

# SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360

(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org)

---

Minutes of the April 19, 2023 Meeting of the Southeastern CT Council of Governments

Held at SCCOG, 5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, CT

**PRESENT:**

Bozrah	Glenn Pianka	Montville	Ron McDaniel
Colchester	-	New London	Michael Passero
East Lyme	Kevin Seery	Norwich	-
Franklin	Charles Grant	North Stonington	Bob Carlson
Griswold	Dana Bennett	Preston	Sandra Allyn-Gauthier
Jewett City	-	Salem	Ed Chmielewski
City of Groton	Keith Hedrick	Sprague	Cheryl Blanchard
Town of Groton	John Burt	Town of Stonington	Danielle Chesebrough
Lebanon	Kevin Cwikla	Stonington Borough	Jeff Callahan
Ledyard	Fred Allyn, III	Waterford	Rob Brule
Lisbon	Tom Sparkman	Windham	-
Military Liaisons:	US Coast Guard Academy: LCDR Craig Johnson New London SUBASE: Steve Sadlowski		
Tribal Affiliates:	Mohegan Tribe: - Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation: -		

SCCOG staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan. SEAT: Mike Carroll. seCTer: Paul Whitescarver. CT DOT: Kevin Tedesco. Office of Rep. Courtney: Ayanti Grant. Office of Senator Murphy: Erin McBride. Office of Senator Blumenthal: Ellen Graham. Ledge Light Health District: Jennifer Muggeo. TVCCA: Deb Monahan. SE CT Cultural Coalition: Wendy Bury, Deb Mathiasen.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.
3. Act on Minutes of March 15, 2023 Meeting:

MOTION: To approve the minutes of 3/15/2023 (McDaniel, Grant). Motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report:

MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report (McDaniel, Hedrick). Motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications: None.

6. Public Comment: Eversource: Teresa Jackman noted that \$12,000 in community impact grants have been awarded in addition to \$25,000 going to the Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce's new Innovation Center. Annual Emergency Management training will be held soon. TVCCA: Deb Monahan noted that applications are still being accepted for energy assistance.

7. Guest Speaker: Jason Mancini, Paul Mayer, and Brett Thompson spoke from the arts/culture/tourism coalition. The coalition had asked for expanded state funding, and the budget released yesterday did not include it. They noted that state investment in tourism in Connecticut is substantially less than other states. The CT Humanities Council had been awarded \$30 million from the legislature to fund organizations; that money is no longer available and will hurt organizations who depended on it. They noted that they plan long-term and recognize upcoming significant dates which will have culture/tourism-related events, including the including 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the US. They asked municipal leaders to emphasize the importance of tourism to the economy with legislators and said they would continue to work on securing the requested funding.

8. Committee and Liaison Reports

A) Executive Committee

- i) FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments: Ms. Kennedy noted this item would be discussed under new business.
- ii) Transportation Alternative (TAP) Prioritization. Ms. Kennedy reviewed the included memo, stating that CTDOT had reviewed projects outstanding from our 2019 submittal and were requesting confirmation of SCCOG priorities in order to advance eligible projects for funding under the new IIJA funding. New London and Groton's project applications are complete, while CTDOT will be in touch with Sprague to address necessary revisions.

MOTION: To recommend sending a letter to CTDOT supporting a revised prioritization of the following projects for TAP funding: 1) New London: Williams Street Complete Streets; 2) Groton: Connect G&S Trail to Thomas Road Path; 3) Sprague: Versailles Sidewalks (Cwikla, Sparkman). So voted unanimously.

iii) TRIP Prioritization. Ms. Kennedy reviewed this program, for which SCCOG conducted a project solicitation in 2022, receiving two applications for projects in Preston and North Stonington. SCCOG staff reviewed the projects according to the CTDOT program guidance and are recommending that SCCOG advance the projects for potential funding with the following prioritization: 1) Preston Mathewson Mill Road; 2) North Stonington Lantern Hill Road (Carlson, Burt). So voted unanimously.

MOTION: To submit SCCOG’s prioritization 1) Preston 2) North Stonington.

iv) LOTCIP Endorsements. Ms. Kennedy noted that two projects initiated in 2022 are now ready to submit to CTDOT for their Commitment to Fund, as noted in the included project memos.

MOTION: To endorse the following projects and recommend them for LOTCIP funding:

- East Lyme—East Pattagansett Sidewalk and Road Improvements, \$3,129,400.
- Preston—Poquetanuck Village Traffic Calming Project Improvement, \$2,850,578 (Chmielewski, Hedrick). So voted unanimously.

B) Legislative Committee: No report.

C) Tribal Liaison Representatives: No report.

D) Military Command Representatives: LCDR Johnson noted that the CGA had recently held its Eclipse diversity and inclusion event. Commencement is May 17<sup>th</sup>. Steve Sadlowski noted that April is the “Month of the Military Child” and listed some of the challenges that children of military parents face. A Gold Star Family recognition ceremony will be held May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

E) Congressional Office Report: Ms. Grant noted that Congressman Courtney is working on a number of bills addressing workplace safety for health workers, young farmers, and taxes. Fifteen community project requests have been advanced for potential funding. Ms. Graham noted that their office is still reviewing project funding application and asked municipal leaders to let them know if additional outreach was needed regarding their role in nominating students to the service academies. Ms. McBride reported that Senator Murphy was working on farm and nutrition bills and had recently held an event on housing issues.

F) seCTer: Mr. Whitescarver stated that the draft CEDS is now available for public comment and that seCTer has been busy with RISE and BOOST grants and loans.

