

# 2015 Annual Report

July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

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This report highlights the major activities of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. SCRCOG provides its fifteen member municipalities a forum to foster communication and collaboration among its member municipalities in identifying and addressing regional issues.

SCRCOG's statutory responsibilities include administering a regional long range transportation plan, developing a regional transportation work program, developing the region's Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP), maintaining a regional plan of conservation and development, and reviewing land use changes that affect member municipalities. SCRCOG also provides technical assistance to its member municipalities. In recent years, SCRCOG has undertaken additional initiatives such as developing a multi-town hazard mitigation plan, establishing a Regional Geographic Information System, producing a Jobs Access and Transit study, initiating a Mobility Management Program, participating in the development of the NY-CT Sustainable Communities Plan, and successfully applying for federal grant funding to create a Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience. SCRCOG has also begun a major initiative to identify and implement voluntary opportunities for regional and multi-town sharing of municipal services and operations.

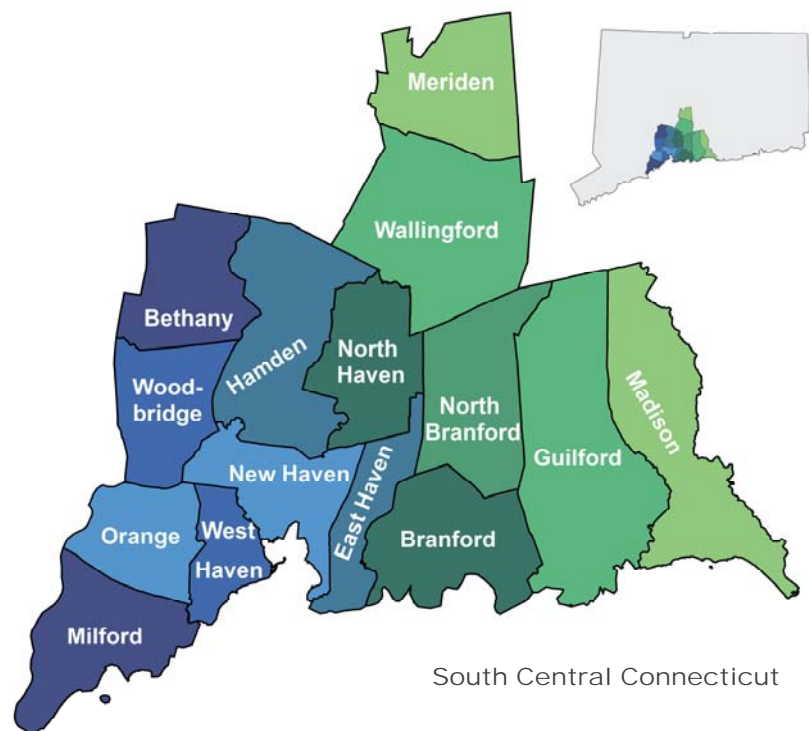
## Council Members

Bethany	FS Derrylyn Gorski
Branford	FS James Cosgrove
East Haven	Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr.
Guilford	FS Joseph Mazza
Hamden	Mayor Scott Jackson
	Mayor Curt Leng*
Madison	FS Fillmore McPherson
Meriden	Mayor Manuel Santos
Milford	Mayor Benjamin Blake
New Haven	Mayor Toni Harp
North Branford	Mayor Anthony Candelora
North Haven	FS Michael Freda
Orange	FS James Zeoli
Wallingford	Mayor William Dickinson, Jr.
West Haven	Mayor Edward O'Brien
Woodbridge	FS Ellen Scalettar

\* as of May 28, 2015

## SCRCOG Staff

Carl Amento	Executive Director
Albert Ruggiero	Business Manager
Stephen Dudley	Sr. Transportation Planner
James Rode	Transportation Planner
Eugene Livshits	Regional Planner
Christopher Rappa	Sustainability Planner



South Central Connecticut

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(as of June 30, 2015)

### Executive Committee

First Selectman Michael Freda - *Chairman*  
First Selectman Fillmore McPherson - *Vice Chair*  
Mayor Benjamin Blake - *Secretary*  
Mayor Toni Harp - *Treasurer*  
Mayor William Dickinson, Jr.  
First Selectman Joseph Mazza  
Mayor Joseph Maturo  
First Selectwoman Ellen Scalettar

