



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Meeting Notice & Agenda South Central Regional MPO and COG Wednesday, June 28, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.

This is a hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at the SCRCOG Office and remote access via Zoom.

Office Location: 127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West, North Haven, CT 06473

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83877342935>

Call-In Number: +1-929-205-6099 / Meeting ID: 838 7734 2935

- 1 **Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2 **Adopt Minutes of 5/24/23 SCRCOG Meeting (motion)** Pages 2-5
- 3 **Treasurer's Report for month ending 5/31/23 (motion)** Pages 6,7
- 4 **MPO Business**
 - a) Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report
 - b) Transportation Staff Report
 - c) Greater New Haven Transit District Report
 - d) CT Rides Report
- 5 **COG Business**
 - a) Approval of FY 2023-24 Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan Revision (motion)
 - b) Approval of SCRCOG FY 2023-24 Budget Amendment #1 (motion) Pages 8-10
 - c) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into Agreements for FY 2023-24 Regional Services Grant-funded Consultant Services (motion) Pages 11,12
 - d) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Grant Award Agreement and other Related Documents with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) to the New Haven Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) (motion) Page 13
 - e) Resolution Designating the Arts Council of Greater New Haven as the South Central Regional Council of Government's (SCRCOG's) Local Arts Agency for the purpose of making application for a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grant (motion) Page 14
 - f) Executive Director's Report Pages 15-26
 - g) Regional Planning Staff Report
 - h) Sustainable CT Update
 - i) Regional Planning Commission June Action Table Page 27
 - j) REX Development Report Page 28
 - k) Congressional Reports
 - l) State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST
 - m) DEMHS Report
- 6 **Regional Cooperation/ Other Business**
- 7 **Adjournment**

Agenda and attachments for this meeting are available on our website at www.scrkog.org. Please contact SCRCOG for copy of agenda in a language other than English. Auxiliary aids/services and limited English proficiency translators will be provided with two weeks' notice.

"Necesidades especiales: a las personas con discapacidad auditiva se les proveerá con medios auditivos y/o intérpretes de signos. Igualmente intérpretes para personas que hablan poco inglés, pero será preciso avisar con dos semanas de antelación. Se puede solicitar la agenda en otro idioma que no sea inglés comunicándose con SCRCOG".



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

TO: **SCRCOG Board Members**
FROM: **First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, Secretary**
DATE: **June 21, 2023**
SUBJECT: **SCRCOG Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2023**

Present:

Bethany	First Selectman Paula Cofrancesco, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Branford	First Selectman James Cosgrove
East Haven	Mayor Joseph Carfora
Guilford	First Selectman Matthew Hoey, <i>Immediate Past Chair</i>
Hamden	Mayor Lauren Garrett, <i>Treasurer</i>
Madison	First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, <i>Secretary</i>
New Haven	Mayor Justin Elicker
North Branford	Michael Downes, <i>proxy for Mayor Jeffrey Macmillen</i>
North Haven	First Selectman Michael Freda
Orange	First Selectman James Zeoli, <i>Chair</i>
Wallingford	Mayor William Dickinson
Woodbridge	Sheila McCreven, <i>proxy for First Selectman Beth Heller</i>

SCRCOG Staff Carl Amento, Laura Francis, James Rode, Christopher Rappa, Benjamin Lovejoy, Rebecca Andreucci, Stephanie Camp

Guests: Michelle Benivegna, *Town of East Haven*; Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg, *REX Development*; Kevin Tedesco, *CT Department of Transportation*; Lou Mangini and Charles Butler, *Office of U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro*; Jameson Foulke, *Office of U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy*; Michael Muszynski, *CCM*; Mario Marrero and Mary Bigelow, *Greater New Haven Transit District*; Marisa Kaplita, *CT Rides*; Nicole Velardi, *DEMHS*; Nan Birdwhistell, *Murtha Cullina*; Liz Esposito, *Avangrid*; Brian Popovich, *USA Hauling*; Lorena Venegas, *Member of the Public*.

NOTE: The May SCRCOG Board meeting was a hybrid meeting

1. Call to order and Introductions

Chairman Zeoli called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. All present introduced themselves.

