

MINUTES OF THE 3/20/19 MEETING OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SCCOG OFFICE, NORWICH, CT

PRESENT: Council Representatives: Glenn Pianka, Bozrah; Art Shilosky, Colchester; Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Charles Grant, Franklin; Keith Hedrick, City of Groton; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Fred Allyn III, Ledyard; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Bob Congdon, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cathy Osten, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Rob Simmons, Town of Stonington; Dan Steward, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Burt, Town of Groton; Jim Rivers, Windham. Military Liaison: Captain Paul Whitescarver, Adam Wright, U.S. Naval SUBASE. Tribal Liaison: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. Other: Mike Carroll, Al Fritzsche, Cherise Perkins, SEAT; Jaroslaw Pizunski, Amalgamated Transit Union; Nancy Cowser, seCTer; Jen Granger, UCFS; Deb Monahan, TVCCA; Emma King, Congressman Courtney's Office; Dominick Celtruda; Merrill Gerber, Preston; Tom Kasprzac, Off Shore Wind Consultant; Wendy Bury, SE CT Cultural Coalition; Catherine Young, CT Airport Authority; Lisa Rivers, CTDOT; one reporter.

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance: The Chairman led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Act on Minutes 2/20/19:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 2/20/19 (Hedrick, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the March Treasurer's Report (Congdon, Steward). So voted unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

None.

7. Communications:

The Executive Director highlighted the letter of support for the City of New London's TIGER grant application to expand the City-owned parking garage.

8. Guest Speakers:

A. Jessica LeClair, Sustainable CT

Ms. LeClair provided an update on the Sustainable CT program, which was officially launched in 2017. She said 22 municipalities were certified in the first year, including New London and Windham from the southeastern Connecticut region. She said that three other towns from the region (East Lyme, Groton, and Stonington) have registered, and that others can join at any time by having their legislative body adopt a resolution. She mentioned the Sustainable CT Fellows program, and noted that SCCOG's Fellow from last year is now working at Sustainable CT.

B. Amanda Ljubicic, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT

Ms. Ljubicic explained the Community Concierge program, a toolkit designed to attract and retain the region's workforce. She presented a video which is part of the program.

9. Committee and Liaison Reports

A. Executive Committee

1. Draft FY 2019-2045 SCCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The Executive Director reported on the public hearing held on February 27th, and noted that a 30-day public comment period was open until March 12th. He summarized the comments received, and said that all comments received will be included in the plan in a section on the public consultation process. The Executive Director referred to a table summarizing all public comments on the draft Plan and reported on these recommendations from the public and USDOT including a speaker who recommended more commuter rail with a train stop in Groton; a comment commending the SCCOG for generating a multi-modal plan and second recommendation for a train stop in Groton; a recommendation that the MTP advocate for greenhouse gas reduction as much as possible; a recommendation that the plan underscore the importance of the Thames River and rail lines for movement of bulk freight, the importance of dredging the Thames River and the beneficial use of dredge disposals, and the potential for a commercial water taxi on the Thames running between New London and Norwich; and a speaker who submitted comments agreeing with the abandonment of Route 11 being replaced by spot safety improvements along Route 85, and a synchronization of traffic signals in the Route 85 corridor. He said the Executive Committee has recommended approval of the Plan.

MOTION: To adopt the 2019-2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Resolution No. 19-1 Conformity with Clean Air Act Ozone (Congdon, Passero). So voted unanimously.

2. Town of Groton LOTCIP Project Cancellation

The Executive Director reported on a letter that had been received from Groton Town Manager John Burt stating that the Town of Groton was cancelling the proposed LOTCIP project at Bridge Street/Kings Highway. He said that the SCCOG had approved of \$1.86M for this project, and that these funds would now be made available to SCCOG member municipalities in the next solicitation for LOTCIP projects. Mr. Burt stated that the Town has decided to no longer pursue this project due to the complexity of the project and a number of difficult issues.

3. FY 2019 STIP/TIP Amendments

The Executive Committee has recommended in favor of these amendments. Chairman Sparkman noted these will be taken up under New Business.

4. Other

The Executive Director stated these items were covered in the Executive Committee's written report contained in the agenda packet.

B. Legislative Committee/Legislative Update

Chairman Sparkman stated that the Executive Committee recently met with representatives of the delegation in Hartford. He said that it was disconcerting to see that before Senator Osten and Senator Formica arrived at the meeting, that the legislators present did not appear to know much about the SCCOG's Legislative Agenda. Mr. Allyn said that after this meeting, it was suggested by a local legislator that in the future, the SCCOG work with individual legislators to introduce and track desired legislation. Discussion of SCCOG's Legislative Agenda process took place.

Mr. Passero reported on his meeting with representatives of the Governor's administration to discuss the impacts a regional homeless shelter has on a city.

C. Tribal Liaison Representatives

Mr. Hayward thanked the members of the SCCOG for their support for the joint-venture casino proposed by the two Tribes.

D. Military Command Representative

Captain Whitescarver reported that his Change of Command ceremony will be May 3 in the afternoon.

E. Congressional Office Report

Emma King of Congressman Cortney's office reported on congressional activities.

F. seCTer

Ms. Cowser reminded that seCTer would be holding with EB on May 29th a major supplier event.

G. Eastern CT Tourism District

No report.

H. SEAT

Mr. Carroll reported that the four new buses are now in service.

I. Regional Water Committee

Mr. Congdon reported on the activities by several SCCOG member municipalities to work on a multi-town sewer project.

J. Regional Emergency Planning Team

Mr. Sparkman reminded that FY 2018 homeland security MOAs and resolutions are past due to the SCCOG office, noting that only a few remain to be turned in, and that DEMHS will be chasing these down.

K. Regional Human Services Coordinating Council

Ms. Monahan stated that the RHSCC will meet in April.

L. SE CT Cultural Coalition

Ms. Bury said she was tracking bills that would impact the Arts and Cultural institutions.

10. Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on a number of issues including: proposed HB 7192 which would require COGs to establish regional assessment divisions and

which would cut RSG funding by about 50%; SCCOG staff's meeting with CTDOT to discuss Title VI compliance; SCCOG staff's meeting with FHWA to discuss the SCCOG's response to recommendations in our 2016 federal certification review; the drafting of the 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); the cancellation of the region's Dial-a-Ride program impacting 13 towns due to running out of funds a little more than halfway through the year; the meeting held earlier in the week with DPW Directors and Eversource; the meetings between towns interested in sharing HR services and the planned series of information meetings on HR issues for SCCOG towns; reminder to participate in the SCCOG's Fiscal Impact Analysis survey; and the P&Z Commissioner training being hosted by SCCOG this spring.

11. Old Business

None.

12. New Business

A. FY 2018-2019 STIP/TIP Amendments

- NHPP, 0103-0272, I-395, Norwich, Replace Guiderails from Route 2A to Route 2 – AC Entry, CON, 2019, \$0, Add FY 19 NHPP AC Entry.
- NHPP, 0103-0272, I-395, Norwich, Replace Guiderails from Route 2A to Route 2 – AC Conversion, CON, 2019, \$5,040,000, Increase Est. from FED \$2.25M Add AC Conversion.

MOTION: To approve of the FY 2018-2019 STIP/TIP amendments (Congdon, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

13. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2019.

14. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:49 a.m. (Steward, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Allyn III, Secretary