### Transportation Committee

Mayor William Dickinson, Jr. - *Chairman*  
First Selectman Fillmore McPherson  
First Selectman Joseph Mazza  
Mayor Benjamin Blake  
Mayor Toni Harp  
Mayor Edward O'Brien  
First Selectman James Cosgrove

### Regional Planning Commission

Bethany	Michael Calhoun
Branford	Charles Andres
East Haven	Vacant
Guilford	Walter Corbiere
Hamden	Richard Szczypek
Madison	Christopher Traugh
Meriden	David White
Milford	Benjamin Gettinger
New Haven	Kevin DiAdamo
North Branford	Frances Lescovich
North Haven	James Giulietti
Orange	Vacant
Wallingford	Vacant
West Haven	Christopher Suggs
Woodbridge	Peggy Rubens-Duhl

### Transportation Technical Committee

Bethany	Alan Green
Branford	Janice Plaziak
East Haven	Kevin White
Guilford	James Portley
Hamden	Robert Brinton
Madison	Michael Ott
Meriden	Robert Bass
Milford	Gary Wassmer
New Haven	Giovanni Zinn
North Branford	Kurt Weiss
North Haven	Jonathan Bodwell
Orange	Robert Hiza
Wallingford	John Thompson
West Haven	Abdul Quadir
Woodbridge	Warren Connors

## REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM

### Land Use Referrals

SCRCOG coordinates and provides staff support to the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). The RPC meets monthly and provides advisory reviews of proposed changes to zoning regulations, zoning maps, developments near municipal boundaries, and updates to municipal plans of conservation and development. From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, the RPC reviewed sixty-two land use referrals.

### Data Collection

SCRCOG continues to serve as a resource for its member municipalities and constituents with data provided by the U. S. Census Bureau. Annually, SCRCOG compiles social, economic, housing, and demographic data generated by various sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial census and the *American Community Survey*. In August 2014, SCRCOG released an updated version of its *Demographic and Socioeconomic Trends* report. The report is available on the SCRCOG website, [www.scrcoq.org](http://www.scrcoq.org).

### ***Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Planning Grant***

SCRCOG was selected by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a recipient of a \$700,000 Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Planning Grant. The funding will allow SCRCOG in partnership with the Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC) and The Nature Conservancy to create a Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience in Southern Connecticut. Through this collaboration, there will be an assessment and advancement of opportunities to reduce risk from large-scale storm events, and increase the viability and resiliency of natural ecosystems along approximately thirty percent of Connecticut's coastline.

The focus area will be ten coastal communities in South Central Connecticut. Seven of the communities, Milford, West Haven, New Haven, East Haven, Branford, Guilford, and Madison, are members of SCRCOG. Three coastal communities, Fairfield, Bridgeport, and Stamford, are members of GBRC. The participating municipalities will integrate green infrastructure principles, prioritize projects, and contribute to a Regional Coastal Resiliency Plan.

In January 2015, SCRCOG issued a request for proposals (RFP) seeking the services a qualified consultant to (1) conduct a comprehensive natural/green infrastructure assessment for the project area and (2) scope and design a selection of natural/green infrastructure projects. Seven firms responded to the RFP. After consultant interviews in February, Milone and MacBroom was selected to undertake the tasks.

In April 2015, a project kick-off meeting was held with various stakeholders at the SCRCOG offices. The meeting presentation and meeting minutes are available on the project's homepage: <http://www.scrkog.org/coastal-resilience.html>.

### ***Regional GIS Program***

SCRCOG was awarded a \$591,028 multi-year grant through the State of Connecticut's Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2013, administered by the CT Office of Policy and Management, to develop a regional web-based Geographic Information System (GIS) program. The development of the GIS program is being guided by an Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives from the member municipalities and other stakeholders in the region.

The Regional GIS Program provides access to a uniform regional parcel database, which meets or exceeds Level II of the Connecticut Cadastral Standards. Additional data layers representing environmental, transportation, zoning, demographic, and land use themes were also integrated and/or developed as part of this program.

In Fiscal Year 2015, SCRCOG and New England GeoSystems, in consultation with the Regional GIS Advisory Committee, soft-launched the SCRCOG web-based mapping application ("SCRCOG GIS Viewer").



