This report highlights the major activities of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) during the 2017-2018 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**
- First Selectman James Cosgrove - *Chairman*
- First Selectman Thomas Banisch - *Vice-Chairman*
- First Selectman Beth Heller - *Secretary*
- First Selectman Michael Freda - *Treasurer*
- Mayor William Dickinson, Jr.
- Mayor Toni Harp
- Mayor Benjamin Blake
- First Selectwoman Derrylynn Gorski

**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: Ralph Aschettino
- Wallingford: Jeffrey Kohan
- West Haven: Kathleen Hendricks
- Woodbridge: Andrew Skolnick

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

**Transportation Technical Committee**
- Bethany: Alan Green
- Branford: Janice Plaziak
- East Haven: Kevin White
- Guilford: James Portley
- Hamden: Mark Austin
- Madison: Robert Russo
- 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 the gavel to James Cosgrove (right), First Selectman of Branford and 2018 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, 2017 to June 30, 2018, the RPC reviewed thirty statutory referrals.

Regional Plan of Conservation and Development
SCRCOG completed 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. SCRCOG hosted a total of five focus group meetings to gather input from municipal staff and local organizations that have expertise in the region. Additionally, the planning process involved the Regional Planning Commission through presentations and discussions, which happened throughout the fiscal year. The Regional POCD update was adopted in June 2018.

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, continued the coastal resilience work completed in West Haven and East Haven by creating a decision-making toolkit for evaluating potential green infrastructure projects. The project was completed in June 2018.

CT Department of Agriculture Farm Viability Grant
SCRCOG was awarded $40,000 from CT Department of Agriculture’s Farm Viability Grant Program for a project titled “Greater New Haven Regional Rural Urban Agriculture Collaborative and Farm Energy Project.” The objectives of the project are to promote agriculture as a dynamic business sector in Greater New Haven, provide support for new farm energy practices in the SCRCOG region, and provide outreach and educational tools to existing agriculture producers in the region. The project will begin in FY 2018-2019.

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.scrcog.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 four times to guide the planning process. SCRCOG also gathered input through 14 municipal meetings and a regional public meeting. The plan was adopted in May 2018.

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 resulted 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 involved a regional meeting to identify the definition of open space, followed by individual municipal meetings to review and provide edits to the draft dataset. The project was completed in June 2018, and the Regional Open Space data will be integrated into the SCRCOG GIS Viewer in the next fiscal year.

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.

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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 six projects for Fiscal Year 2018:

- Milford - Welches Point Road
- New Haven - Whalley, Dixwell, Grand Safety/Streetscape updates
- Hamden - Waite and Mather Street Bridge Replacements, Roadway and Sidewalk Improvements
- Meriden - Mill and Overlay Downtown Streets
- East Haven - West End Reconstruction Phase III
- North Branford - Woods Hill Road Reconstruction

**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](http://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 May 2018, SCRCOG released an updated version of its *Demographic and Socioeconomic Trends* report. The report is available on the SCRCOG website, [www.scrcog.org](http://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 2017-2018. Those not yet completed will be completed in FY 2018-2019:

City of Meriden East Main Street Study
This study reviews current conditions of East Main Street from I-91 to Paddock Avenue.

City of New Haven Sign Inventory Program, Phase 2
This is Phase 2 of a study to provide city wide inventory of road and street signs, providing software for management and recommendations for upgrades and regulatory compliance.

City of New Haven State Street Signal Timing
This is an optimization timing study for pedestrian and vehicle flow along State Street from Audobon Street to Ferry Street.

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

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.

New Haven Freight Study
This study aims to enhance the freight functions of the port and surrounding areas to maximize freight operations and improve facilities.

Regionwide GIS and data upgrade for asset management and planning purposes
This project utilizes recent flight data to enhance current GIS and asset management data and provide improved asset management tools for use by region and member municipalities as well as advanced planning through planimetrics.
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<td></td>
<td>Eugene Livshits and Rebecca Andreucci, <em>SCRCOG</em></td>
<td>Southern CT Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience</td>
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<td>William R. Rath, <em>UConn</em></td>
<td>Long Island Sound Legal and Regulatory Issues Given Climate Change and Rising Seas</td>
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<td>Sept.</td>
<td>William Villano, <em>Workforce Alliance</em></td>
<td>Regional Employment Outlook</td>
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<td>Lori Mathieu, <em>CT DPH</em></td>
<td>CT State Water Plan</td>
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<td>Oct.</td>
<td>Dr. Paul Broadie, <em>Gateway and Housatonic Community Colleges</em></td>
<td>What's New with Gateway and Housatonic Community Colleges</td>
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<td>Tim Larson, <em>Tweed-New Haven Airport Authority</em></td>
<td>Tweed New Haven Airport Update</td>
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<td>James Redeker, <em>CT DOT</em></td>
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<td>Sean Ghio, <em>Partnership for Strong Communities</em></td>
<td>The Right Housing Mix- Key to a Healthy Town</td>
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<td>Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg, <em>REX Development</em></td>
<td>2018 5-Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update</td>
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<td>Lynn Stoddard, <em>Institute for Sustainable Energy</em></td>
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<td>Kevin Lembo, <em>Comptroller</em></td>
<td>State Financial Update &amp; Initiatives</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>Eugene Livshits, <em>SCRCOG</em></td>
<td>SCRCOG Regional Plan of Conservation and Development</td>
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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, 2017 to JUNE 30, 2018

Revenues: $2,100,019
- Federal: $1,434,978 (68.3%)
- State: $445,128 (21.2%)
- Municipal: $214,130 (10.2%)
- Miscellaneous: $5,783 (0.3%)

Expenses: $2,079,732
- Personnel: $719,567 (34.6%)
- Travel: $5,472 (0.3%)
- Data Processing: $15,329 (0.7%)
- General Operations: $168,555 (8.1%)
- Consultants: $1,170,809 (56.3%)

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