2. Presentation: 2023 Greater New Haven Community Wellbeing Index

Kelly Davila of DataHaven presented on the 2023 Greater New Haven Community Wellbeing Index. Mayor Dickinson commented on the high percentage of school absenteeism and the percentage of students who did not test at grade level.

3. Adoption of the April 26, 2023 SCRCOG Meeting Minutes

First Selectwoman Lyons presented the minutes of the SCRCOG Meeting of April 26, 2023, which were included in the agenda packet at pages 2-5. First Selectman Cofrancesco made a motion to approve. Mayor Garrett seconded, and Chairman Zeoli abstained. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report for the month ending 4/30/23

Mayor Garrett presented the Treasurer's Report on pages 6-7 of the agenda packet. The Balance Sheet shows that SCRCOG has total assets of \$2,313,000 with \$855,000 of that in cash and investments. There is also \$281,000 due from CTDOT, \$131,000 due from DEMHS, and \$16,000 due from DECD. Expenses for the month were in order. Mayor Garrett moved to accept the report, and First Selectwoman Lyons seconded. The vote was unanimous.

5. MPO Business

a. Adopt Resolution to Approve FY 2022-2023 TIP Amendment Twenty-Seven (motion)

Mayor Dickinson presented the Transportation Committee report on pages 8-16 of the agenda packet. He made a motion to approve TIP Amendment Twenty-Seven. First Selectman Hoey seconded, and all voted in favor.

b. Adopt Resolution to Approve the Unified Planning Work Program (motion)

Mayor Dickinson presented the Resolution approving the UPWP on page 17 of the agenda packet. First Selectman Cofrancesco made a motion to approve, and First Selectman Hoey seconded. All voted in favor.

c. Adopt Resolution to Approve Delegation of Authority regarding CTDOT Invoices (motion)

Mayor Dickinson presented the Resolution on the delegation of authority on page 18 of the agenda packet. First Selectman Cofrancesco made a motion to approve, and First Selectman Cosgrove seconded. All voted in favor.

d. Adopt Resolution on Performance Measures (motion)

Deputy Director Laura Francis presented the Resolution on performance measures found on pages 19-20 of the agenda packet. First Selectman Hoey made a motion to approve. First Selectman Cofrancesco seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

e. Adopt Resolution on Vision Zero (motion)

Deputy Director Laura Francis presented the Resolution on Vision Zero on pages 21-22 of the agenda packet. First Selectman Hoey made a motion to approve. First Selectman Cofrancesco seconded. The motion passed with all present voting in favor.

f. Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report

Deputy Director Laura Francis reported that SCRCOG staff were looking into funding sources alternative to Safe Streets for All to fund local safety implementation projects. SCRCOG is coordinating with CTDOT to apply for a PROTECT grant for evacuation route planning.

g. Transportation Staff Report

James Rode and Rebecca Andreucci provided staff reports on ongoing transportation planning projects in the region, including UPWP studies and LOTCIP projects.

h. Greater New Haven Transit District Report

Mario Marrero from the Greater New Haven Transit District reported on the CTDOT solicitation for state matching grant funds.

i. CT Rides Report

Marisa Kaplita from CT Rides reported the Drive Less CT challenge is ending May 31. So far, the challenge has eliminated 20,000 car trips. The data collected through the challenge is available on the CT Rides website. She also reported on an updated app which allows users to purchase transit tickets through the app.

6. COG Business

a. Approval of Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) (motion)

Chairman Zeoli presented the resolution to approve the CEDS on page 41 of the agenda packet. First Selectman Cofrancesco made a motion to approve, and First Selectman Hoey seconded. All voted in favor.

b. Approval of Proposed FY23-24 Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan (motion)

Executive Director Amento presented the RSG Spending Plan on page 42 of the agenda packet. He stated that this spending plan assumes flat funding for RSG. The legislature may approve increased funding for RSG, which would require approval of a revised Spending Plan in June. First Selectman Cofrancesco made a motion to approve, and First Selectman Hoey seconded. Mayor Dickinson opposed. The motion passed.

c. Approval of Proposed FY23-24 SCRCOG Budget (motion)

