

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Minutes

February 6, 2023 Executive Committee
Held by Zoom

PRESENT:

Danielle Chesebrough (Chairman), Rob Brule, John Salomone, Fred Allyn II, Cheryl Blanchard.
Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Jim Butler.

Chairman Chesebrough opened the meeting at 8:32 AM.

1. Regional Code Enforcement/RPIP Grant

Ms. Kennedy stated that implementation of this program is progressing, with Jennifer Lindo starting her position providing zoning enforcement services on January 30th. The building official search was reopened and interviews with building official candidates are scheduled and will be conducted by Ms. Kennedy, Mayor Allyn, and FS Allyn-Gauthier. OPM is allowing flexibility in the use of the grant, allowing SCCOG to contract with another part-time building official to provide interim services to the Town of Preston. Mr. Brule asked whether SCCOG intended to enable 24/7 backup services. Ms. Kennedy stated that the near-term goal is a single building official with a longer-term goal being additional on-call staff to assist with coverage. Mr. Brule stated with Waterford would be interested in participating a backup program and that he has cleared the concept with the union for Waterford's participation.

2. Q2 Budget Review

Ms. Kennedy noted that it is customary to produce a review of expenditures at the end of quarter two, and presented a review which also includes the status of different income sources. She noted no surprises in terms of either the pace of expenses or income, but that several "pass-through" program are not shown in the current budget, and will be added upon the next revision so as to be able to monitor any expense/reimbursement income mismatches.

3. STIP/TIP Amendments

Ms. Rattan provided information regarding the TIP amendments being presented for

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endorsement. The first three were bridge asset management projects. SCCOG participated in local consultation on the fourth project (Norwich guiderails) because of the complex urban setting of this project. The last cluster of projects are amendments necessary to move previously listed pavement marking work from 2023 to 2024 and future years.

MOTION: To recommend approval of the TIP amendments by the full SCCOG Board (Blanchard, Brule). So voted unanimously.

4. LOTCIP

Ms. Kennedy stated that two projects were being presented for potential recommendation to endorse. The first is the New London Williams Street project in the amount of \$2.7 million. The second is the potential re-endorsement of the Colchester Lebanon Avenue Streetscape project, which must be re-endorsed because the estimate must be revised to include 15% of the cost of major items budgeted for minor items. Ms. Kennedy noted that the New London project is being advanced under both the LOTCIP and TAP funding sources program, and that she and Ms. Rattan will ask for clarification from CT DOT as to when New London needs to commit to one funding path. Ms. Rattan clarified that the TAP program will soon advance to project selection, and that it has not moved in the past few years due to the infrastructure bill transition affecting process and funding amounts.

MOTION: to recommend endorsement of the two LOTCIP projects by the full SCCOG Board (Salomone, Allyn). So voted unanimously.

5. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Public Process

Ms. Kennedy stated that SCCOG in the process of amending its Metropolitan Transportation Plan, which must be prepared every four years. The plan will be presented for endorsement at SCCOG's March meeting, and a 30-day public comment period on the draft has begun, in advance of an April deadline to complete the plan. Ms. Rattan will present the draft plan to the full board at the February meeting and virtual public meetings will be held on February 16th. A survey has also been circulated as part of the request for comment.

6. Speaker Requests

Ms. Kennedy stated that she would like Sam Alexander to brief the SCCOG on the results of the recently completed Stormwater Authority project (as part of the ED report), and that Connecticut Broadband Coordinator Dave Lukens has requested to meet with all COGs regarding state and federal broadband efforts, which include, in the near term, ensuring that a federal map of broadband availability properly accounts for areas with inadequate broadband service, a condition of future funding. Ms. Kennedy also noted that Ms. Chesebrough had previously suggested inviting Frank Burns (CT Tourism Coalition) and that Ms. Kennedy had also reached out to Tourism District Chair Jim Bellano regarding address the SCCOG on tourism issues, but not heard back from him. Ms. Chesebrough suggested there might be a legislative

reason to coordinate tourism in February and March. Ms. Kennedy stated she would reach out to Frank Burns to see if there are any pressing issues. Mr. Salomone stated that he had an interest in a briefing regarding the Eastern CT Commuter Rail Study, which would have a significant impact on the region if it resulted in rail expansion. Ms. Kennedy noted that a virtual briefing was held for SCCOG board members in December. Ms. Rattan noted this briefing was early in their process and suggested checking in with CT DOT program staff on when it would make sense for another briefing. Ms. Kennedy stated she would check attendance with CT DOT on the December briefing and the plan for future check-ins.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Chesebrough).

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director