

# 2014 Annual Report

July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

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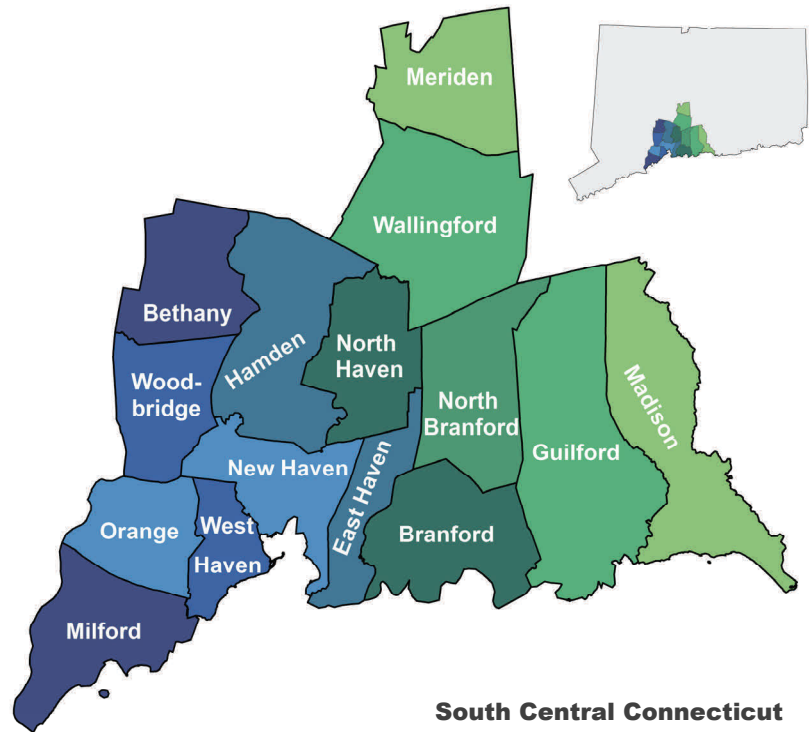
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## Council Members (as of January 1, 2014)

Bethany	FS Derrylyn Gorski
Branford	FS James Cosgrove
East Haven	Mayor Joseph Maturo, Jr.
Guilford	FS Joseph Mazza
Hamden	Mayor Scott Jackson
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

## 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



This report highlights the major activities of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) during the 2013-2014 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 developing a regional long range transportation plan, developing a regional transportation work program, 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.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(as of JANUARY 2014)

### Executive Committee

Mayor Scott Jackson - *Chairman*  
First Selectman Michael Freda - *Vice Chair*  
First Selectman Fillmore McPherson - *Secretary*  
Mayor Benjamin Blake - *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	Vacant
Hamden	Richard Szczypek
Madison	Christopher Traugh
Meriden	David White
Milford	Benjamin Gettinger
New Haven	Kevin DiAdamo
North Branford	Douglas Combs
North Haven	James Giulietti
Orange	Paul Kaplan
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	Vacant
North Branford	Kurt Weiss
North Haven	Jonathan Bodwell
Orange	Vacant
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, 2013 to June 30, 2014, the RPC reviewed forty-three 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 September 2013, SCRCOG released an updated version of its *Demographic and Socioeconomic Trends* report. It can also be found on the SCRCOG website, [www.scrcoq.org](http://www.scrcoq.org).

### ***Sustainable Communities Planning Grant***

The New York-Connecticut Sustainable Communities Consortium finalized the *Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development in the New York-Connecticut Metropolitan Region*. The Plan is the culmination of three years of collaborative planning by the Consortium and its advisory committees. It summarizes outcomes from the planning projects undertaken as part of the initiative, and recommends actions to help implement these and other transit-oriented development projects, improve the regional planning process, and address regional equity and opportunity.

