This report highlights the major activities of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) during the 2016-2017 fiscal year. SCRCOG provides its fifteen member municipalities a forum to foster communication and collaboration in identifying and addressing regional issues. All fifteen municipalities also belong to the region’s Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

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 (LOTCIP), 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. SCRCOG has developed and maintains a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and a Regional Geographic Information System (GIS) Program.
## Committee Members

### Executive Committee
- Mayor Toni Harp - *Chairwoman*
- First Selectman Joseph Mazza - *Vice-Chairman*
- First Selectman James Cosgrove - *Secretary*
- Mayor Edward O’Brien - *Treasurer*
- Mayor William Dickinson, Jr.
- First Selectman Michael Freda
- Mayor Joseph Maturo
- First Selectwoman Ellen Scalettar

### Transportation Committee
- Mayor William Dickinson, Jr. - *Chairman*
- First Selectman James Cosgrove
- First Selectman Joseph Mazza
- Mayor Benjamin Blake
- First Selectman Thomas Banisch
- Mayor Toni Harp

### Regional Planning Commission
- Bethany: Michael Calhoun
- Branford: Charles Andres
- East Haven: Sal Brancati
- Guilford: Walter Corbiere
- Hamden: Robert Roscow
- Madison: Joel Miller
- Meriden: David White
- Milford: Scott Marlow
- New Haven: Kevin DiAdamo
- North Branford: Frances Lescovich
- North Haven: James Giulietti
- Orange: Vacant
- Wallingford: Vacant
- West Haven: David Killeen
- Woodbridge: Andrew Skolnick

### Transportation Technical Committee
- Bethany: Alan Green
- Branford: Janice Plaziak
- East Haven: Kevin White
- Guilford: James Portley
- Hamden: Mark Austin
- Madison: Michael Ott
- Meriden: Robert Bass
- Milford: Gregory Pidluski
- New Haven: Giovanni Zinn
- North Branford: Kurt Weiss
- North Haven: Jonathan Bodwell
- Orange: Robert Hiza
- Wallingford: Rob Baltramaitis
- West Haven: Abdul Quadir
- Woodbridge: Warren Connors

---

2017 Chairwoman and New Haven Mayor Toni Harp (left) presenting a plaque to Benjamin Blake (right), Mayor of Milford and 2016 Chairman of the SCRCOG Board.
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, 2016 to June 30, 2017, the RPC reviewed forty-five statutory referrals.

Regional Plan of Conservation and Development
SCRCOG is undergoing an update to the South Central Region: Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) for 2018-2028. Last updated in 2009, the Regional POCD establishes a primary goal of reinforcing land use policies that focus development in the region’s existing developed corridors and areas that have transportation, employment and utility infrastructure, while conserving lands that are integral to maintaining the region’s agricultural heritage, drinking water supply, and unique natural resources, including access to Long Island Sound. During this fiscal year, SCRCOG hosted two focus group meetings to gather input from municipal staff and local organizations that have expertise in the region. Three more focus group meetings will be held in FY 2017-2018. Additionally, the planning process involves the Regional Planning Commission through presentations and discussions, which will continue in FY 2017-2018. The Regional POCD update will be completed in the next fiscal year.

Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Planning Grant
SCRCOG continued work on the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Planning Grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The grant is a partnership between SCRCOG, the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), and The Nature Conservancy to create a Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience in Southern Connecticut. The project focuses on seven coastal municipalities in the SCRCOG region (Milford, West Haven, New Haven, East Haven, Branford, Guilford, and Madison) and three in the MetroCOG region (Fairfield, Bridgeport, and Stratford). The components of the project include a comprehensive green infrastructure assessment of the coastline between Madison and Fairfield, stakeholder outreach to gain a better understanding of common themes for infrastructure and resilience needs, conceptual designs for a project within each municipality, and the development of a Regional Plan for Coastal Resiliency. In FY2017, three final documents were distributed to the involved municipalities: the Final Report, Design Portfolio, and Legal, Policy, and Regulatory Assessment Guide.

