transportation assistance to low income individuals who are seeking: jobs, job training, and day care services for children. In FY2018 SCCOG supported ECTC's successful application for funds to start a new program which will make bicycles available to individuals to enable job access and extend the "last mile" of transit.

**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 FY2018 the SCCOG prioritized six new vehicle purchases for Easter Seals Capital Region & Eastern CT, Inc.; Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium, Inc.; the Town of Groton; The ARC of New London County; Horizons Programs, Inc.; and United Community & Family Services. Additionally, the SCCOG secured operating and administrative funds for the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium, Inc. SCCOG was able to secure more funding than our formula allotment by leveraging programs with interregional transportation.

**Local Road Accident Reduction Program (LRAR):** Periodically, 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 City of New London was awarded funding during the past fiscal year for a project in the vicinity of the City's fire headquarters.

**Local Road Transportation Capital Improvements Program (LOTICIP):** The LOTICIP program provides regions with state funds for local transportation infrastructure improvements, with local matching funds required for design services. Road projects in construction in

FY2018 include Old Colchester Road in Montville and Ocean Avenue in New London. In FY 2018 SCCOG endorsed projects in the municipalities of Colchester, Groton City, Norwich, Waterford, New London and Sprague, but CTDOT delayed their commitments to fund these projects due to a statewide fiscal shutdown. Sprague, Norwich, Waterford, and Colchester have since received funding commitments.

**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; this project is now underway.

**Corridor Planning:** The SCCOG endorsed corridor studies for Route 32 in New London and Route 161 in East Lyme which were accepted by CTDOT during the fiscal year.

**REGIONAL PLANNING/IMPLEMENTATION:**

**Regional Planning:** SCCOG adopted a new Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (RPOCD) in 2017 and continued to work on implementation this past fiscal year. The RPOCD recommends a number of strategies and specific activities that are being implemented via our hazard mitigation planning, shared services coordination, housing planning, planner and commissioner training, transportation planning and regional economic development activities discussed in this report. In addition, SCCOG's statutorily-required review of municipal Plans of Conservation and Development includes documentation of how the contents of each municipal plan specifically relate to regional goals and strategies. SCCOG encourages municipal requests for state or federal funding to include statements of how proposed municipal activities relate to regional goals established in the RPOCD and has assisted municipal staff in preparing this information. SCCOG convenes a quarterly meeting of the Regional Planning Commission, consisting of representatives of each of our member municipalities' planning commissions, to engage the municipal commissions in regional initiatives, share best practices, and identify issues of concern that the SCCOG might assist in addressing.

**Military/Community Planning:** SCCOG completed a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) with SUBASE New London in December 2017, which identified current or potential conflicts between military activities and existing or planned uses in surrounding municipalities. This project was funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment (DOD OEA), with an in-kind match provided by the SCCOG and six participating municipalities. Toward the end of the fiscal year, the SCCOG applied for and was granted a second DOD OEA grant to support implementation activities identified in the JLUS: 1) to

review existing and potential use of privately-owned land in Groton immediately adjacent to the SUBASE entrance and recommend preferred future uses and zoning revisions, and 2) to examine the potential impacts of the anticipated ramp-up in hiring by Electric Boat, especially in relation to additional demand for housing and capacity in the region's transportation network, which if not addressed, could negatively impact the SUBASE's activities and conditions for the greater SUBASE community.

**Regional GIS:** Staff continues to maintain and update SCCOG's Online Property Viewer and Online Property Survey Index, which provides regional GIS mapping, assessor's data, and other property information to users via a web portal.

**Municipal Shared Services:** A report documenting the findings of SCCOG's municipal shared services opportunity study was released in January 2018 and work is now underway on implementing study recommendations, particularly those regarding regional collaboration by municipal tax assessors. This project was supported by a 2014 Regional Performance Incentive Program grant from the State of Connecticut.

