

# SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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October 1, 2024 Executive Committee

## Minutes

### PRESENT:

In person: Tom DeVivo, Bob Carlson, Cheryl Blanchard. Via Zoom: Rob Brule. Staff: Amanda Kennedy, Kate Rattan, Dan Robinson.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Brule called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call: A quorum was present.

MOTION: To add an agenda item: "Tribal Affairs" (Carlson, Devivo). Motion passed unanimously.

3. Capital Improvements:

i) Ms. Kennedy gave an overview of the finishing touches of the SCCOG office improvements.

(1) A set of cubicles turned out to be smaller than what is necessary for staff functioning. Additional supplies have been ordered to enlarge the workspaces.

4. Program Updates:

A) Ms. Kennedy reminded the committee of the hiring of Paul Currie Jr., an apprentice building inspector trainee for the Town of Montville, but is officially on SCCOG staff.

i) Mr. Carlson inquired about the structure of Mr. Currie's employment and why it involves both SCCOG and Montville. Ms. Kennedy replied that it has to do with local union in f Montville.

B) Ms. Rattan provided an update on several transportation items.

i) Tribal TIP process recently completed.

ii) TRIP funding is available for towns that have populations over 50% rural.

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### 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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(1) New project applications will be taken soon for LOTCIP and TRIP.

iii) A call for new corridor studies is being pushed back by the Department of Transportation for the time being as they examine funding and the volume of the studies/corridors.

C) Ms. Kennedy spoke briefly about the CHANGE grant and the work SCCOG staff has been conducting.

5. 2025-2028 TIP Amendments:

A) Ms. Rattan gave an overview of the TIP amendments to be approved.

i) The cancelled bus electrification project will not affect SEAT.

ii) Mr. Carlson raised some concerns about bus electrification. Ms. Rattan gave some clarification that any new bus purchases will have to be electric.

iii) Mr. DeVivo asked about the NWRTD bus shelters, Ms. Rattan explained that shelter improvements may possibly be moved to next year as the weather starts to cool. She also noted that locations for SEAT bus shelters have begun to be scouted.

B) Chairman Brule asked about the existence of a municipal overview that could show which towns do or do not have ongoing projects. Chairman Brule spoke about getting a grasp of which towns might be forgotten or ignored in terms of funding.

i) Ms. Rattan replied that the “obligation list” is posted on the SCCOG website, yet it only includes federally funded projects – excludes LOTCIP. Chairman Brule further asked about perhaps a cheat sheet being created, but Ms. Rattan informed the committee that the new TIP map could prove useful in this context. She asked Chairman Brule if there ought to be a total dollar amount for each project on the map. Chairman Brule replied in the affirmative. Ms. Rattan will prepare a summary of projects by municipality.

MOTION: To approve the TIP 2025-2028 amendments (DeVivo, Blanchard). Motion passed unanimously.

6. 2024 Defense Community Champion Nomination

A) Ms. Kennedy reminded the committee that there were no nominations received at the time of last month’s meeting. However, she shared that New London had recently nominated a board member of the New London Veterans Advisory Committee – Mr. Steven Ricard.

i) Ms. Kennedy inquired about when and where to present the award. The idea of the presentation being at a New London City Council meeting was brought up. Chairman Brule favored the idea and stated he would be honored to present the award to Mr. Ricard.

7. Regional Open Space Plan:

A) Ms. Kennedy gave a brief update on the status of the Regional Open Space Plan.

- i) In September, the ROSP was sent out to the towns for comments. A few were received, and edits were made to make necessary corrections. Ms. Kennedy concluded that the ROSP is completed and ready for committee recommendation.

MOTION: To recommend that SCCOG board adopt the ROSP (Blanchard, DeVivo).  
Motion passed unanimously.

8. Tribal Affairs:

Mr. Carlson briefed the Executive Committee about recent tribal activities that impact municipalities.

9. Speaker Requests:

Ms. Kennedy announced that Mr. Dave Aldridge is on the docket for being the guest speaker at the October SCCOG Board meeting. She also reminded the committee that David Kooris of the Municipal Redevelopment Authority had asked to present; and that he would most likely talk about transit-oriented development and grant opportunities. Ms. Kennedy put Mr. Kooris down as tentative for November's board meeting.

10. Next meeting: October 16, 2024

11. Adjournment:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting (Carlson, DeVivo). Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Brule adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Kennedy, Executive Director, on behalf of Bob Carlson, Secretary