CIRCA Municipal Resilience Grant Program
SCRCOG was awarded $50,000 from CIRCA’s Municipal Resilience Grant Program for a project titled “Design and Technical Guide for Implementing Innovative Municipal Scale Coastal Resilience in Southern Connecticut.” The project, in partnership with Yale Urban Ecology Design Lab, continues the coastal resilience work completed in West Haven and East Haven by creating a decision-making toolkit for evaluating potential green infrastructure projects.

Regional GIS Program Update
SCRCOG was awarded a multi-year grant through the State of Connecticut’s Regional Performance Initiative 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. This program includes data layers representing environmental, transportation, zoning, points of interest, demographic, and land use themes. SCRCOG also recently incorporated a recreational trails layer into the database. The online viewer is available to the public at http://www.scrco.mapxpress.net.
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
SCRCOG was awarded a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP), which will include fourteen of the region’s municipalities. The HMP planning process adheres to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards and requirements for local hazard mitigation plans. The purpose of the HMP is to help reduce the South Central Region’s vulnerability to natural hazards and ease the burden of keeping communities safe and resilient. The HMP identifies hazard risks and mitigation actions to reduce or eliminate those risks. Through the Plan, the participating municipalities are eligible for FEMA mitigation program funding before and after potential natural disasters. The Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee met once during this fiscal year, and will meet three additional times during FY 2017-2018. SCRCOG will also gather input through 14 municipal meetings and a regional public meeting. A draft plan will be submitted for adoption in the next fiscal year.

Regional Open Space Inventory
SCRCOG was awarded a Regional Performance Incentive Program grant from the CT Office of Policy and Management to conduct a regional open space inventory. The project will result in a GIS database of parcel-level open space in the region, categorized by ownership, type of open space, use of open space, and protection status. A consistent, regional definition of open space will be determined during this process. The project will commence in FY 2017-2018.

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 funding for the trails update comes from the Regional Services Grant, administered by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management. SCRCOG is collaborating with municipal staff, land trusts, conservation commissions, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA), and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Hard copies of the trail brochures were distributed to the region’s municipalities. Digital copies are available for download from http://www.scrcog.org/regional-planning/regional-trails. The trails have also been integrated into the SCRCOG GIS Viewer.

Beaver Brook trail - City of Milford
Photo by Steve Johnson
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 ‘15 - FFY ‘18 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 (LOTCIP)
The Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTCIP) provides State funding to urbanized areas. LOTCIP is provided for in Section 74 of Public Act 13-239 (2013 Legislative Session). The Transportation Committee and Transportation Technical Committee recommended seven projects for Fiscal Year 2017:

- Wallingford - Toelles Road Rehabilitation Project
- New Haven - Chapel Street Bridge Painting
- Meriden - Cooper Street Bridge
- East Haven - West End Reconstruction Phase III
- Guilford - Nut Plains Road
- New Haven - Downtown Complete Streets Safety Project
- North Branford - Twin Lakes Road Pavement Rehab

Mobility Management
SCRCOG continues to operate a Mobility Management Program for the South Central Urbanized Area, supported with funding from the Federal Transit Administration’s Section 5317 New Freedom Program and CTDOT. 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. SCRCOG maintains a contract with The Kennedy Center to operate the Mobility Management Program.

SCRCOG hosts a website for the Mobility Management Program, entitled “Know How to Go South Central Connecticut,” which provides valuable travel-related information to help seniors and persons with disabilities better access their communities. The website address is www.knowhowtogosct.org. In addition to maintaining the website, The Kennedy Center also travels to various senior and community centers to discuss the program.

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 American Community Survey. In March 2017, SCRCOG released an updated version of its Demographic and Socioeconomic Trends report. The report is available on the SCRCOG website, www.scrcog.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 in FY 2016-2017. Those not yet completed will be completed in FY 2017-2018:

Update Bike Ped Study
This study updates the previous Bike Ped Study to reflect current conditions and goals in accord with certification recommendations

Town of Madison Downtown Connectivity Study
This study reviews current conditions, limitations and options for improved connectivity and circulation in downtown area, including train station and retail south of Boston Post Road

Expansion of Town of East Haven Route 1, 100, Forbes Place, Kimberly Avenue Study
This expands the study area in response to public outreach.