The Consortium members sought to bring their individual regional and local planning efforts into greater alignment while also enhancing that planning to create a more robust approach to regional sustainability. At the same time, the shared regional vision was reflected locally through place-based projects funded through the Consortium planning program, one of which was focused on New Haven's Union Station. The purpose of the New Haven Union Station Transit-Oriented Development Plan is to advance pre-development planning for mixed-use development in and around Union Station. The Plan consists of a re-merchandising strategy for Union Station and a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Strategy for the Union Station Transportation Center. The Plan is a product of collaboration between the City of New Haven, the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Bureau of Policy and Planning, and the Office of Rails.

The Consortium, which is a bi-state collaboration of cities, counties, and regional planning organizations, including SCRCOG, was awarded \$3.5 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant in 2011. The grant was administered by the Regional Plan Association.

More information about the NY-CT Sustainable Communities Consortium and New Haven's Union Station project can be found at [www.sustainableNYCT.org](http://www.sustainableNYCT.org).

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

In January 2014, SCRCOG, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and Greater Bridgeport Regional Council (GBRC), submitted a proposal for the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Planning Grant Program. The grant program will be administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In June 2014, SCRCOG was notified that it would receive a \$700,000 grant to support the creation of a Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience in Southern Connecticut.

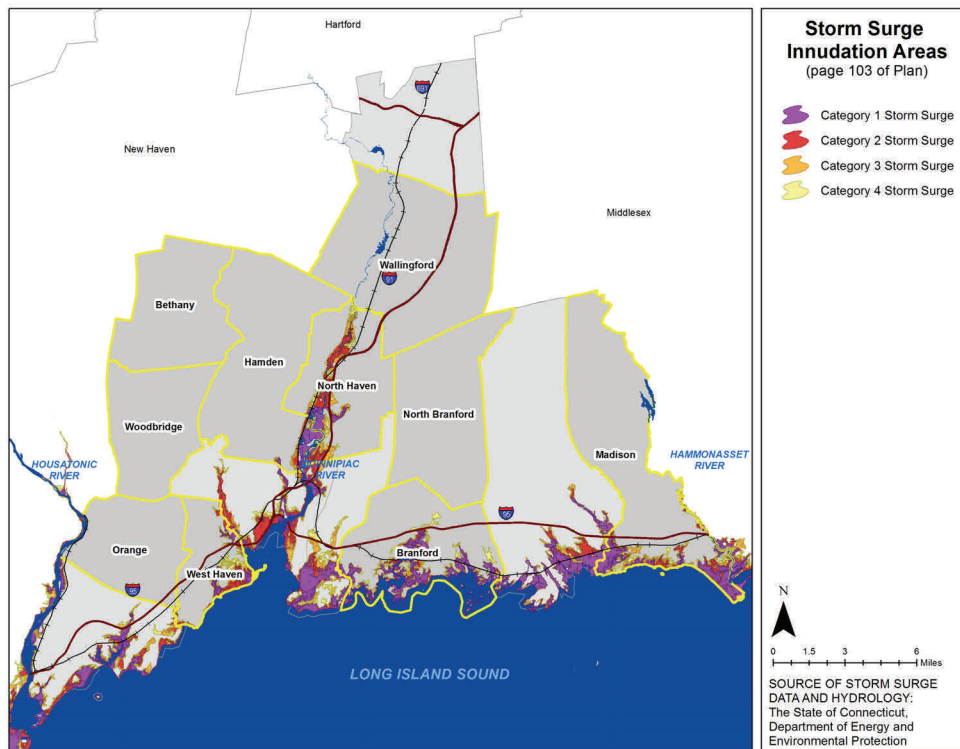
The project will encompass the central coast of Connecticut from Fairfield to Madison. The main objective of the project will be to assess, prioritize and advance resilience opportunities to reduce risk to the 591,000 residents across ten coastal municipalities and increase the viability of natural ecosystems along a significant portion of Connecticut's coastline. Key goals of the project will include an integration of natural/green infrastructure concepts, principals and priority projects into core hazard mitigation, comprehensive planning and capital expenditure efforts for the ten municipalities. Seven of the ten coastal communities which will benefit from this grant are located in the South Central Region. They are: Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Madison, Milford, New Haven, and West Haven.

