

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE JULY 5, 2022 MEETING OF THE SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Fred Allyn II, Danielle Chesebrough, Rob Brule, Keith Hedrick, John Salomone, Cheryl Blanchard.

Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan.

Chairman Allyn opened the meeting at 8:32 AM.

1. LOTCIP Pre-Application Submission Review

SCCOG planner Kate Rattan reviewed the LOTCIP solicitation process and the project pre-applications submitted for SCCOG consideration. Five applications were received, for one project each from Preston, East Lyme, Montville, Waterford, and Norwich. SCCOG staff and consultants reviewed the projects and ranked them according to stated criteria and whether towns had received LOTCIP funds in the past, with preference given to new recipients, recommending that full applications be submitted for Preston, East Lyme, and Montville's projects, with the scope of Preston's project reduced to meet available funding. Pending SCCOG approval, SCCOG staff will work with the municipalities to refine scope and full applications. Ms. Rattan noted that SCCOG's schedule for reviewing projects had slipped due to staff attending a week-long CT DOT Lean participation in June, and that the stated Phase II application deadline of September 1 is no longer feasible. Executive Director Kennedy noted that SCCOG was hoping to program \$10 million in LOTCIP funds in this round, and that the total of the three recommended projects (\$8 million) is expected to approach this amount after expected cost increases. The deadline for Phase II applications would be pushed to mid-September or October.

MOTION: To endorse and forward to the SCCOG board the top three ranked pre-applications received for LOTCIP funding (Preston, East Lyme, and Montville), with the recommendation that the SCCOG approve them to submit full applications (Hedrick, Blanchard).

Discussion: First Selectman Brule noted that Waterford's project is an evacuation route and reconstruction of the northern half is underway. The proposed project for this solicitation round would have completed the work. Mr. Brule asked that it be considered for future funding.

So voted unanimously.

Member Municipalities:

Bozrah * Colchester * East Lyme * Franklin * Griswold * Borough of Jewett City * City of Groton * Town of Groton * Lebanon * Ledyard * Lisbon * Montville * New London * North Stonington * Norwich * Preston * Salem * Sprague * Stonington * Stonington Borough * Waterford * Windham

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2. FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

The Chairman summarized the series of STIP/TIP Amendments (Franklin- Beaver Brook bridge replacement, I95 concrete sealing). It was noted that one of the sheets provided by CT DOT also included information about a culvert project in Groton, not included in the other TIP amendment sheets. The Executive Director recommended to the Board that they only consider the Franklin and I95 amendments, as staff had not reviewed the Groton culvert project for this meeting. (Note: the culvert project had already been approved, by SCCOG in April, and was left on the form in error by CT DOT).

MOTION: To recommend approval of the FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments to the full SCCOG (Blanchard, Chesebrough). So voted unanimously.

3. BIL/IIJA Funding Opportunities

The Executive Director reported on SCCOG coordination of a potential regional Safe Streets for All (SS4A) application that would focus on pedestrian safety. SCCOG staff will reach out individually to municipalities in the coming weeks to compile a project list. She also noted that staff is reviewing a new grant program for funding bridge improvements, and that Ms. Rattan has identified other anticipated IIJA funding as being a possible source of funds for the Waterford Cross Road project submitted for LOTCIP.

4. Personnel

Motion: To enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters (Allyn, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

Executive Director Kennedy reported on several personnel matters:

- Former Executive Director Jim Butler has begun working under Part-Time/Retired status with regular hours of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning.
- GIS Coordinator Liz Crutcher has given notice that her last day with SCCOG will be Thursday, July 7.
- Efforts continue to fill the Planner I/II position left open when Carly Holzschuh left in April.
- Lee-Ann Gomes has elected not to renew her contract working part-time with SCCOG.

MOTION: To exit executive session. (Allyn, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

5. Capital Improvements

The Executive Director reported that the first priority for building repairs would be to correct the drainage issues causing moisture to enter the rear of the SCCOG building on a regular basis, and noted that \$50,000 had been budgeted for capital improvements this fiscal year. Special Advisor Butler has been tasked with getting contractor quotes.

6. Future Meetings

Chairman Allyn recommended to the Executive Committee that future SCCOG meetings be held in person so that members can benefit from regular interactions, noting that in-person attendance at recent hybrid meetings has been low. Several Executive Board members concurred with his recommendation (Brule, Salomone, Blanchard, Hedrick). First Selectman Blanchard noted that current law would enable Board members to request the ability to participate virtually. The Board agreed to hold meetings in person (without virtual option) and revisit that approach as needed.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director