

MINUTES OF THE 2 MARCH 2021  
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Via ZOOM

Present: Fred Allyn, III, Mark Nickerson, Danielle Chesebrough, Keith Hedrick, Mike Urgo, Jim Rivers

Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan

Other: Tony Sheridan, Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT

Chairman Allyn opened the meeting at 8:40 a.m. He invited anyone wishing to add an item to the agenda to make a motion to do so.

MOTION: To add to the agenda proposed HB 6451 which would permit online gaming (Urgo, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

1. Proposed HB 6451, An Act Concerning Gaming Agreements with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut

Mr. Urgo stated that this bill would be the subject of a public hearing this morning, and that testimony is due by 9:30 a.m. He said that since the SCCOG had previously submitted a letter to the Governor this past spring, asking the Governor to permit online gaming by the Tribes during the pandemic, he thought the COG might wish to submit a similar letter of support for this proposed bill since it would have the same affect. The Chairman asked staff if this was something the Executive Committee could do without a full COG board vote. The Executive Director responded this would be consistent with other actions by the SCCOG's Executive Committee when facing deadlines in the past, and further noted that the full SCOG adopted a legislative agenda last month which included this item, so he said the Executive Committee would be submitting a letter supporting a legislative agenda item approved by the SCCOG. Mr. Urgo read his draft letter and members of the Executive Committee offered suggestions for edits. Mr. Urgo said he would incorporate these suggestions into the final letter which he would submit on behalf of the SCCOG.

MOTION: To submit a letter on behalf of the SCCOG to the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security in support of HB 6451 (Hedrick, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

2. DEMHS Region 4 Long Term Recovery Steering Committee - Update

The Executive Director reported on recent and upcoming meetings of the DEMHS Region 4 Regional Recovery Steering Committee and three Working Groups. The Deputy Director reported on advancing identified unmet needs to the State. The Executive Director stated that he still has not heard back from the State as to how they will fund the three COGs, including the SCCOG, which are ineligible for the EDA grants the state's other six COGs have applied for.

### 3. JLUS Parking Management Plan - Update

The Deputy Director reported that there will be a meeting of the project steering committee to discuss information compiled by the SCCOG's consultant Kimley-Horn later this month.

### 4. CMAQ Application Review

The Executive Director stated that the staff had solicited CMAQ applications earlier this winter, and that only one had been received. This was from the Windham Regional Transit District (WRTD) for a service expansion. Ms. Rattan summarized the application, stating that WRTD had revised their application to address several criteria that staff had pointed out to them, including a statement that they would provide the match and to change the project duration to three years.

MOTION: To recommend to the SCCOG board the application of WRTD for submission to CTDOT a SCCOG's priority candidate for CMAQ funding (Urgo, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

### 5. FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

The Executive Director reported on the proposed amendments

MOTION: To recommend to the SCCOG board that the proposed FY 2021 STIP/TIP amendments be approved (Nickerson, Chesebrough). So voted unanimously.

### 6. Request by CCM to Address SCCOG re: Desegregate CT Legislation

The Executive Director said that he had been contacted by Donna Hamzy of CCM to ask for the opportunity to inform the SCCOG about compromise language for legislation that CCM and Desegregate CT has agreed upon. The Executive Committee agreed to invite Ms. Hamzy to address the SCCOG at the March 17<sup>th</sup> SCCOG meeting.

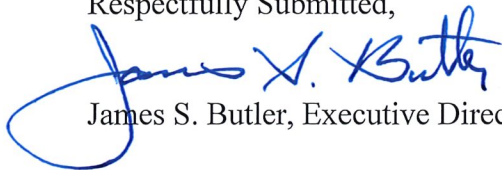
### 7. Other

The Executive Director informed the Executive Committee that he had been contacted by Stat Representative Holly Cheeseman on behalf of Ann Dagle of the Brian Dagle Foundation. Ms. Dagle would like to address the SCOG to offer suicide prevention and awareness training to municipal employees. The Executive Committee invited Ms. Dagle to address the SCCOG at the April meeting.

Ms. Rattan said she was still discussing with CTDOT staff a good date to present the findings of the Niantic Rail Station study.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
James S. Butler, Executive Director