

MINUTES OF THE 4 MAY 2021
SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Via ZOOM

Present: Fred Allyn, III, Mark Nickerson, Danielle Chesebrough, Mike Urgo
Staff: James Butler, Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan
Other: Mayor Peter Nystrom, Norwich; John Salomone, Norwich City Manager; Henry Resnikoff; Wes Pulver, National Coast Guard Museum Association; Steve Masalin, Elizabeth Burdick, Ledyard; Ryan Acosta, CT DECD; Grayson Wright, Anne Kleza, CTDOT; Lisa Slonus, Weston & Sampson; Zell Steever.

Chairman Allyn opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

1. Draft Resolution No. 21-2, Relating to a FY 2020 EMPG Hazmat Grant

The Executive Director explained this was an annually re-occurring grant, and said the resolution will allow the SCCOG to execute the grant. He said that because of the deadline for sending this to DEMHS, he would modify the draft resolution's certifying statement to note that the Executive Committee, as opposed to the full SCCOG, had approved of the resolution.

MOTION: To approve Resolution No. 21-2, Relating to a FY 2020 EMPG Hazmat Grant (Urigo, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

2. Draft Resolution No. 21-3, Relating to a Climate Emergency

The Executive Director said that after addressing the SCCOG on this topic at their March meeting, Dr. Kuhns had offered to draft a resolution which the SCCOG could consider adopting. The climate emergency resolution that Dr. Kuhns had written was provided to the Executive Committee, along with a shorter one-page resolution drafted by staff. The Executive Director said he attempted to include Dr. Kuhns' most salient points in his one-page draft. The Chairman reminded that he had asked each member of the Executive Committee to review staff's draft and to suggest any changes at this month's meeting. No changes were suggested.

MOTION: To recommend to the SCCOG the adoption of Resolution No. 21-3, Relating to a Climate Emergency (Urigo, Chesebrough). So voted unanimously.

3. Draft Resolution No. 21-4, SEAT Performance Targets

The Executive Director and Transportation Program Manger Rattan explained the proposed performance targets.

MOTION: To recommend to the SCCOG the adoption of Resolution No. 21-4, SEAT Performance Targets (Nickerson, Chesebrough). So voted unanimously.

4. Draft Resolution No. 21-5, Arrow Line Performance Targets

The Executive Director and Transportation Program Manger Rattan explained the proposed performance targets.

MOTION: To recommend to the SCCOG the adoption of Resolution No. 21-5, Arrow Line Performance Targets (Nickerson, Chesebrough). So voted unanimously.

5. LOTCIP Funding Status

The Executive Director referred to a memo in the packet, written by Ms. Rattan, explaining the status of SCCOG's LOTCIP funding in light of requested increases to New London's Broad Street/Williams Street project, which was approved at last month's SCCOG meeting, and to Ledyard's Colonel Ledyard Highway multi-use path project. It was noted that Ledyard officials and their consultant were present to discuss the cost increases to the Ledyard project, but that the memo outlining the reasons for the increase had inadvertently not been sent by staff to the Executive Committee.

MOTION: To allow discussion of the proposed LOTCIP increase in cost to Ledyard's Colonel Ledyard Highway multi-use pathway project under this item on the agenda.

Ms. Slonus of Weston & Sampson presented her memorandum outlining the reasons for the change in cost from the estimate that accompanied the original pre-application to the cost figure which has been determined after preparation of the final application.

MOTION: To recommend that the SCCOG approve of the cost increase in Ledyard's LOTCIP project to install a multi-use pathway on Colonel Ledyard Highway Highway (Urgo). The Chairman asked for a second, and there was no second to the motion. Motion failed.

MOTION: To table action on this item until the June meeting, in order to allow the Executive Committee to thoroughly review the memo, and the SCCOG's consultant to review the plans submitted and projected cost (Urgo, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

6. Requests to Amend SCCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan: City of Norwich; National Coast Guard Museum Association

The Executive Director explained and summarized the two requests to amend the SCCOG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to include new projects, one from the City of Norwich which would modify Exit 18 on I-395 and construct an arterial road into a new business park, and one from the National Coast Guard Museum Association to include the planned pedestrian bridge which will provide access to the planned Museum in New London. He said that in his 22 years as Executive Director, he could not recall any request to amend the region's Transportation Plan to add projects outside of the regularly scheduled required updates to the Plan. He said that both requests are the result of a solicitation by Congressman Courtney for projects that could be funded under earmarks that will be made available in the next federal transportation act. He said that Congress is giving preference to projects that are in State Transportation Improvement

Programs (STIP). To be in a STIP, a project must first be in the MPO's MTP and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He said that projects in SCCOG's MTP Project List (Table 5) must have been subject to a CTDOT air quality conformity analysis and that this list must be fiscally constrained. So until the air quality analysis is performed and funding identified and made available, the projects being proposed could only be included in Appendix B of the MTP, which contains locally submitted projects not included in the conformity analysis. He concluded by stating that the SCCOG's public participation process for transportation planning requires that amendments to the MTP be the subject of a public hearing and a 30-day public comment period. He outlined a tentative schedule for this process including a public hearing at the SCCOG's May 19th meeting, and possible action by the SCCOG at their June 16th meeting.

Mr. Nystrom and Mr. Resnikoff explained the City of Norwich's request; Mr. Pulver explained the National Coast Guard Museum's request.

MOTION: To schedule a public hearing on the two requests to amend the MTP (Urger, Nickerson). So voted unanimously.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Immediately following the meeting, the Executive Committee heard a presentation from CTDOT on the Niantic Rail Station Feasibility Study and on Shoreline East (SLE) operations.

Respectfully Submitted,

James S. Butler, Executive Director