In June 2015, SCRCOG launched a new GIS homepage, <http://gis.scrkog.org>. The re-designed page serves as a landing page for the SCRCOG GIS Viewer and provides links to other valuable resources, including data descriptions and a user's guide for the viewer.

### ***Shared Services Program***

The Shared Services Program is a follow-up project of a Shared Services/Operations Feasibility Study funded by a Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant. SCRCOG staff, in consultation with representatives from the member municipalities and a Shared Services Consultant, continue to pursue shared services/operations opportunities. Activities under the Shared Services Program, to date, have been divided into three distinct bodies of municipal staff: Regional Purchasing Council, Regional Permitting Council, and Regional IT Directors Council.

The Regional Purchasing Council is made up of municipal staff that are responsible for purchasing in their respective municipality. By and large, the group consists of finance directors and purchasing agents. One of the earliest actions of the Council was to recommend to the SCRCOG Board that the fifteen municipalities join the Capital Regional Purchasing Council (CRPC) as a region. SCRCOG joined the CRPC as a region for \$7,500/year, which represents a savings of \$35,337 if the fifteen municipalities were to join individually. Since joining the CRPC, member municipalities have saved over one hundred thousands of dollars through cooperative bidding/purchasing.

The Regional Permitting Council is made up of municipal staff that are involved, at some level, in permitting activities. The second meeting of the Council was held in January 2015. A focus of this meeting was a discussion of permitting best practices and technology (ex. ViewPermit). Due to the focus on technology, the IT Directors and other staff responsible for IT in the region have also provided input.

The Regional IT Directors Council has been, will be continue to be, convened for meetings that have focused on the uses of MUNIS, a software platform in wide use throughout the region, as well as a comprehensive discussion of other software platforms in use by the member municipalities.

### ***Recreational Trails Mapping Program***

The update of the Regional Recreational Trails Mapping Program is a continuation of work completed by SCRCOG in 2006, which was funded by a National Recreation Trails Program Grant. The primary goals of the grant were to increase awareness and educate users about the history of the recreational trail systems in the region. This was accomplished through the development of over seventy recreational trail brochures that were provided in a hardcopy format to the municipalities. The brochures were also posted to the SCRCOG website. The trail brochures have been downloaded from the SCRCOG website thousands of times since the project's completion in 2006. The update of the Recreational Trails Mapping Program will build upon the original goal of raising awareness of the regional trail systems and educating the public about each trail system. The trail data will be inventoried and updated as necessary, while the trails mapping will be integrated into the Regional GIS Program.

The update of the Recreational Trails Mapping Program is being guided by an Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives from the member municipalities and other stakeholders in the region. The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held on May 8, 2015.

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM

SCRCOG's Long Range Transportation Plan 2015-2040 complements the South Central Region's Plan of Conservation and Development and the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) Master Transportation Plan. The FFY 2012 - FFY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), shaped in conjunction with CTDOT, advances the Region'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.

The Transportation Committee, composed of chief elected officials, and the Transportation Technical Committee, composed of municipal staff, work with transit operators and CTDOT to shape and review plans and programs.

### ***Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)***

The Local Transportation Capital improvement Program (LOTICIP) provides State funding to urbanized areas. LOTICIP is provided for in Section 74 of Public Act 13-239 (2013 Legislative Session). The Transportation Committee and Transportation Technical Committee recommended four projects for Fiscal Year 2015:

- East Haven – North High Street Sidewalk Bikeway Project, Phase 1
- New Haven – Traffic Signal Modernization
- Branford – Main Street Gateway Project, Eastern Section
- Milford – Gulf Street Improvements

### ***Jobs Access and Transit Study***

In Fiscal Year 2013-2014, SCRCOG commissioned a Regional Jobs Access and Transit Study. The purpose of the study, conducted by DataHaven, was to evaluate the spatial mismatch between jobs and where people live. The study involved numerous stakeholders in the region, including the Greater New Haven Branch of the NAACP and Workforce Alliance. The initial phase of the study included interviews of workforce agencies in the region and participants served by the state's CTWorks employment program, interviews of focus group participants representing the diversity of workers in the Greater New Haven area, and extensive collection and analysis of economic, geographic and workforce data. In Fiscal Year 2014-2015, the study was expanded to include additional meetings, a survey, additional data analysis, and an expanded final report. The final report, published in December 2014, is available for download at [www.scrcoq.org](http://www.scrcoq.org).

