

MEETING NOTES OF 6/10/20 TELECONFERENCE OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Uργο, North Stonington; Sandra Allyn Gauthier, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cheryl Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Salomone, Norwich. Tribal Representative: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wight, U.S. Naval SUBASE; LCDR Dan Stepler, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Liz Crutcher.

Chairman Nickerson called the teleconference to order at 8:32 a.m.

Captain Moore reported on the SUBASE re-opening strategy using a Navy rubric for assessment; he said he anticipates they will have in-person service in the next two to three weeks.

LCDR Stepler said the Academy brought in the first group of graduated cadets this past weekend, who will remain on campus and be tested before heading out to the fleet.

Ms. Chesebrough said she was interested in learning what towns were doing in terms of reinstating in-person public meetings.

Mr. Sparkman said that Lisbon has no plans for in-person meetings until at least late August.

Mr. Nickerson said East Lyme might open Town Hall to the public on June 17 when the State opens up, but not so sure about holding in-person public meetings, raising the point of what to do when 50 or more people show up.

Mr. Uργο said that North Stonington is also not holding in-person meetings, and that he didn't think that virtual attendance at meetings will go away, and may be used even after meetings are open to in-person attendance.

Mr. Cwikla said that Lebanon opened Town Hall on June 1 with everyone entering signing a log, wearing a mask, keeping safe distance, and said they were actually still doing Zoom meetings which has resulted in increased public attendance.

Mr. Hedrick said that City of Groton was using Skype for its virtual meetings, but noted that some commissioners and board members were having trouble connecting, so they planned to go to in-person meetings in July. He said the public will still be allowed to call in to meetings.

Mr. Allyn said that Ledyard opened Town Hall to the public on June 8, and will open libraries to the public at 50% capacity on June 22; he said that they plan to hold public meetings virtually until July and possibly August before resuming in-person meeting attendance.

Ms. Blanchard said that Sprague has not opened Town Hall yet, is continuing to conduct virtual meetings, and may allow hybrid meetings where attendance can be in-person or virtually in the future.

Mr. Sparkman asked if anyone was considering one-way entry and exit in town halls with multiple entrances. East Lyme and City of Groton said they were doing so now, and Town of Stonington said they were considering it.

Mr. Salamone reported on access to Norwich City Hall, where has posted an Overtime Police Officer, which he said is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. He said they may add evening hours for tax collection. Discussion of tax collection in-person during the pandemic took place.

The SCCOG weekly call was then suspended at 8:57 a.m. to allow for the opening of a Public Meeting on SCCOG's TMA Certification Review of its transportation planning process to begin at 9:00 a.m. The minutes of that meeting are separate and attached to this document. The SCCOG weekly call resumed at 9:22 a.m.

Ms. Chesebrough said that Stonington was considering erecting a tent and table outside Town Hall during the first week of July to receive tax payments. Mr. Nickerson suggested the last week of July had a large number of residents wanting to pay in person, so that the Town might wish to extend the outside payment process until then.

The Chairman asked if there were any additional comments. The Executive Director reminded that he needed to collect the name, title, email address, and cell number of Local Long-Term Recovery Coordinators from a few more SCCOG municipalities.

Mr. Nickerson asked if members wished to continue to hold a weekly call. Mr. Sparkman suggested holding 1-2 calls a month. Mr. Nickerson suggested we hold a call the first Wednesday of each month and the SCCOG meeting the third Wednesday would also allow for COVID response discussion. This was agreed to by those members on the call.

The teleconference concluded at 9:30 a.m.

Note: The recording of this teleconference is posted on the SCCOG web site.

