

MINUTES OF THE 2 APRIL 2019  
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Tom Sparkman, Art Shilosky, Michael Passero, Mark Nickerson, Fred Allyn III  
Staff: James Butler

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

1. Proposed HB 7192 Update

The Executive Director provided an update on the status of HB 7192, An Act Concerning Municipal and Regional Opportunities and Efficiencies. He stated this bill has been voted on favorably by the Planning and Development Committee, and still requires the formation of regional tax assessment divisions and would change the RSG grant funding formula to COGs reducing the RSG by about 50%. He said the provisions requiring all Tax Collectors to be appointed and to combine the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor offices have been removed. The state's COG Directors have been told by OPM Undersecretary Harris that the bill is still a work in progress. The Executive Committee discussed the impact this bill might have if approved as now amended; the Executive Director stated he would keep the COG informed about its status.

2. CTDOT Proposed Reduction in Match to USDOT Funds in FY 2020-2021 UPWP

The Executive Director reported that just prior to the deadline to submit the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), CTDOT emailed a directive stating that it would not be providing a 10% state match to the federal funds as it historically has, and that it would reduce its match to 8%, increasing the MPO match from 10% to 12%. He said the state's MPO Directors discussed this in a conference call, and that he urged his fellow Directors to submit their draft UPWPs showing the historical state match of 10%, and suggesting we request a meeting with CTDOT and OPM officials to discuss this change, which was done unilaterally with no advance warning and without any consultation with the MPOs. He said he submitted the SCCOG's UPWP before the March 29<sup>th</sup> deadline with the state's share shown at 10%. Since then, there have been email discussions with OPM and CTDOT senior staff, and it appears that a meeting will take place between them and the MPO Directors later this week. He said the difference in additional funds the COG would have to provide to the match is approximately \$25,000 over the two-year period (and an additional \$29,000 if the state maintains their imposition of a 20% local - 0% state match of SCCOG's FY 2016 Carryover funds), but could come at a time when OPM is reducing RSG funds to the COGs. He stated he would keep the COG informed about the status of the required match formula.

3. MOA with Sustainable CT

The Executive Director explained that the draft MOA was a follow-up to the presentation made at the last COG meeting by Sustainable CT's Jessica Leclair. This MOA will result in the SCCOG acquiring one or two Sustainable CT Fellows this coming summer, who will work to assist SCCOG towns interested in joining this program. He said the MOA contains provisions

setting for the fact that the Fellow works in essence as a SCCOG employee, at no cost to the SCCOG.

MOTION: To approve of the MOA with Sustainable CT (Nickerson, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

#### 4. FY 2019 STIP/TIP Amendments

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

#### 5. Other

The Executive Director reported on the Municipal Grant for Medical Dial-a-Ride Program, which had run out of funds this year just after halfway through the year. He stated that staff had requested information on this program from ECTC Director John Roode, whose agency serves as ride broker for the program. Mr. Roode provided detailed information about the program, which is managed by the Senior Center Directors of participating towns. Currently, 12 COG towns plus Voluntown from the NECCOG region, participate in a consortium, and several SCCOG towns manage their own programs outside of this consortium. He said he questioned Voluntown's inclusion in the SCCOG program, since they are no longer in the SCCOG region, and which also participates in the NECCOG program. He said even though Voluntown citizens use the Griswold Senior Center, he does not think Voluntown should have access to share the funds allocated to SCCOG towns as a non-member, and noted that their trips the past year cost more than the funds they brought into the program. The Executive Committee agreed that Voluntown should not participate in the SCCOG region's Dial-a-Ride program. The Executive Director stated that staff had just sent out notices requesting applications under this program, and hoped to meet with the Senior Center Directors who manage the program to see if any assistance might be provided so that the funds do not get used up so soon during the next program year.

The Executive Director reminded that staff had sent out solicitations for the TAP grant program, and had held a workshop to assist towns interested in applying. He said staff had also sent out a solicitation for applications for the Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Mobility Program grant funds.

#### 6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director