



July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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SCRCOG COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Bethany Derrylyn Gorski
- Branford Anthony DaRos
- East Haven April Capone Almon
- Guilford Carl A. Balestracci, Jr.
- Hamden Craig B. Henrici
- Madison Alfred Goldberg
- Meriden Michael S. Rohde
- Milford James L. Ricketelli, Jr.
- New Haven John DeStefano, Jr.
- North Branford Michael Doody
- North Haven Janet M. McCarty
- Orange James M. Zeoli
- Wallingford William W. Dickinson, Jr.
- West Haven John M. Picard
- Woodbridge Edward M. Sheehy

2009 SCRCOG OFFICERS and Executive Committee

- First Selectman Carl Balestracci, Jr. *Chairman*
- First Selectman James M. Zeoli *Vice Chair*
- First Selectman Edward M. Sheehy *Secretary*
- First Selectman Anthony DaRos *Treasurer*
- First Selectwoman Derrylyn Gorski
- Mayor James Ricketelli, Jr.
- Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.
- Mayor William Dickinson, Jr.

SCRCOG STAFF

- Judy Gott *Executive Director*
- Albert Ruggiero *Principal Planner*
- Stephen Dudley *Transportation Planner*
- James Rode *Transportation Planner*
- Eugene Livshits *Regional Planner*
- Mona Beavis *Assistant Planner*
- Barbara Bograd *Administrative Assistant*

INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the major activities of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) during the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Comprised of fifteen chief elected officials from our member communities, the South Central Regional Council of Governments provides a forum to foster communication, coordination, and collaboration in identifying and addressing regional issues.

The South Central Regional Council of Governments' responsibilities include maintaining a regional plan of development, reviewing land use changes that affect member municipalities, and developing a regional transportation work program. In addition, it provides a meeting location for various collaborative municipal actions.

REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

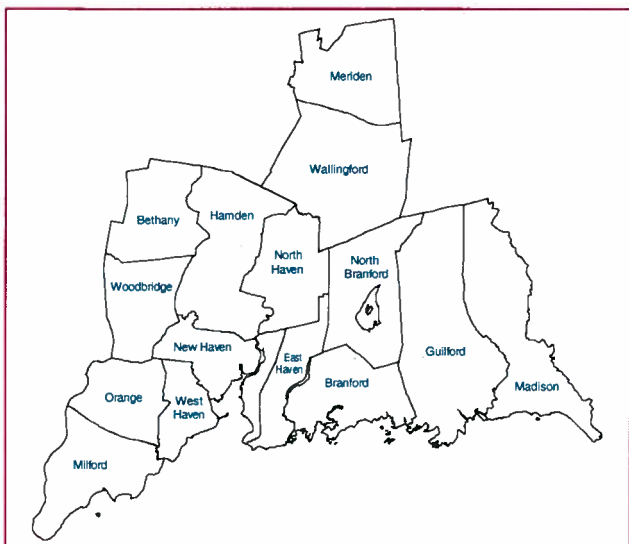
REGIONAL REVIEWS

SCRCOG coordinates and provides staff support to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). The RPC meets monthly and provides advisory reviews of proposed changes to land use regulations, maps, developments near municipal boundaries, and updates to local plans of conservation and development. From July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009, sixty-three referrals were reviewed.

SEWER SERVICE AREA MAPS AND AMENDED REGIONAL PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The South Central Regional Council of Governments received a grant from the Office of Policy and Management to map sewer-service areas using the Geographical Information System (GIS). Twelve municipalities in our region updated their existing sewer-service area maps and integrated areas proposed for future sewer service.

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The South Central Regional Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 9, 2009 for proposed amendments to the *Plan of Conservation and Development: South Central Region*. The amendments included an updated Regional Sewer Service Map, addition of municipal sewer service maps, and revisions to the sewer service text. The Office of Policy and Management acknowledged that this amended *Plan* is consistent with the *State Plan of Conservation and Development*. On July 21, 2009, the amended *Plan* was adopted by the Board of the South Central Regional Council of Governments.