Executive Director Amento presented the FY23-24 SCRCOG Budget on pages 43-47 of the packet. Christopher Rappa reported that this budget is unchanged from last month. First Selectman Hoey made a motion to approve, and First Selectwoman Lyons seconded. Dickinson stated he was opposed due to the two new transportation positions being proposed in the budget. Chairman Zeoli stated he was concerned with the need to expand the office to accommodate three new employees. First Selectman Freda asked about the expected duties of the three new positions. Executive Director Amento and Deputy Director Francis discussed the job descriptions for each new position, and referred to the large grants awarded recently to SCRCOG. During the vote, Mayor Dickinson and Chairman Zeoli voted nay. All others voted in favor, and the motion passed.

d. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Amento reviewed the SCRCOG Newsletter found on pages 48-61 of the agenda packet. He reported that SCRCOG's Sustainable CT fellow, Katie Meder, would be starting in June.

e. Regional Planning Staff Report

Benjamin Lovejoy provided updates on Regional Planning programming at SCRCOG.

f. Regional Planning Commission May Action Table

The RPC Action Table was reviewed on page 62 of the agenda packet.

g. REX Development Report

Ginny Kozlowski of REX Development reviewed her report on page 63 of the agenda packet.

h. Congressional Reports

Lou Mangini from Congresswoman DeLauro's office introduced Charles Butler, who is working as a Grants Coordinator at Rosa's local office. Charles had worked at SCRCOG as an intern a year ago. Charles discussed IRA and EDA resiliency funding.

Jameson Foulke from Senator Murphy's office reported that the Senator proposed legislation on social media usage by teenagers. He also discussed proposed bills on fentanyl trafficking and disability rights.

First Selectman Hoey asked if there were any discussions on the debt crisis? Lou Mangini stated that if municipalities had any unspent ARPA money, they should plan on spending it soon to avoid it being clawed back.

i. State Legislative Reports – CCM/COST

Michael Muszynski from CCM reported that there are two weeks left in the legislative session. The budget might be finalized next week. He reviewed the handout outlining the bills that CCM is monitoring. He

encouraged towns to reach out to their legislators with comments. CCM will be holding an end of session webinar. Chairman Zeoli commented that he does not support solar on farmland, a bill that CCM is in support of. First Selectman Hoey asked if towns will be invited to participate in the task force to eliminate the motor vehicle tax? Michael stated that they would.

j. DEMHS Report

Nicole Velardi from DEMHS reported that CT DOT will be the applicant for the PROTECT grant to do evacuation route planning. She encouraged all elected officials or their proxies to attend the monthly REPT meetings, as they have been unable to get a quorum over the last few months.

7. Regional Cooperation/Other Business

First Selectman Hoey requested that the audio/visual equipment be upgraded as soon as possible to avoid any future technical difficulties. Deputy Director Laura Francis stated that SCRCOG intends to have the equipment upgraded by June 30.

8. Adjournment

First Selectman Hoey made a motion to adjourn, and First Selectman Cofrancesco seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*

Balance Sheet

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 5/31/2023

Assets

Cash and Investments

Key Bank - Checking Account	68,303.90
State of CT - Short-Term Investment Fund	528,777.37
New Haven Bank	108,336.16

Accounts Receivable

CT Department of Transportation	377,244.26
CT DESPP – FEMA Grant	131,321.03
CT DEEP – SMM Grant	8,917.46
CIRCA	(534.80)
Retiree Health Insurance	883.40

Other Assets

Accrued Leave & Security Deposit	23,867.11
Furniture & Equipment	10,574.46
Right to Use Asset - Real Property	1,193,827.26
Right to Use Asset - Equipment	34,813.69
Amortization	(243,376.32)

Total Assets	2,242,954.98
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Liabilities

Employee Reimbursement Payable	3.51
Payroll Taxes Payable & Accrued Interest	775.10
Deferred Revenue - Municipal	(4,514.34)
Deferred Revenue - OPM	89,816.76
Deferred Revenue - LOTCIP	176,851.61
Deferred Rev. - Other (Election Monitor)	3,690.77

Total Liabilities	266,623.41
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Fund Balance

Fund Balance	730,272.15
Designated Fund Balance	300,000.00
Amount for Accrued Leave	12,204.19
Investment in Equipment	10,574.46
Lease Obligation	984,489.53
Change in Fund Balance	(61,208.76)

Total Fund Balance	1,976,331.57
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	2,242,954.98