City of New Haven Sign Inventory Program, Phase 1
This is Phase 1 of a study to provide city wide inventory of road and street signs, providing software for management and recommendations for upgrades and regulatory compliance.

Town of Branford - Branford Connector Corridor Study
This study aims to improve safety, operations concerns, and geometric deficiencies while addressing circulation and pedestrian issues.

City of New Haven Westville Traffic and Parking Study
This study provides recommendations to improve traffic flow while addressing parking concerns

Regional Freight Study
This study, in cooperation with CTDOT efforts, prepares regional components for utilization in state freight plan.

Transportation Vulnerability and Resiliency Study Pilot Project
This regional pilot study on Route 146 from Branford and Guilford assesses major vulnerability and resiliency issues and identifies options and projects to improve resiliency and reduce vulnerability.

Congestion Management Process
This study gathers additional information and implements CMP recommendations from previous study. It continues input to tie our CMP efforts with the Lower Connecticut River Valley COG as the two main areas of the New Haven TMA.

Regional Complete Streets Toolbox - City of Milford Downtown Pilot Project
This project prepares a tool box outlining the options, considerations, steps, and potential conflicts involved in the possible implementation of a complete streets program in any municipality in the Region. It assists the City of Milford on a pilot project for the downtown area to consider, create, and, if desired, implement a complete streets plan, utilizing the toolbox process to determine feasibility and desirability.
### Presentations to SCRCOG Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept.</td>
<td>James Redeker, <em>DOT</em></td>
<td>Let’s Go CT!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles R. Goodwin, <em>UI</em></td>
<td>UI Request for Distribution Adjustment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jean Dyer, Ted Norris, <em>RWA</em></td>
<td>RWA’s hiTechFOCus Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Charles Patton, <em>Partnership for Strong Communities</em></td>
<td>New Partnership Products to Improve Local Economies without Political Acrimony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lynn Stoddard, <em>Institute for Sustainable Energy</em></td>
<td>Sustainable CT: An Update on the Development of CT’s Sustainable Communities Cert. System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ann Kurth, <em>Yale School of Nursing</em></td>
<td>YSN Strategic Partnerships to Improve Health and Wellbeing of its Surrounding Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2017</td>
<td>Camille Seaberry, <em>DataHaven</em></td>
<td>Greater New Haven Community Index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa DiTaranti, Ken Schwartz, Elizabeth Thompson, <em>VHB</em></td>
<td>MOVE New Haven Transit Mobility Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>Amanda Ryan, <em>UConn CLEAR</em></td>
<td>How UConn CLEAR is Helping Towns with the New MS4 Permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pauline Yoder, Hedy Ayers, Maureen Goulet, <em>CRCOG</em></td>
<td>Municipal Shared Services Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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), New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Corridor Advisory Committee, the Advisory Committee of the CT Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, the Advisory Committee of the Connecticut Statewide Airport System Plan Update, and the Steering Committee of HOME Connecticut. Executive Director Amento is also a member of the CT Advisory Committee on Intergovernmental Relations. At the regional level, Executive Director Amento is a member of the Board of DataHaven, the Board of the United Way of Greater New Haven, REX Strategic Planning Committee, REX Brownfields Advisory Committee, and the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (Ex-Officio). 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, 2016 to JUNE 30, 2017

Revenues: $2,170,599
- Federal: $1,375,613
- State: $636,372
- Municipal: $156,673
- Miscellaneous: $1,941

Expenses: $2,136,469
- Personnel: $706,109
- Travel: $7,189
- Data Processing: $26,468
- General Operations: $150,013
- Consultants: $1,246,690

Contact Information
South Central Regional Council of Governments
127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West
North Haven, CT 06473
T (203) 234-7555
F (203) 234-9850
E scrcog@scrcog.org

For more information about SCRCOG, visit www.scrcog.org