This unique and critical initiative for Connecticut will be achieved through the establishment of a Regional Framework for Coastal Resilience driven by the SCRCOG, in partnership with GBRC and The Nature Conservancy, and the ten participating municipalities as well as supporting NGOs, state and federal agencies, academic institutions, youth engagement organizations, businesses and civic groups.

## ***Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan***

SCRCOG was awarded a \$225,562 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant, administered by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to develop a Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan for Bethany, Branford, Hamden, Madison, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven and Woodbridge. The five additional municipalities in the Region (East Haven, Guilford, Meriden, Milford, and New Haven) have completed or are currently working on their own hazard mitigation plans and are participating in the development of a regional plan. The development of the Multi-Jurisdiction Plan (Plan) was completed with support provided by Jamie Caplan Consulting, LLC and AECOM. As part of the planning process, SCRCOG staff formed an Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from the participating municipalities and other stakeholders in the Region. The Advisory Committee’s participation and feedback guided the development of the Plan.

The purpose of the Plan is to reduce the Region’s vulnerability to natural hazards and provide a comprehensive approach to mitigate any potential inter-jurisdictional hazards. The Plan defines responsibilities and analyzes local capacities and capabilities to manage mitigation projects. It also fulfills FEMA’s requirement for a mitigation planning process that first, ensures federal assistance to the ten South Central Region municipalities and second, allows the local governments to compete for millions of dollars of mitigation project assistance annually.



The final draft of the Plan was released for public comment in August 2013. An Advisory Committee Meeting was held in September 2013 to discuss the incorporation of comments and next steps. In April 2014, the *South Central Region Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan* received approval, pending adoption, from FEMA Region 1. The participating municipalities are in the process of formally adopting the Plan. Following final approval and adoption of the Plan, SCRCOG staff will regularly convene the Advisory Committee to assist with the required monitoring, evaluating, and updating of the Plan.

More information about the South Central Region Hazard Mitigation Plan, including a copy of the Plan, can be found at: <http://www.scrco.org/regional-hazard-mitigation.html>.

### ***Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program***

SCRCOG was awarded two grants under the State of Connecticut's Regional Performance Incentive (RPI) Grant Program. Both grants are being administered by the CT Office of Policy and Management. Below are summaries of the projects.

#### **Regional GIS Program**

SCRCOG was awarded a \$591,028 grant 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 GIS initiative will develop and provide access to a uniform regional parcel database, which meets or exceeds Level II of the Connecticut Cadastral Standards. Additional data layers representing transportation, zoning, and land use themes will also be developed. These regionalized layers will allow users to view and analyze data in a broader context and will permit users to incorporate other information sources such as infrastructure, environmental features, demographic, and economic data. This GIS program will have compatibility beyond personal computers, including tablets and other mobile devices.

In Fiscal Year 2015, SCRCOG and New England GeoSystems, in consultation with the Regional GIS Advisory Committee, will complete the development of the regional data layers and the web-based mapping application. It is expected that the web-based GIS Program will be launched by the end of Fiscal Year 2015.



#### ***What are the Connecticut Cadastral Standards?***

Cadastral, or parcel-level, data is the foundation of municipal GIS programs. The Connecticut Cadastral Standards define the cadastral data production process, and addresses a number of components, including parcel boundary compilation methods/sources, parcel attributes, spatial accuracy, quality assurance/quality control, and Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) compliant metadata. One of the ultimate

<http://www.ct.gov/GIS/cwp/view.asp?a=3034&q=410780>

#### **Shared Services Study**

SCRCOG was awarded a grant of \$54,581 to conduct an inter-municipal shared services feasibility study. The goal of the study was to identify and recommend the best opportunities for service sharing in the region. The services/operations identified by the study to be the most amenable to cost-effective sharing are (in no particular order): (1) technology, (2) finance and administration, (3) purchasing, (4) Board of Education-Town collaboration, (5) public works and field services, (6) permitting and inspections, (7) facility and fleet maintenance, and (8) expert services. On May 25, 2014, Executive Director Amento presented a synopsis of the study to the SCRCOG Board.