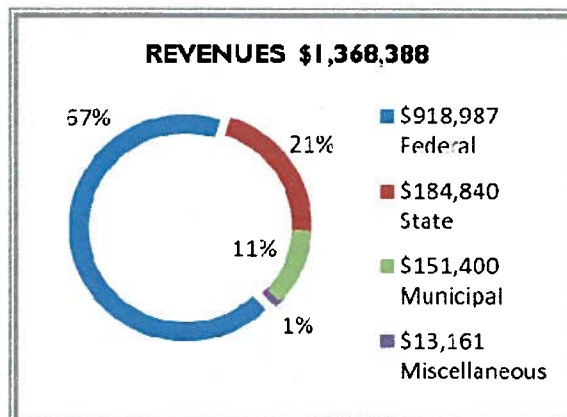
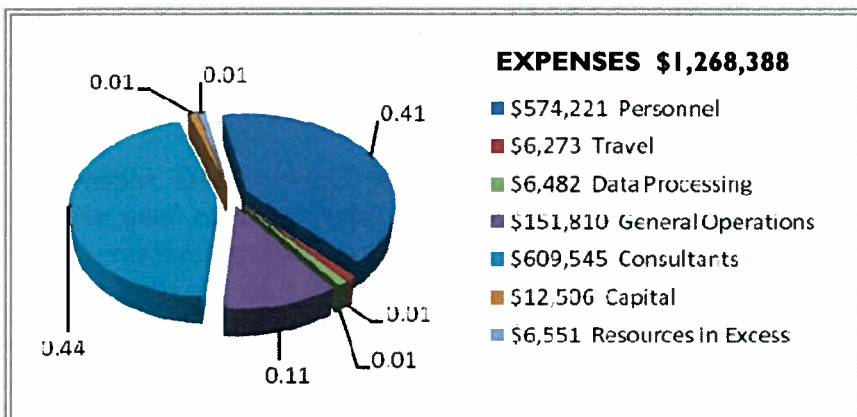
CENSUS

SCRCOG continues to serve as a resource for its member municipalities and constituents with data provided by the U. S. Census Bureau. Social, economic, housing, and demographic estimates, generated by the *2005-2007 American Community Survey (ACS)*, have been released by the United States Census Bureau. This is the first release of three-year estimates for municipalities with populations between 20,000 and 65,000. Upon request, SCRCOG staff will offer assistance to ensure that this region is accurately counted, represented, and given the financial resources applicable to its population.

REGIONAL TRAILS

The South Central Connecticut Recreational Trail Brochures have been updated with new trails in the Town of Woodbridge: (1) Bishop West Trails, (2) Historic Indian Trails—Park Lane Area, (3) Fitzgerald Tract Trails, (4) Newton Road Park Trail System, (5) Alice Newton Street Memorial Park Trails, (6) Race Brook Estates Blue Trail System, (7) Meadows Tract to Fitzgerald Tract Blue Trail, and (8) Regional Water Authority Trails—Amity Road to Dillon Road.

ANNUAL BUDGET JULY 1, 2008 TO JUNE 30, 2009



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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ACTIVITIES

SCRCOG's *Long Range Transportation Plan 2007-2035* complements the South Central Region's *Plan of Conservation and Development* and the Connecticut Department of Transportation's *Master Transportation Plan*. The Council's *FFY 2010—FFY 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, shaped in conjunction with the CT Department of Transportation, advances South Central Connecticut's transportation goals and provides a project-by-project guide for use of available U. S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), state, and municipal support. A biennial Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) guides the planning programming process for the region.

SCRCOG's "Public Participation Guidelines" ensure that its plans and programs receive public exposure and provide the public opportunities for input and involvement.

SCRCOG Transportation Committee	
Mayor William Dickinson, Jr. - <i>Chairman</i>	
First Selectman Anthony DaRos	
First Selectwoman April Capone Almon	
Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.	
First Selectman James Zeoli	
First Selectwoman Janet M. McCarty	

The SCRCOG's *Transportation Committee*, composed of chief elected officials, and the *Transportation Technical Committee*, composed of municipal staff, work with transit operators and the CT Department of Transportation to shape and review plans and programs. These programs draw on funds from the FTA for replacement of municipal and non-profit organizations' elderly service vehicles, transportation enhancement opportunities, and regional trail projects.