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 5/31/2023

Resources	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Municipal - Revenue	19,218.28	198,414.34	303,094.00
Municipal - Special Assessment		2,581.63	2,827.00
CT OPM - Regional Planning	59,289.24	483,614.80	573,101.00
CTDOT - Transportation Planning	96,023.51	932,422.26	1,699,588.00
CTDOT - LOTCIP	315.41	23,674.99	203,611.00
FEMA - Hazard Mitigation Plan		102,874.13	108,000.00
CT DECD (EDA Grant)		80,137.63	358,006.00
CT SotS - Regional Election Monitor			3,690.00
CIRCA - Resilient CT Grant			15,139.00
CT DEEP - SMM Grant		8,917.46	139,000.00
Miscellaneous		.02	0.00
Interest - Revenue	2,708.51	27,740.06	2,000.00
Retiree Health Insurance Contribution	441.70	2,650.20	6,600.00
Total Resources	177,996.65	1,863,027.52	3,414,656.00

Direct Expenses	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Retiree Benefits	441.70	2,650.20	6,600.00
Transportation Planning Consultants	55,216.74	503,843.21	1,058,600.00
Land-Use Planning Consultants		127,399.70	143,500.00
Other Consultants	21,760.98	292,000.62	420,200.00
Travel	231.41	4,957.93	7,800.00
Data Processing	6,930.00	8,930.00	4,000.00
Commercial Printing		34.10	2,500.00
Subscriptions and Books	1,626.50	1,934.92	3,100.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising	240.51	14,662.19	19,200.00
Capital			20,000.00
Miscellaneous		157.63	152.00
Transportation - Reserved			193,589.00
LOTICIP - Reserved			161,449.00
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved			178,973.00
CT DEEP (SMM Grant) - Reserved			99,000.00
Total Direct Expenses	86,447.84	956,570.50	2,318,663.00

Direct Labor	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Direct Labor - Employees	39,393.68	386,583.27	458,472.00

Overhead	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Indirect Labor - Employees	9,651.72	139,421.06	184,816.00
Employee Benefits	22,331.69	246,975.89	264,755.00
Travel			100.00
Data Processing		14,313.81	18,600.00
Rent	9,573.29	114,513.88	114,500.00
Telephone and Internet	1,123.92	5,241.12	7,400.00
Office Supplies	217.94	2,126.21	3,600.00
Equipment Maintenance	1,182.45	20,676.02	18,300.00
Subscriptions and Books		321.99	0.00
Insurance and Professional Services		36,720.00	24,100.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising		89.87	650.00
Miscellaneous	232.52	682.66	700.00
Total Overhead	44,313.53	581,082.51	637,521.00
Total Operating Expenses	170,155.05	1,924,236.28	3,414,656.00

FY 2023-24 Budget Revision # 1

This revision aligns the FY 2023-24 budget with the amended FY 2023-24 Regional Services Grant Spending Plan and incorporates the soon-to-be awarded EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

Revenue

Budget Revision #1 adds a total of \$1,374,550 to the adopted FY 2023-24 budget, broken down as follows.

- \$375,071 of Regional Services Grant (RSG)
- \$999,479 of US EPA – Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

Expenses

Budget Revision #1 includes the following changes.

- Salaries increase by \$3,600
 - To allow for a RSG-funded summer intern.
- Travel increases by \$1,000
 - Staff mileage associated with the CPRG.
- General Office Expenses increase by \$9,410
 - Expenses related to the CPRG, including legal, translation, and subscriptions.
- Other Consultants increase by \$394,000
 - RSG-funded consultants.
- Passthrough Grants increase by \$155,105
 - These subawards are for the University of Massachusetts and Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments for work related to the CPRG.
- Transportation - Reserved increases by \$62,132
 - It is anticipated that a future Unified Planning Work Program amendment will make these funds, or a portion thereof, available for use during FY 2023-24 and/or FY 2024-25.

Actual line item revisions are on the following page, followed by a resolution authorizing Budget Revision #1.