G) Eastern CT Tourism District: No report.

- H) SEAT: Mr. Carroll stated that ridership continues to be high. SEAT began collecting fares on April 1. SEAT will be applying for microtransit pilot funds to run service in Stonington, New London, Groton, and Quaker Hill area of Waterford.
- I) Regional Water Committee: No report.
- J) Regional Emergency Planning Team: Mr. Sparkman reminded members that Memorandums of Agreement are due to SCCOG June 30<sup>th</sup>. Going forward, new resolutions will not be needed if the municipal CEO is unchanged. Mr. Cwikla asked if bird flu issues were being discussed.
- K) Regional Human Services Coordinating Council: Ms. Monahan stated that there would be a meeting this Friday.
- L) SE CT Cultural Coalition: Ms. Bury introduced Ms. Mathiasen as the municipal contact going forward. Ms. Bury spoke to the impact that the loss of culture/tourism funding will have on local organizations. Ms. Mathiasen will be able to present the findings of their recent survey this fall. Ms. Bury's successor should be named in May.
- M) Health Districts: Ms. Muggeo stated that the Districts had recently held medical countermeasure training for the emergency distribution of pills. They are monitoring the Marburg virus and would follow Ebola protocols if it emerged as a greater threat. She noted that seasonal health inspections had begun, with some changes as a result of recent legislation. They are coordinating on expanding training and access to Naloxone and have requested additional funding from CDC. She noted that DPH had gotten funding from CDC to address workforce issues and the Districts have requested some of those funds locally.

9. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Kennedy highlighted several items in the written report: Doug Colter is now working as SCCOG's Building Code Enforcement Official in four towns. We continue to freeze DEMHS spending as we still have \$213,000 in unpaid reimbursement requests. She stated that CTDOT staff would be briefing the Executive Committee on the Commuter Rail Study on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and are in the midst of scheduling a municipal working group meeting. She stated that SCCOG staff are putting together a new application for Safe Streets for All funding and asked that towns not included in last year's application should reach out if they would like to be this year, but that SCCOG would need to assemble an application around the \$10 million mark this year. She stated that Kyle Casiglio is scheduling meetings with town stakeholders regarding the Open Space Plan in process. She also added that SCCOG has been seeking brownfields assessment funding and put in an application for State funds this week for sites in Windham and Waterford.

- 10. Old Business: Mr. Cwikla noted challenges in contracting for trash removal. Mr. McDaniel stated that this has been discussed recently at SCRRA. Ms. Chesebrough made the suggestion that the Executive Committee discuss next steps for the SCCOG at their next meeting. Options include asking the SCRRA Executive Director to address the SCCOG.

11. New Business:

FY 2021 STIP/TIP Amendments

FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
STPR	0013-0089	X6	CT 2	BOZRAH	REHAB BR 06847 (CULVERT) o/ POLLY BROOK	CON	2023	1,822	1,458	364	0	MOVE FROM FY1 TO FY23. INCREASE ESTIMATE FROM FED \$800K
STPA	0133-0100	X6	CT 138	SPRAGUE	REPLACE DETERIORATED 30" CORRUGATED METAL PIPE	PD	2	1	1	0	0	NEW PROJECT
STPA	0133-0100	X6	CT 138	SPRAGUE	REPLACE DETERIORATED 30" CORRUGATED METAL PIPE	FD	FYI	0	0	0	0	NEW PROJECT
STPA	0133-0100	X6	CT 138	SPRAGUE	REPLACE DETERIORATED 30" CORRUGATED METAL PIPE	ROW	FYI	0	0	0	0	NEW PROJECT
STPA	0133-0100	X6	CT 138	SPRAGUE	REPLACE DETERIORATED 30" CORRUGATED METAL PIPE	CON	FYI	3	2	1	0	NEW PROJECT
NHPP	0152-0163	X7	CT 32	WATERFORD	SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT SR 693 AND OLD NORWICH ROAD	PD	2023	1	1	0	0	NEW PROJECT
NHPP	0152-0163	X7	CT 32	WATERFORD	SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT SR 693 AND OLD NORWICH ROAD	FD	2024	0	0	0	0	NEW PROJECT
NHPP	0152-0163	X7	CT 32	WATERFORD	SIGNALIZED INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT SR 693 AND OLD NORWICH ROAD	CON	FYI	5	4	1	0	NEW PROJECT
STPA	0170-5025	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	INSTALL & REMOVE OVERHEAD SIGN SUPPORTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS	CON	2023	10	8	2	0	NEW PROJECT
STPA	0172-0501	X7	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 2	INSTALL TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS	CON	2023	8,011	8,011	0	0	NEW PROJECT
STPA	0172-0529	X6	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 2	REPLACE, REHAB OR REMOVE RETAINING WALLS IN POD 2A	ROW	2024	100	80	20	0	NEW PROJECT
STPA	0172-0529	X6	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 2	REPLACE, REHAB OR REMOVE RETAINING WALLS IN POD 2A	CON	FYI	6,818	5,454	1,364	0	NEW PROJECT

Ms. Kennedy described the projects being proposed for funding.

Motion: To approve the proposed TIP Amendments (McDaniel, Grant). Motion passed unanimously.

12. Next Meeting:

Chairman Chesebrough noted that this was Jeff Callahan’s last meeting with SCCOG and thanked him for his contributions. She noted that the next meeting would be May 24th, 2023.

13. Adjournment:

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Charlie Grant, Secretary