Meeting Notes Taken By:

James S. Butler, Executive Director

MEETING NOTES OF 6/10/20 TMA CERTIFICATION REVIEW PUBLIC MEETING
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
HELD VIA ZOOM

SCCOG MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, East Lyme; Todd Babbitt, Griswold; Fred Allyn, III, Ledyard; Tom Sparkman, Lisbon; Ron McDaniel, Montville; Michael Passero, New London; Mike Urgo, North Stonington; Sandra Allyn Gauthier, Preston; Kevin Lyden, Salem; Cheryl Blanchard, Sprague; Jeff Callahan, Borough of Stonington; Danielle Chesebrough, Town of Stonington; Rob Brule, Waterford. Council Alternates: John Salomone, Norwich. Tribal Representative: Robert Hayward, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. Military Liaison: Captain Todd Moore, Adam Wight, U.S. Naval SUBASE; LCDR Dan Stepler, USCGA. Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Liz Crutcher. Other: Kurt Salmoiraghi, Jennifer Carrier, FHWA; Leah Sirmin, Margaret Griffin, FTA; Maribeth Wojenski, Kathryn Faraci, Rose Etuka, Tiffany Garcia, Grayson Wright, CTDOT.

Chairman Nickerson called the public meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Butler stated the purpose of the meeting and thanked SCCOG's federal partners for their thorough review of SCCOG's transportation planning process.

Mr. Salmoiraghi introduced FHWA and FTA officials. He then provided a Power Point presentation on the purpose of this TMA Certification Review (copy attached).

Ms. Sirmin then said that the federal agencies wished to hear from the SCCOG and the public regarding their thoughts on the SCCOG's transportation planning process. She said the public comments will be received up to June 19.

Mr. Nickerson called for comment. There were none.

Mr. Lyden asked that the presentation be sent out to all SCCOG members.

MOTION: To adjourn the Public Meeting on the TMA Certification Review at 9:20 a.m. (Sparkman, Lyden). So voted unanimously.

Meeting Notes Taken By:

James S. Butler, Executive Director

Norwich - New London TMA Certification Review

Public Meeting
June 10, 2020

Who **We** Are?

Federal Highway Administration - Connecticut Division

Glastonbury, CT

- Kurt Salmoiraghi - Program Development Team Leader
- Jennifer Carrier - Transportation Planner
- Erik Shortell - Transportation Specialist

Federal Transit Administration - Region 1

Cambridge, MA

- Leah Sirmin - Community Planner

Why Are **We** Here?

- The Federal government is required to *review and certify* the transportation planning practices of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in areas with a population over 200,000
- No less than once every 4 years FHWA & FTA jointly review the metropolitan transportation planning process
- Ensure compliance with FAST Act
- The last certification review decision for the SCCOG MPO was July 13, 2016

Why Are **You** Here?

- To provide input regarding transportation planning and decision-making processes administered by SCCOG MPO
- Examples include:
 - Availability of draft planning documents for public review and comment
 - Access and opportunity to participate in the planning process
 - Consideration of public input
 - Technical assistance and project selection
- The comments received will be taken into consideration and summarized in the final report

What is the Outcome of this Review?

- A certification determination will be made following the review and a report will be issued
- Determination categories:
 - Certified
 - Certified subject to corrective actions
 - Not Certified
- If 'Not Certified', funding restrictions may be put in place

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

What is the Planning Process?

A process by which transportation decisions are made and projects are planned, selected and prioritized for implementation within the region.

Why is it Important?

- *Decides how federal dollars are allocated within the region annually.*
- *Because of limited funding, the MPO must prioritize the regional needs and determine those projects that best meet performance goals and objectives and have the most public benefit.*
- *The process lays the framework for the future transportation system.*

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

Who is involved?

- *SCCOG*
- *CTDOT*
- *Public Transportation Operators*
- *Federal Agencies (FTA & FHWA)*
- *Other stakeholders and the public*

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

Products of the Process

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Public Participation Plan (PPP)

**Continuing - Cooperative - Comprehensive
Multimodal - Public Input**

Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

Comments?

Questions?

Thank you for your participation!

Comments may also be submitted by June 19th to:

FHWA

Jennifer Carrier

jennifer.carrier@dot.gov

628 Hebron Avenue, Suite 303

Glastonbury, CT 06033

FTA

Leah Sirmin

leah.sirmin@dot.gov

55 Broadway, Suite 920

Cambridge, MA 02142