FY 2023-24 Budget Revision # 1

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Municipal Contribution			
Municipal Contribution - Dues	239,600		239,600
Designated Fund Balance	33,586		33,586
Transportation Planning			
U.S. DOT	1,394,144		1,394,144
U.S. DOT - Carryover	507,454		507,454
CTDOT	174,268		174,268
CTDOT - Carryover	63,432		63,432
CTDOT - LOTCIP	171,611		171,611
Regional Planning			
CT OPM - Regional Services Grant (RSG)	573,431	375,071	948,502
CT Secretary of the State - Regional Election Monitor	3,691		3,691
CT DEEP - SMM Grant	112,800		112,800
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - CARES Act Funds	195,100		195,100
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - 4CT Funds	8,390		8,390
US EPA - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	-	999,479	999,479
Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan			
Federal Emergency Management Agency	-		-
Other			
Investment Income	20,000		20,000
Retiree Health Insurance Contribution	6,500		6,500
TOTAL	3,504,007	1,374,550	4,878,557

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Salaries	847,206	3,600	850,806
Benefits	438,676	68	438,744
Travel	8,500	1,000	9,500
Computer Supplies & Software	53,800		53,800
Rent	116,900		116,900
General Office Expenses	96,691	9,410	106,101
Transportation Consultants	1,309,658		1,309,658
Other Consultants	391,376	394,000	785,376
Passthrough Grants	-	155,105	155,105
Contingency	-		-
Transportation - Reserved	58,696	62,132	120,828
LOTICP - Reserved	128,680	57	128,737
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved	36,714		36,714
SMM Grant - Reserved	17,111	57	17,168
CPRG - Reserved	-	749,119	749,119
Total	3,504,007	1,374,550	4,878,557



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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

South Central Regional Council of Governments

Fiscal Year 2023-24 - Budget Revision # 1

- Whereas: The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) adopted an operating budget for FY 2022-23 on May 24, 2023; and
- Whereas: The SCRCOG Board, at its June 28, 2023 meeting, amended the FY 2023-24 Regional Services Grant Spending Plan to add \$375,071 additional funding; and
- Whereas: SCRCOG is expecting to be awarded a \$999,479 US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the South Central Regional Council of Governments:

That Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Revision # 1, which adds \$1,374,550 of revenue in order to align the SCRCOG Budget with the amended FY 2023-24 Regional Services Grant Spending Plan (\$375,071) and to incorporate the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (\$999,479), is adopted.

Certificate:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the South Central Regional Council of Governments on June 28, 2023.

Date: June 28, 2023

By:

First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreements for FY 2023-24 Regional Services Grant-funded Consultant Services

Whereas: SCRCOG's Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan for FY 2023-24 was approved by the Council on May 24, 2023; and

Whereas: the Council approved at its meeting on June 28, 2023 a Revised RSG Spending Plan after the CT Office of Policy & Management had granted additional RSG funds to SCRCOG for FY 2023-2024; and

Whereas: The RSG Spending Plan identifies programs and projects which are to be advanced by SCRCOG staff and consultant services; and

Whereas: The RSG funding to SCRCOG for FY 2023-2024 must be spent by June 30, 2024, and it is important to begin the new programs and projects as soon as possible and continue the ongoing programs and projects specified in the RSG Spending Plan; and

Whereas: The consultants for the Municipal Services programs in Solid Waste & Recycling, Affordable Housing, IT/Cybersecurity and Grants have all been engaged successfully by SCRCOG in previous years, and for the continuity of their programs, the Executive Director recommends that their contracts as consultants be extended into the upcoming FY 2023-2024; and

Whereas: In addition to the foregoing, the IT/Cybersecurity consultant, Novus Insight, has been selected in a competitive process by the Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) as its preferred Information Technology Consultant, and SCRCOG as a regional entity and all of its 15 member municipalities are members of the CRPC and are entitled to utilize CRPC's competitive selections; and

Whereas: The SCRCOG By-Laws provide that "The Executive Director may at his/her discretion and under unusual circumstances, suggest that the Executive Committee consider only a single consultant possessing unique prerequisites, clearly establishing skills and background which might render "sole source" selection in the best interests of the Council"; and

Whereas: The "unusual circumstances" of time constraints (the RSG funds must be spent by June 30, 2024) and the "unique prerequisites" (knowledge and experience in municipal government administration in particular subject areas as well as previous success as a SCRCOG consultant) are demonstrated by the skills and backgrounds of the proposed consultants; and

Whereas: The Executive Director proposes that the following consultants be engaged by SCRCOG for the work specified in the FY 2023-24 RSG Spending Plan:

Pamela Roach (continued)	Solid Waste/Recycling Consultant
David Fink (continued)	Regional Housing Consultant
Benjamin Fink (continued)	Community Engagement Consultant for Regional Housing Initiative
Juliet Burdelski and Renata Bertotti (continued)	Grants Consultants
Novus Insight (continued)	IT/Cybersecurity Consultants

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Council of Governments:

That the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and sign consulting services agreements in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Resolution.

