

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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May 7, 2024 Executive Committee
Minutes

Present:

In-person: Cheryl Blanchard, Rob Brule. Via Zoom: Bob Carlson, Tom DeVivo; Danielle Chesebrough. Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan.

Chairman Brule opened the meeting at 9:03 AM.

1. Capital Improvements

Ms. Kennedy stated that she has signed a contract for the exterior improvements to address water infiltration. Building repairs and renovations will follow under a separate contract.

2. Program Updates

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the current status of major program areas. Of note is that Liz Burdick, who joined SCCOG as Director of Municipal Services, has left SCCOG for another position. Ms. Kennedy reviewed the status of SCCOG's RPIP grant, which subsidizes up to three years of certain building official and zoning enforcement assistance, and received the committee's approval to allocate available FY24 RSG funds to supplement the subsidy through June 2024, as several towns have utilized more hours than initially expected, and have therefore drawn down more grant funds in 2023 than originally projected. A budget amendment will be presented to the Board for approval in June.

Some unallocated grant funds will be available to distribute during years two and three because of underutilization by some of the original grant participants, so the question of how to distribute these funds will be revisited later this year.

3. Amendment: 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program.

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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Ms. Kennedy stated that the UPWP (transportation work plan filed with CTDOT) needed to be amended to include a “Director” job title to enable SCCOG’s new Director of Regional Planning to utilize PL funds for relevant activities. Amending the UPWP requires a vote of the Board.

MOTION: To recommend the proposed amendment (Blanchard, DeVivo). So voted unanimously.

4. Recommendations: FFY 2023 Section 5310 Grant (Elderly/Disabled Transportation).

Ms. Kennedy reviewed the 5310 funding program, the applications SCCOG received for funding, and staff recommendations for prioritizing funds. Senior Advisor Jim Butler managed the application process and scored applications, which Ms. Kennedy reviewed and concurred with. She presented staff’s recommendation to prioritize funding for UCFS, the Town of Lebanon, and ECTC (taxi voucher program) and, should additional funding become available to further prioritize funding for ECTC (mobility manager), East Lyme, and Colchester.

MOTION: To recommend to the Board that it endorse the proposed prioritization of funding (Carlson, Blanchard). So voted unanimously.

5. Endorsement: Lisbon LOTCIP Project: River Road Improvements.

Ms. Rattan reviewed the proposed project, which had been initially proposed in 2021. The Town of Lisbon has now submitted application materials sufficient to submit to CTDOT to request CTDOT’s Commitment to Fund. The project would use \$3,602,000 for the construction of 6,000 linear feet of new sidewalk along Route 12 (River Road) from 153 River Road to the Griswold town line and associated improvements.

MOTION: To recommend to the Board that it endorse the current request for LOTCIP funding so that SCCOG may submit it to CTDOT (DeVivo, Carlson). So voted unanimously.

1. 2021-2024 TIP Amendments

Ms. Rattan reviewed the two TIP amendments sent to SCCOG for endorsement, which include 1) traffic signal replacements in New London and Stonington, and 2) funding for statewide transportation demand management (CT Rides program).

MOTION: To recommend approval of the TIP amendments (DeVivo, Chesebrough). So voted

unanimously.

2. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Ms. Rattan reviewed SCCOG's public comment period process, what comments were received, and how they are addressed in the revised draft TIP. In addition to approving the TIP document, the Board must also approve related resolutions adopting the TIP, self-certifying SCCOG's compliance with requirements, and that the TIP process conforms to requirements for Air Quality performance.

MOTION: To recommend that the Board approve the TIP and related resolutions (Carlson, Blanchard).

3. Speaker Requests/Scheduling

Ms. Kennedy asked the Committee members for topics that they would like May's speaker, Eversource's Steve Sullivan (President, Connecticut Electric Operations) to address during his visit. Topics included: impacts of recent cuts to investment plans, tree trimming, and how the grid should be/will be modified to accommodate widespread electrification of vehicles.

The Committee discussed scheduling of speakers and directed Ms. Kennedy to program speakers as available in June. There is continued interest in hosting a speaker regarding homelessness.

4. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Carlson, DeVivo). So voted unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director