The *Local Accident Reduction Program* allows municipalities limited funding for safety-related improvements at hazardous locations. After review and prioritization of responses to these and other transit projects and programs, recommendations are forwarded for SCRCOG action.

Technical Committee	
Bethany	Alan Green
Branford	Janice Plaziak
East Haven	James Staunton
Guilford	James Portley
Hamden	Robert Brinton
Madison	Michael Ott
Meriden	Pierre Blanchet
New Haven	Richard Miller
North Branford	Kurt Weiss
North Haven	Jonathan Bodwell
Orange	Edwin Liberman
Wallingford	John Thompson
West Haven	Abdul Quadir
Woodbridge	Warren Connors

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANTS

In 2008, OPM awarded grant funds to SCRCOG through the Regional Performance Incentive Program for two projects. The first was a grant for the development of a South Central Connecticut Regional Economic Development Web Portal.

Throughout FY-2009, SCRCOG worked with Perry & Banks Integrated Sales and Marketing to develop a regional brand and website. When it is completed, this website will provide current marketing, economic, and commercial development in-

formation related to the South Central Connecticut Region.

The second grant was for a South Central Connecticut Regional Solid Waste Disposal Study. In March 2009, R S Lynch & Company completed this study which presented to the member municipalities the possible options of technologies and services which could be used, on a regional basis, for the disposal of the region's trash and recyclables for the next twenty years.

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Unified Planning Work Programs Accomplished In 2009

Wilbur Cross Parkway Interchange Needs Assessment Study

In cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, this study evaluated safety deficiencies and improvement opportunities for interchanges within the region between Milford and Meriden. Prepared needs assessment study report, utilizing and building upon previous region and Connecticut Department of Transportation study work, analyzed existing conditions, future no-build conditions, and prepared viable conceptual safety and operational improvement alternatives for future implementation and construction. Updated region's TransCAD Model for the study.

New Haven Hill Neighborhood Corridor Studies

Included Davenport Avenue, Howard Avenue, Congress Avenue and Columbus Avenue (U. S. Route 1) existing conditions review and recommendations for creating "complete streets" to allow safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and bus riders.

New Haven Downtown Bicycle and Pedestrian Gap Analysis

Reviewed bicycle and pedestrian circulation in the downtown, as defined by the historic "Nine Squares." The analysis created an inventory of the existing condition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, prepared a gap analysis based upon user experience and technical data, made detailed recommendations with preliminary cost estimates to enhance bicycle and pedestrian conditions, and addressed crucial gaps.

New Haven Intermodal Access / Information Management Plan

Analysis and information reviewed for the New Haven Union Station and the Tweed New Haven Regional Airport included:

- a "user" perspective on to and from access
- a review of efficiency and adequacy of existing parking, transit, taxi, and other connecting services
- an analysis of way finding and other access related materials, i.e. on and off-street signage, web/internet, GPS system commercial /government maps, airline materials, and brochures
- a report presented to the Tweed New Haven Regional Airport and the New Haven Union Station "Joint Advisory Committee"

West Haven — East Brown Street Traffic Calming Study

This study reviewed traffic conditions in the area of East Brown Street, between First Avenue and Second Avenue, and reviewed previous work done on this issue by the City of West Haven. Options were prepared and public outreach conducted. Draft recommendations and a final report for presentation to the City and the South Central Regional Council of Governments were completed.

Meriden Transportation Improvement Study

Assistance was given the City of Meriden in evaluating and prioritizing its transportation improvement projects and an assessment of local, state, and federal funding opportunities was provided.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRCOG's Executive Director, Judy Gott, announced that after ten years of service, she will be retiring this December. SCRCOG's officials, associates, friends, and staff extend their congratulations and best wishes to her.