### ***Mobility Management Program***

SCRCOG received funding from the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5317 New Freedom Program and CTDOT to develop a Mobility Management Program for the South Central Urbanized Area. The purpose of the Mobility Management Program is to address numerous gaps identified in the South Central Urbanized Area's section of Connecticut's Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, including (1) identifying needs for the elderly and persons with disabilities to address service gaps; (2) identifying barriers to mobility for the elderly and persons with disabilities; (3) regional coordination of services, and; (4) improved marketing of services. In September 2014, SCRCOG contracted with The Kennedy Center to operate the Mobility Management Program.

In June 2015, the South Central Region's Mobility Management Program website was launched. The website, entitled "Know How to Go South Central Connecticut" provides valuable travel-related information to help seniors and persons with disabilities better access their communities. The website address is [www.knowhowtogoscct.org](http://www.knowhowtogoscct.org).

### ***Unified Planning Work Program***

SCRCOG's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) addresses major regional transportation issues and opportunities through a combination of regional staff effort, consultant support, coordination with CTDOT, and the staff work at the member cities and towns.

The following projects were started and completed in FY 2014-2015:

#### **Multi-Community Sign Inventory Program**

This study provides a inventory of road and street signs and recommendations for upgrades and regulatory compliance. Municipalities covered: Branford, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, North Branford, North Haven, and West Haven.

#### **Multi-Community Pavement Management Study**

This study includes a review of existing conditions of municipal roads and ratings for each municipality to help with the implementation of a pavement management system. Municipalities covered: Orange and Woodbridge.

#### **Transit-Oriented Development Study**

This study includes an in-depth analysis around each of the train stations located in the region to determine the development potential, street connectivity, access, potential for bike and pedestrian infrastructure, and last mile connections. The study also examines parking availability, potential for regulatory changes, development strategies, and the regional context for each train station.

#### **Regional Traffic Signal Study**

This study provides an inventory and review of municipally-owned traffic signals in the region with recommendations on signal operational improvements to facilitate traffic flow, pedestrian safety and minimize congestion. The study also makes general recommendations on upgrades for energy efficiency.

#### **City of New Haven West River Mobility Study, Phase I**

The first phase of a multi-phase evaluation to review impacts and issues concerning traffic calming, extension or re-connection of existing streets, bicycle and pedestrian access, and future development impacts on the area bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Ella T. Grasso Boulevard, Legion Avenue and Orchard Street.

#### **City of New Haven Signal Re-Timing and Optimization Study**

This study evaluates existing conditions and provides recommendations for intersection performance, signal timing, and recommended improvements for twenty-four signals on the Whalley Avenue, Dixwell Avenue and Whitney Avenue corridors.

#### **City of Meriden Roadway Improvement Evaluation, Vicinity of the Former NRG Site**

This report evaluates existing conditions and provides recommendations on potential infrastructure improvements necessary to address traffic impacts of potential development of the former NRG site. It includes recommendations on a timeline and budget for the potential improvements

#### **Congestion Management Process Study**

The Congestion Management Process (CMP) study included data collection and implementation of CMP recommendations from the FY 2013-2014 study. Origin and destination data for selected congested routes was collected as part of the study.

