



July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

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SCRCOG COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

2008 SCRCOG OFFICERS and Executive Committee

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

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

Published October 2008

INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the major activities of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) during the 2007-2008 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, 2007 to June 30, 2008, eighty-two referrals were reviewed.

REGIONAL PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

After a two-year outreach draft and revision process, an updated *Regional Plan of Conservation and Development* was adopted on June 25, 2008. The *Plan* celebrates the diversity of the region's urban, suburban, and rural communities and seeks to improve upon their individual characteristics. It reinforces the responsible growth principles of the *State Plan of Conservation and Development* by providing a general policy guide for regional conservation and development



while balancing higher density development in existing employment, transportation, and housing corridors. Moreover, the *Regional Plan of Conservation and Development* reinvests in its historic town centers and protects open spaces, forests, and agricultural lands that contribute to the region's high quality of life and sense of place. Future regional plans of conservation and development will be updated every ten years, as statutorily required.

CENSUS

SCRCOG continues to serve as a resource for its member municipalities and constituents with data provided by the U. S. Census Bureau and the American Community

Survey (ACS). In preparation of the 2010 Census, the enumeration process for the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA), including the required component of municipal map reviews, was conveyed to its member municipalities. 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.

HOUSING

The supply of affordable and diversified housing continues to be an extremely vital issue. The decline of affordable housing and limited workforce replacement for the retiring generation of baby-boomers has been linked to our region's and state's negative economic impact.

Although a site feasibility study is currently being conducted for a proposed thirteen-unit affordable senior housing project in Bethany, the Housing Task Force, coordinated by SCRCOG staff, continues its endeavors to identify and support other affordable housing sites.

Legislation for a housing and economic growth program in Connecticut was passed in 2007 allowing municipalities to apply for grants to assist in developing local zoning regulations that support affordable or mixed-income housing on town-designated sites, preferably adjacent to transportation hubs, town centers, and other existing infrastructures.

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 *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, shaped in conjunction with the Connecticut 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. An annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) guides the planning programming process for the region.

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

SCRCOG's Transportation Committee, composed of chief elected officials, and the Transportation Technical Committee, composed of municipal staff, meet monthly to work with transit operators and the Connecticut Department of Transportation to shape and review transportation projects and programs. Programs utilized in the region include FTA funding to replace municipal elderly service vehicles and those of non-profit organizations, *Local Accident Reduction Program*, which allows municipalities limited funding for safety-related improvements at very hazardous locations and transportation enhancement opportunities, including regional trail projects. After review and prioritization of responses to these and other transportation projects and programs, recommendations are forwarded for SCRCOG action.

SCRCOG TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:

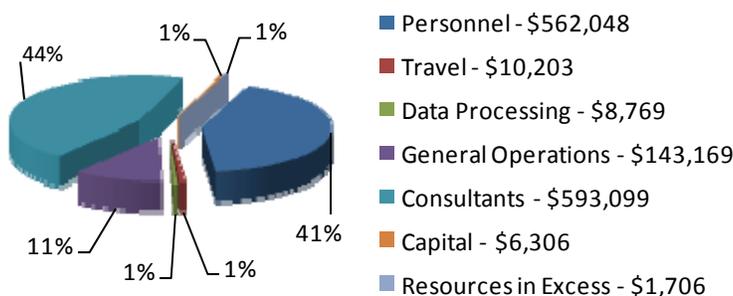
- Mayor William Dickinson, Jr. - Chairman
- First Selectman Anthony DaRos
- Mayor Craig Henrici
- First Selectman Alfred Goldberg
- Mayor John DeStefano, Jr.
- First Selectwoman Janet McCarty

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE:

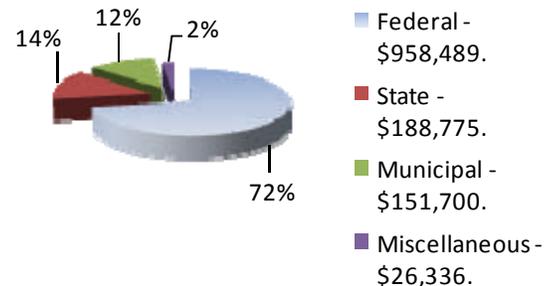
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Alan Green | Bethany |
| Janice Plaziak | Branford |
| James Portley | Guilford |
| Michael J. Ott | Madison |
| Pierre Blanchet | Meriden |
| Robert Brinton | Milford |
| Richard Miller | New Haven |
| Kurt Weiss | North Branford |
| Victor Palma | North Haven |
| Edwin Lieberman | Orange |
| John Thompson | Wallingford |
| Abdul Quadir | West Haven |
| Warren Connors | Woodbridge |

ANNUAL BUDGET JULY 1, 2007 To JUNE 30, 2008

Expenses - \$1,325,300



Revenues - \$1,325,300



Accomplished Unified Planning Work Programs

Implementation of Regional Transit Study / Plan and Options This study recommends revisions to current CT Transit Bus Routes to provide better transit options and service for the region, including additional hubs and connections; recommends routes and options for new flex route service implementation to provide better mass transit suburban links to fixed routes; and researches modern streetcar systems in urban areas similar to New Haven and provides documentation on start-up costs, implementation issues and operational costs for applicability to the region.

Town Center South - Guilford Transportation Study This study anticipates future parking access needs to the neighborhood and train station, documents existing conditions and assesses future parking and traffic demands.

Regional Traffic Calming Resource Guide This study (a) develops a systematic approach to traffic calming, (b) identifies key locations throughout the region, (c) engages the community in the design process, (d) develops cost effective solutions and (e) develops preliminary design concepts which could be permitted and constructed.

Route 10 Corridor Study (New Haven and Hamden) Route 10 from the I-95 corridor to Exit 60-Wilbur Cross Parkway is included in this study. It analyzes land use, existing conditions, identifies key neighborhoods and community issues, prepares conceptual improvements to key segments and drafts an implementation plan.

Southeast Downtown Circulation Study (New Haven) This study reviews vehicular and pedestrian circulation in the southeasterly portion of downtown, with particular emphasis on the possible reopening of Fair Street as an additional connection between Wooster Square and downtown. It investigates alternatives, provides outreach to the community on the alternatives, reviews legal statutes of proposed connections, and develops concept plans for additional recommended connections.

I-691 Interchange Study (Meriden) This study reviews, expands and updates the Connecticut Department of Transportation's study concerning operation improvements to Interchanges 5, 6 and 7. It studies access options to Mid-State Medical Center and Meriden Central Business District and provides a conceptual plan for roadway improvements and improved access.

U. S. Route 1 / North Main Street Access Management Plan (Branford) This study recommends methods to improve operations, minimize curb cuts, and enhances off-highway circulation among properties along the North Main Street portion of the U. S. Route 1 Corridor, following recommendations of the town-wide traffic study. It also provides town-wide access management suggestions for inclusion in Branford's zoning regulations.

Main Street (Route 146) Scenic Highway Gateway Study (Branford) This study provides alternatives for improving traffic safety and achieving a more attractive transition from I-95 Exit 53 to the official beginning of the Scenic Highway at the western end of the Branford Town Green.

All reports are available on SCRCOG's website: www.SCRCOG.org

2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SCRCOG's foremost legislative priority for 2008 focused on more balance between state and municipal revenues to lessen municipal reliance on the property tax. In addition, SCRCOG endorsed no new unfunded mandates and to fully fund PILOT, ECS and Pequot/Mohegan. Most legislative funding initiatives during the session were unsuccessful due to anticipated state budget deficits. Funding for improved bus transit and the extension of the conveyance tax through 2009 was approved by the legislature.