**Resiliency:** Projects that increase the region's ability to withstand severe storms are becoming increasingly important, with Connecticut's Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) recommending that Connecticut plan for 20 inches of sea level rise by 2050 and CIRCA research indicating that flooding will be more frequent in the future particularly in southeastern Connecticut. In FY 2018, SCCOG completed its assessment of the vulnerability of critical facilities such as police and fire stations to storm damage and recommendations to strengthen or relocate vulnerable facilities. SCCOG received funding from the State of Connecticut's Regional Performance Incentive Program to assist SCCOG municipalities with enrolling in FEMA's Community Rating System program, which rewards municipalities for actions that reduce the likelihood of flood damage community-wide. SCCOG also participated in the inaugural year of the Sustainable CT program, hosting a program fellow at SCCOG that assisted Windham and New London with their applications for certification by this program.

**Emergency Management:** SCCOG continued its emergency management planning efforts during the year as a participant in the DEMHS emergency management (REPT) process, acting as fiduciary agent for Region 4's REPT, which serves 42 municipalities and two tribal nations and is chaired by Lisbon First Selectman Thomas Sparkman.

**Regional Water Planning:** The SCCOG has a Regional Water Committee, which serves as the region's water planning body, with representation on that committee by the major municipal water purveyors in the region. The Regional Water Committee and SCCOG staff worked with the State this past year to see the Eastern Connecticut Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) Coordinated Water System Plan prepared and adopted.

**Human Services Coordination:** In 2011, the SCCOG formed the state's first COG-sponsored Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (RHSCC). This council brings together representatives from the region's human service network, who meet with SCCOG chief elected officials, to coordinate activities, and to discuss matters of mutual concern. During this past year, the RHSCC worked with staff and a consultant on a Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant-funded study that examines the potential for human service agencies in the region to share services and improve efficiency.

**Regional Economic Development:** The SCCOG continues to participate and partner in the work of the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer), the region's economic development organization.

**Housing Planning:** The Council supports the work of the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance (SECHA), a non-profit organization that has been working in partnership with SCCOG since SECHA's incorporation in 2006 to promote access to housing in southeastern Connecticut. In March 2018, SCCOG and SECHA released a housing needs assessment for the region that shows a growing demand for housing that meets the needs of low-income households and of millennials and senior citizens (available at <http://seccog.org/secha>). The assessment's findings were presented at two public meetings held in New London and Norwich. Since March, SCCOG staff and SECHA board members have been meeting with local boards and commissions throughout the region to discuss current and future needs and potential solutions.

**2020 Census Participation:** SCCOG helped to prepare for the 2020 Census by assisting the Town of Franklin with their LUCA (local update of current addresses). The LUCA process assists the US Census Bureau in identifying housing that did not exist in the prior decennial census and is an important step towards ensuring an accurate population count.

**Municipal Referrals:** State law requires that Councils of Governments review and comment on certain proposed zoning amendments/changes, subdivisions, and Plans of Conservation and Development prior to public hearing. SCCOG staff reviewed 60 proposed statutorily required referrals in FY2018.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

**Municipal Planning:** SCCOG staff fill the positions of town planner for Bozrah, Franklin, Lisbon, Sprague, and Salem under contract to these municipalities.

**Municipal Planner and Commissioner Training:** In FY 2018, the SCCOG hosted two training sessions for land use commissioners in the region, both of which were provided by the UCONN Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR). SCCOG also convened the region's municipal planners twice during the year to present project findings and to identify issues of concern in their towns that the SCCOG might assist in addressing.

**OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES:**

**Regional Election Monitor:** JoAnn Merolla-Martin acts as the region's Regional Election Monitor under contract to SCCOG, providing and coordinating training and assisting the region's registrars of voters and election moderators during elections. The position is state-mandated and was previously funded by Connecticut's Secretary of State.

**Workforce Development:** SCCOG continues 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 Windham Mayor Victor Funderburk, Lisbon First Selectman Tom Sparkman, and Montville Mayor Ron McDaniel. SCCOG's Executive Director serves as Secretary of EWIB's Board of Directors.