

MINUTES OF THE 4 MARCH 2019
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Tom Sparkman, Michael Passero, Mark Nickerson (via telephone)

Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy

Other: Jeannie Millstein, New London Human Services Director

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

1. Legislative Agenda Update

Because the overnight snow had impacted the attendance of both Executive Committee members and SCCOG members interested in the SCCOG legislative agenda update, Chairman Sparkman said this will be discussed at a later date.

2. Metropolitan Transportation Plan

The Executive Director reported on the public hearing held on February 27th, and note that the public comment period is open until March 12th. He summarized the comments received to date on the plan, and said that staff has discussed how best to address these in the MTP. He said that staff believes the best way to do this is to summarize all comments received and to include these in the plan in a section on the public consultation process. The Executive Committee agreed. The Executive Director reported on the recommendations from the five commenters at the public hearing 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.

Mr. Passero stated he felt the more train stops on Shoreline East (SLE) in the region would result in the expansion of SLE service. Mr. Nickerson said that the project in the MTP project list is to study the potential for a SLE stop at Rocky Neck in East Lyme.

MOTION: To recommend approval of the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan, with the inclusion of public comments in a summary table, to the full SCCOG (Passero, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

3. FY 2019 STIP/TIP Amendments

MOTION: To recommend approval of the FY 2019 STIP/TIP Amendments to the full SCCOG (Passero, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

4. Request by W. Eyberse to Address SCCOG re: Eastern CT Fire School

The Executive Committee agreed to schedule Mr. Eyberse to address the SCCOG at the April 17th SCCOG meeting.

5. Town of Groton LOTCIP Project Cancellation

The Executive Director reported on a letter he had 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.

6. Other

The Executive Director reported on a bill (HB 7192) proposed by the Governor which would realign revaluation cycles by five regional assessment zones and would require Councils of Governments to create Regional Assessment Divisions which would do all of the back office data entry for its municipal members. He said this same bill would change the Regional Service Grant funding formulas to COGs, reducing this grant to the SCCOG by 52% of the current year's funding. He said he has discussed this with the Groton Town Assessor, the Colchester Assessor has emailed to say he would call him to discuss, and it is being tracked by all of the COGs in the state.

The Executive Committee rescheduled its April meeting from Monday, April 1, to Tuesday, April 2.

The Executive Director reported on three potential dates in May being offered to meet with the legislative delegation in Hartford. The Executive Committee requested that staff notify the delegation staff that March 12th is their preferred date.

Mr. Passero suggested that the meeting with OPM Undersecretary Harris and Mr. Bradley from the Governor's office, for the purpose of discussing regional approaches to and funding issues associated with homeless shelters such as the one New London hosts, might be rescheduled from today to just before or after the meeting with the legislative delegation if that meeting is held on the 12th.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director