During the course of the study, SCRCOG convened a Regional Purchasing Advisory Council comprised of purchasing agents and finance directors from its member municipalities. The council held 4 meetings in FY 2013-14 and recommended to the SCRCOG Board that the 15 member municipalities join the Capitol Region Purchasing Consortium as a region at considerable savings of membership dues. The SCRCOG Board approved the recommendation and paid the first year of dues allowing its members to enjoy the purchasing power of over 100 CT municipalities purchasing together. SCRCOG intends to convene its municipal IT Directors, Permitting Officials, Public Works Directors, and Grantwriters to explore regional or multi-town service or operations sharing opportunities.



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM

SCRCOG's *Long Range Transportation Plan 2011-2040* complements the South Central Region's *Plan of Conservation and Development* and the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CDOT) *Master Transportation Plan*. The *FFY 2012 - FFY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*, shaped in conjunction with CDOT, 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 CDOT 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 in lieu of funds otherwise available through Federal transportation legislation. 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 2014:

- Guilford - West Lake Avenue Pavement Project
- Madison - Green Hill Road Reconstruction Project
- Wallingford - Northfield Road Bridge Project
- West Haven - Spring Street and West Spring Street Culverts Project

### **Jobs Access Study**

Transportation appears to be a major barrier to the accessibility of jobs in the Region. The available data suggests that many jobs are not accessible without a car, and a large share of minority and low-income households have no vehicle available, and although transit stops exist throughout the region, it appears that fewer than half of jobs in the region are reachable via transit in 90 minutes. SCRCOG contracted with DataHaven to analyze the spatial mismatch in the region between jobs and low-income and minority residents. The study is being conducted in cooperation with the NAACP and Workforce Alliance. A report is expected to be issued by January 1, 2015.

### **Mobility Management Program**

SCRCOG has received funding from the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5317 New Freedom Program and CDOT to develop a Mobility Management Program for the South Central Urbanized Area. The Mobility Management Program will help 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 April 2014, SCRCOG issued a request for proposals (RFP) seeking the services of a qualified consultant to develop and operate a Mobility Management Program. Three firms responded to the RFP. After consultant interviews in June, involving stakeholders throughout the region, The Kennedy Center, was selected to undertake the program.

# TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROGRAM

## 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 CDOT, and the staff work at the member cities and towns.

The following projects were started in FY 2012-2013 and were completed in FY 2013-2014:

### City of New Haven Downtown One-Way to Two Way Conversion Study

This study provides a review of impacts and issues to be addressed on the potential conversion of certain existing downtown streets from one-way to two-way.

### Town of Hamden Traffic Calming

This report evaluates existing conditions and provides recommendations for potential traffic calming measures for Hamden Plains, Wintergreen and East Side neighborhoods.

### Tweed Airport Cargo Study

This study reviews existing freight facilities and provide options for increasing freight service for niche markets, removing trucks from the I-95 and I-91 corridors, reducing congestion, and providing timely delivery of goods and food products for the region's consumers. It was completed in cooperation with staff of the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority.

The following projects were started and completed in FY 2013-2014:

### Hamden Traffic Signal Study - Phase II

This report is the second phase of a multi-phase evaluation of town-owned traffic signals. The report included review of town owned traffic signals, review of compliance with MUTCD and state standards, and recommendations for near-term maintenance and a long-term signal replacement program, including prioritization and schedule over multi-year budget cycles.

