

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 MEETING OF THE SCCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Fred Allyn II (Chairman), Rob Brule, Keith Hedrick, John Salomone, Cheryl Blanchard.
Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Wendy Leclair.

Chairman Allyn opened the meeting at 8:41 AM.

1. STIP/TIP Amendments

Executive Director Kennedy reviewed the three TIP amendments submitted to SCCOG for its endorsement. The projects were 1) Route 2A Bridge Rehabilitation, 2) funding for statewide asset management, 3) funding for statewide Intelligent Transportation Systems software, hardware, and operating costs. SCCOG planner Kate Rattan elaborated on the details of the Rte 2A bridge work, which is to conduct rehabilitation in the span between the abutments, and does not include any work outside of that footprint. Kennedy and Rattan reported on the consultation call they requested with DOT, in which they reminded DOT staff of the 2005 EIS recommending a preferred alternative that would add a second span, as well as a need to address the intersection with route 12 in Preston. Ms. Rattan stated that traffic volumes do not currently support investment in a second span. Chairman Allyn noted that pedestrian improvements would be helpful. Ms. Rattan noted the configuration of the bridge is not currently conducive to pedestrian traffic.

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

2. LOTCIP – Colchester – Lebanon Avenue Streetscape Improvements Phase 3

Ms. Rattan summarized the Colchester project and its benefits. The project was initially submitted as a concept in 2021 and was approved by SCCOG for application development. After addressing comments by SCCOG staff and consultants, the Town of Colchester is now ready to submit the application to CT DOT to request Commitment to Fund. The \$679,400 sidewalk project will connect to the Airline Trail, to existing center-of-town sidewalks, and to nearby housing.

MOTION: To recommend to the full SCCOG the endorsement of the Colchester LOTCIP

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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project for streetscape improvements to Lebanon Avenue (Route 16), with a cost estimate of \$679,400 (Hedrick, Salomone). So voted unanimously.

3. Norwich-New London UZA Congestion Performance Measure Target Setting

Cheryl Blanchard entered the meeting at this time. Ms. Kennedy reported that federal transportation planning laws require that performance measure targets be set for urbanized areas (UZAs) with the concurrence of all jurisdictions planning within a UZA, which in our case includes the Rhode Island State Planning Council and RiverCOG. CT DOT has been preparing UZA targets in consultation with the required partners. Ms. Kennedy and Ms. Rattan met with CT DOT staff to be briefed on the developed targets and target-setting process, and recommend adoption of the targets. Adoption will require a resolution by the SCCOG.

MOTION: To advance a resolution to the full SCCOG for consideration that would adopt the Performance Measure Targets developed by CT DOT for the Norwich-New London Urbanized Area (Hedrick, Blanchard). So voted unanimously.

4. Safe Streets for All Grant Application BIL/IIJA Funding Opportunities

Ms. Kennedy provided an update on the SCCOG regional application for funding. SCCOG submitted the list of projects to CT DOT for their review and CT DOT recommended endorsing all the projects and providing a letter of support. The application is due September 15th.

5. seCTer Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)

Ms. Kennedy noted that while seCTer Executive Director Paul Whitescarver had stated that seCTer planned to present its CEDs to the SCCOG for its endorsement at the September 21 meeting, the report has been delayed by one month. Ms. Kennedy also noted that seCTer's Build Back Better Regional Challenge coalition, of which SCCOG is a part, was not selected for phase 2 funding. The funding would have supported work on brownfields remediation and regional GIS enhancements. Mr. Salomone noted that funding would also have supported work to develop Norwich's planned Industrial Park North.

6. Gold Star Bridge – CT DOT application for Federal Funding.

Ms. Rattan briefed the Committee on CT DOT's recent work to program funding for bridge repairs and for improvements to bicycle/pedestrian conditions on the I-95 Gold Star Bridge. CT DOT has applied for Federal Bridge Investment Program (Large Bridge) funding for the northbound span, which currently lacks bike/ped infrastructure, committing in the application to including bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure as part of the project. Upon CT DOT's request, Ms. Kennedy provided a letter of support, which emphasized the value of the planned pedestrian connection. At the same time, Ms. Rattan and Ms. Kennedy requested further information on SCCOG's plans and later learned that while CT DOT intends to improve pedestrian facilities on the bridge, it is still conducting planning activities to determine whether improvements would be made to the north or southbound span. Mayor Hedrick emphasized the importance of the connection, was pleased to see the planning underway, and noted that it made sense to include improvements as part of the stated project. Mr. Brule concurred.

7. Personnel

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, with the following attendees: Allyn, Brule, Hedrick, Blanchard, Salomone, Leclair, Kennedy (Brule, Salomone).

Ms. Kennedy reported on the recent hiring of two new SCCOG employees, Kyle Casiglio (Planner I) and Jessica Cobb (GIS Coordinator).

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

8. Capital Improvements

Ms. Kennedy reported that work had been completed to address pavement and moisture issues. Gutters have been installed on the rear of the building, the driveway was repaired and overlaid with new asphalt, and the remaining lot crackfilled and sealcoated. With the heavy rain overnight, moisture is still entering the library. (Note: The paving contractor had not yet reinstalled the rubber sealant on the building). Total cost of the work is approximately \$42,000. Chairman Allyn suggested a curtain drain may be necessary to fully address moisture issues.

9. Speaker Requests

Ms. Kennedy reported the following requests have been received to address the SCCOG at a future meeting:

- a) Dave Murphy, re: SCCOG Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resilient CT Planning
- b) CT Inspector General's Office, re: response to mass shooting
- c) CT Paid Leave Authority

Ms. Kennedy also stated she suspects that seCTer ED Paul Whitescarver will want to address the SCCOG in October regarding the CEDS. Ms. Kennedy recommended scheduling Dave Murphy for September. Chairman Allyn stated that two speakers on a single agenda can force meetings to run long and suggested the following schedule: Murphy September, CEDS October, IG November. Members concurred with that suggestion.

10. Other

11. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Hedrick, Salomone).

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director