

MINUTES OF THE 6 MAY 2019  
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
SCCOG Office, Norwich, CT

Present: Tom Sparkman, Art Shilosky, Michael Passero, Mark Nickerson, Fred Allyn III, Jim Rivers

Staff: James Butler

Chairman Sparkman opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

1. P. McCormack Request to Address SCCOG re: Health Enhancement Community Initiative

The Executive Director explained the purpose of Mr. McCormack's desire to address the SCCOG. The Executive Committee scheduled Mr. McCormack for the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

2. K. Blacker Request for SCCOG Support for His Plan to Develop State Pier

The Executive Director explained the email he had received from Mr. Blacker requesting SCCOG support for his plan for State Pier in New London. He said that this past weekend, he had received an additional email from Mr. Blacker addressed to himself, Bob Ross, and Joe Delong from CCM, noticing us that Mr. Blacker was taking a half-page ad out in The Day on Sunday requesting partners in a \$9.7 Million lawsuit against the CT Port Authority. The Executive Director said Mr. Ross called him over the weekend and left him a message saying he would no longer speak to Mr. Blacker except through an attorney, and he recommended same for the COG. The Executive Director stated he agreed with Mr. Ross, and he said that the SCCOG should not now discuss Mr. Blacker's proposal, until such time as this potential litigation is settled. The Executive Committee concurred.

3. May 21st Meeting with DECD Commissioner Lehman

The Executive Director reminded that the SCCOG and seCTer Executive Committees have been asked to host and been invited to a May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting at the SCCOG office with new DECD Commissioner David Lehman.

4. Resolution No. 19-2, Relating to a FY 2018 EMPG HazMat Grant

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the approval of Resolution No. 19-2, Relating to a FY 2018 EMPG HazMat Grant (Allyn, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

5. Proposed HB 7192/RSG Funding Update

The Executive Director stated that HB 7192, the bill containing the requirement for COGs to have Regional Assessment Divisions, has been reported joint favorably out of committee; the

proposed budget that has been approved by the Appropriations Committee contains the same amount of funding for COGs that has been appropriated in the current year.

#### 6. CTDOT Proposal to Reduce State Match of PL Funds Update/UPWP Action

The Executive Director stated that the MPO Directors will be meeting with OPM Underscretary Harris and CTDOT leadership on Thursday to discuss CTDOT's unilateral proposal to reduce their match to 8% and thereby increase the MPO's match to 12%. He said he submitted SCCOG's draft UPWP with the historic 80/10/10 funding share. He asked the Executive Committee to recommend approval of the draft UPWP in order to meet CTDOT's deadline for action, noting it can be revised later if the funding formula now being proposed by CTDOT is required.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the approval of the FY 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Nickerson, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

#### 7. New London Foreign Trade Zone – Proposal for Regional Designation

Mr. Passero explained his City's suggestion that all SCCOG member towns that are part of New London County be included in a new designated Foreign Trade Zone under the Alternative Site Framework provision. He said if this item could be placed on a future SCCOG meeting agenda, he would bring City staff to that meeting to better explain how this would work.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG that SCCOG and its cities and towns consider joining New London in a Foreign Trade Zone service area under the Alternative Site Framework that would allow designation to be brought to any company that needs it in the region, eliminating the need to pre-designate a site (Passero, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

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

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

#### 9. Delegation of Authority – CTDOT

The Executive Director explained that this CTDOT form delegates SCCOG authority for signing of time sheets and invoices.

MOTION: To approve of the Delegation of Authority form as presented by staff (Nickerson, Passero). So voted unanimously.

#### 10. Section 5310 Grant Applications

The Executive Director and Senior Planner Kate Rattan, who had joined the meeting, explained that the SCCOG received seven traditional and three non-traditional applications for Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funding. Staff anticipates

that that \$187,781 for the Norwich-New London Urban Area will be made available to the region, and SCCOG may have access to some of the \$193,946 in Small Urban and \$295,965 in Rural 5310 funds that are prioritized by CTDOT. Staff provided a ranking sheet of Traditional and Non-Traditional projects that was the result of their evaluation of each application using a CTDOT provided evaluation form and metrics. Staff has contacted CTDOT and asked if municipal applications could be prioritized higher by the SCCOG no matter their scoring/ranking in light of the fact that Easter Seals (#1 ranked) and The Arc (#3) had recently received vehicles through the SCCOG under this program and since they had greater resources than municipal senior centers, but CTDOT's response was that we must follow our own ranking based on their evaluation form.

**MOTION:** To recommend to the full SCCOG the staff ranking of both Traditional and Non-Traditional applications for funding under the Section 5310 program (Passero, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

#### 11. TAP Grant Application/Presentations

The Executive Committee moved from the library to the main meeting room to hear presentations from the five municipalities which had applied for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funding. Presentations were made on the following projects:

Bozrah, Glenn Pianka, First Selectman – Fitchville Sidewalks, \$600,800 requested; \$751,000 total project cost.

Town of Groton, Mark Berry, Parks and Recreation Director – Connect G&S Trolley Trail to Thomas Road Shared Use Path, \$515,200 requested; \$644,000 total project cost.

New London, Sybil Tetteh, City Planner – Williams Street Complete Street Improvements, \$874,105 requested; \$982,800 total project cost.

Norwich, Dan Daniska, Assistant City Planner – New London Turnpike Complete Streets Improvements, \$786,240 requested; \$982,800 total project cost.

Town of Stonington, Rob Simmons, First Selectman, Jason Vincent, Director of Planning – Sidewalk Gap Closure on Route 1 in Pawcatuck, \$727,040 requested; \$908,800 total project cost.

After the presentations, Mr. Sparkman stated the Executive Committee would move back to the library to consider the applications; the Executive Director announced that the meeting was still open and all were welcome to attend. Mr. Simmons and Norwich City Manager Salomone joined the Executive Committee and staff in the library, and they responded to questions about their projects from members of the Executive Committee.

During discussion, Mr. Rivers suggested a rank order that had Bozrah third, and either Norwich or Stonington first with the other second. He said he placed Groton lower because of their cancellation of three projects for which they had received SCCOG allocated funding in recent

years, and New London lower because the City had received two other TAP grants through the SCCOG in recent years. Staff explained that while the SCCOG is expected to receive a total of \$1,185,565 over the five year period from 2021 – 2025, it is likely that only one project from each region will be advanced by CTDOT due to their staff constraints. CTDOT has advised each region to only submit the number of applications that corresponds with the estimated total of funding to be received. The Executive Committee asked that the staff technical review scoring sheet and the five applications be sent to them, and members expressed interest in visiting the locations of the five projects. Mr. Sparkman asked that this item be placed on the Executive Committee's June agenda for consideration.

## 12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director