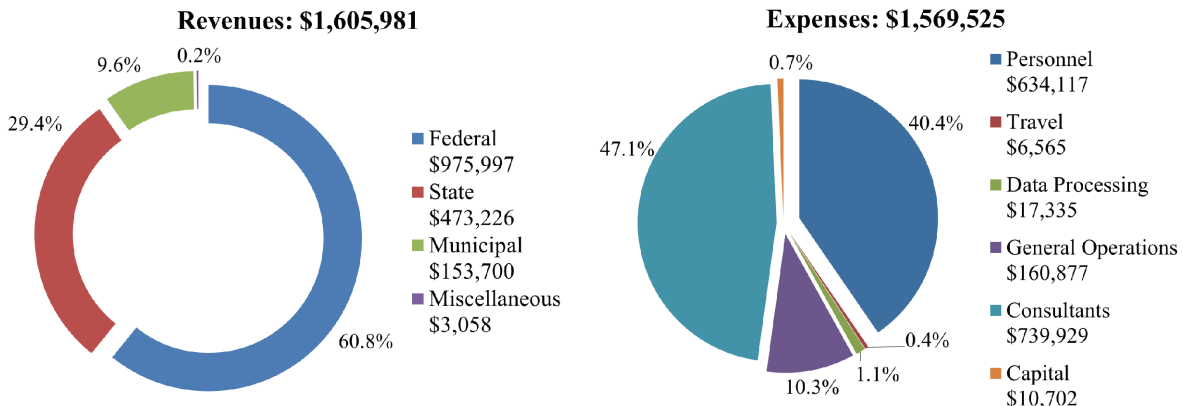
### Multi-Community Pavement Management Study

This study included a review of existing conditions of municipal roads and created ratings for each municipality to help with the implementation of a pavement management system. Municipalities covered: Branford, Milford, West Haven, Wallingford, and Orange.

### Congestion Management Process Study

The Congestion Management Process (CMP) study included data collection and implementation of CMP recommendations from the FY 2012 study. This included obtaining origin and destination data for selected congested routes.

## AUDITED FINANCIALS - JULY 1, 2013 to JUNE 30, 2014



## PRESENTATIONS TO THE SCRCOG BOARD

Month	Speaker	Topic
July 2013	Thomas Maziarz, <i>Bureau Chief, Bureau of Policy &amp; Planning, CDOT</i>  Robert Gomez, <i>CT Society of Civil Engineers</i>	CT Congestion Relief Study (Express Lanes, Electronic Tolls and Congestion Mitigation)  2013 Transportation Award of Merit to SCRCOG and VN Engineers for Regional School Bus Study
Aug.	Genevieve Sherman, <i>C-PACE Manager</i>	Connecticut Property Assessed Clean Energy
Sept.	Kenneth Shooshan-Stoller, Eloise Powell, and Erik Shortell, <i>Federal Highway Administration</i>	SCRCOG's Quadrennial Transportation Planning Certification Review
Oct.	Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman Senator Christopher Murphy Mark Abraham, <i>Executive Director, DataHaven</i>	State Government Update Washington Report Greater New Haven Community Index 2013
Nov.	Jennifer March- Wackers, <i>CRCOG</i> , Wendy Rego and Jim Mindek, <i>Connecticut Education Network</i>	Municipal Connections to Nutmeg Network
Feb. 2014	Kevin Lembo, <i>State Comptroller</i>	Report from the State Comptroller's Office
March	Mark Rolfe, <i>District Engineer, CDOT</i> and Brian Mercure, <i>Assistant District 3A Engineer, CDOT</i>	I-95 Corridor Record of Decision Report
April	George Bradner, <i>CT Insurance Dept.</i> ; Richard Branigan and Theresa Ranciato-Viele, <i>American Red Cross, CT Chapter</i>	Long-term Recovery in CT - Lessons from Sandy and Future Recovery Structures /Creating Resilient Communities
May	Carl Amento, <i>Executive Director</i> Kevin Lazan, <i>Next Street Financial LLC</i>	SCRCOG Inter-municipal Shared Services Study REX "Buy Local" Program
June	Jamie Caplan, <i>Jamie Caplan Consulting, LLC</i>	SCRCOG Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan

## 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 his staff, regularly attended meetings of the CT Association of Regional Planning Organizations (CARPO), MORE Commission Regional Entities Working Group, New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Corridor Advisory Committee, and the Steering Committee of HOMEConnecticut. Executive Director Amento is also a member of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. At the regional level, Executive Director Amento was a member of the Board of Data-Haven, 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) and the NY-CT Sustainable Communities Initiative Steering Committee.

### Contact Information

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[www.scrcog.org](http://www.scrcog.org)