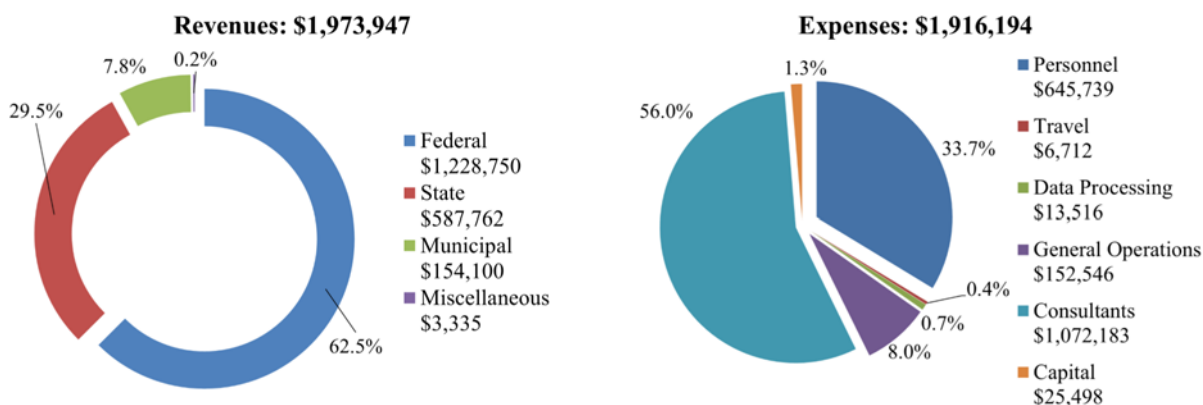
## PRESENTATIONS TO THE SCRCOG BOARD

Month	Speaker	Topic
July 2014	Naiara Azpiri, Sukh Grewal, and Nathaniel Lane, <i>Grey Wall Software</i>	Demonstration of Veoci Emergency Management Software (now available to SCRCOG members)
Sept.	Jennifer McGrady Heath and Amy Casaviva-Hall, <i>United Way of Greater New Haven</i> ; Nadim Matta, <i>Rapid Results Institute</i>	Report on 100-Day Campaign to End Homelessness
	Christopher Stone, <i>Stormwater Permitting Eng., CT DEEP</i>	Proposed CT DEEP Stormwater Permit Modifications
Oct.	Wendy Rego, <i>CEN</i> ; Jennifer March-Wackers, <i>SCRCOG</i>	Nutmeg Network Connection Grants
	Woodie Weiss, <i>Madison Energy &amp; Efficiency Committee</i>	Regional Purchase/Upgrade of Streetlighting System
	Mark Abraham, Executive Director, DataHaven	SCRCOG Jobs Access and Transit Study
Nov.	Mikey Hirschhoff, <i>Garden Club of New Haven</i> ; Roger Reynolds, <i>CT Fund for the Environment</i>	Protecting Roadside Trees during Utility Tree Trimming
Feb. 2015	Kevin Lembo, <i>State Comptroller</i>	Report from the State Comptroller's Office
March	Denise Merrill, <i>Secretary of the State</i>	Report from the Secretary of the State's Office
	State Senator Leonard Fasano, <i>34th District</i>	General Assembly Report
	Joseph DeLong, <i>Executive Director, CCM</i>	Introducing CCM's New Executive Director
April	Mary Buchanan, <i>DataHaven</i> ; Christina Ciociola, <i>Vice President of Grant Making &amp; Strategy</i> and Matthew Higbee, <i>Research &amp; Communications Officer, The Community Foundation of Greater New Haven</i>	Understanding the Impact of Immigration in Greater New Haven
May	Mark Rolfe, <i>District Engineer</i> and John Dunham, <i>Assistant District Engineer, CTDOT</i>	I-95 Corridor Record of Decision Report
	Lee Grannis, <i>Coordinator, Greater NH Clean Cities Coalition</i>	CT Alternative Fuel Vehicle Deployment
June	Bob Wall and Andrew Brydges, <i>CT Green Bank</i>	CT's Lead By Example Program - Energy Saving Performance Contracts

## SCRCOG PARTNERSHIPS

SCRCOG staff actively participated in the meetings and activities of many statewide and regional organizations. At the statewide level, Executive Director Amento, and the staff, regularly attended meetings of the CT Councils of Governments (CTCOG), MORE Commission Regional Entities Subcommittee, New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Corridor Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee of the CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, and the Steering Committee of HOMEConnecticut. Executive Director Amento is also a member of the CT Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. At the regional level, Executive Director Amento was a member of the Board of DataHaven, the Board of the United Way of Greater New Haven, the Workforce Alliance CEO Executive Committee Alliance, REX Strategic Planning Committee, REX Brownfields Advisory Committee, and the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce's Governmental Affairs Committee. SCRCOG staff were also involved in the Region 2 Regional Emergency Preparedness Team (REPT) of the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

## AUDITED FINANCIALS - JULY 1, 2014 to JUNE 30, 2015



### Contact Information

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For more information about SCRCOG, visit  
[www.scrcog.org](http://www.scrcog.org)