Certificate

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Council of Governments on June 28, 2023.

Date June 28, 2023

By: _____
First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments



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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Grant Award Agreement and other Related Documents with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) to the New Haven – Milford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

Whereas: SCRCOG, as lead agency for the New Haven - Milford Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), will be awarded a non-competitive Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) by the Environmental Protection Agency in an amount up to \$1,000,000 over a 4-year time performance period beginning July 1, 2023 and ending August 1, 2027; and

Whereas: SCRCOG will be required to execute an agreement with the EPA containing the terms and conditions of the grant award as well as to execute subaward agreements with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, the University of Massachusetts Center For Resilient Metro-Regions, University of Massachusetts Networks for Accessibility, Resilience and Sustainability Laboratory (NARS), Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, and Capital Region Council of Governments; and

Whereas: SCRCOG will be responsible for executing three deliverables: a Priority Climate Action Plan, a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan and Status Report during the four-year performance period; and

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By the Council of Governments:

That Carl Amento, as Executive Director of SCRCOG, is directed to execute and deliver the agreement with EPA accepting the CPRG on behalf of the New Haven – Milford MSA and execute and deliver subaward agreements with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG), University of Massachusetts Center For Resilient Metro-Regions and Regional Planning Graduate Program, University of Massachusetts Networks for Accessibility, Resilience and Sustainability Laboratory (NARS), Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), and Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the agreements, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such agreements.

Certificate

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Council of Governments on June 28, 2023.

Date: June 28, 2023

By: _____
First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments



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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution Designating the Arts Council of Greater New Haven as the South Central Regional Council of Government's (SCRCOG's) Local Arts Agency for the purpose of making application for a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grant

Whereas: The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has a grant program called Grants for Arts Projects to Local Arts Agencies for Sub-granting; and

Whereas: The Arts Council of Greater New Haven serves the Greater New Haven region and is currently the Designated Regional Service Organization for our region; and

Whereas: The Arts Council intends to apply for a NEA grant of \$50,000 to re-grant for their Creative Workforce Initiative that is designed to create paid internships to Greater New Haven residents to gain professional experience within our region's nonprofit arts organizations; and

Whereas: The Arts Council requests that SCRCOG designate it as its "Local Arts Agency" for the purpose of this grant application.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Council of Governments:

That SCRCOG hereby designates the Arts Council of Greater New Haven as its "Local Arts Agency" for the purpose of making application for the aforementioned National Endowments of the Arts (NEA) grant.

Certificate

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Council of Governments on June 28, 2023.

Date: June 28, 2023

By:

First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments



NEWSLETTER

Volume III, Issue 6

JUNE 2023

Welcome to the SCRCOG monthly newsletter where you can find updates on our transportation planning, regional planning, and municipal services programs.

Please visit the [SCRCOG website](#) for more information on who we are, what we do, and opportunities for public participation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sustainable CT Intern for 2023

SCRCOG's Sustainable CT Fellow, Katie Meder, has begun working with municipalities interested in earning certification through the Sustainable CT program. Katie is available to assist the region's municipalities that are looking to take advantage of the Sustainable CT program.

Contact information to set up a meeting to discuss your municipality's needs is provided below:

- Katie Meder:
 - Email: kmeder@scrcog.org
 - Phone: (203) 466-8602
- Ben Lovejoy:
 - Email: blovejoy@scrcog.org
 - Phone: (203) 466-8603



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2023 Housing Working Group Update

SCRCOG continues its work building community and educating residents, advocates, and municipal staff throughout the first half of 2023. Check out the details of our upcoming meeting below.

June Meeting

Housing Working Group Session 10: Housing in the SCRCOG Region: Where We Are, Where We're Headed – June 28, 2023, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

This meeting will be held IN-PERSON ONLY. Please register at the link below if you plan to attend.

In 4 years of study and work, SCRCOG municipalities have reviewed key issues, created affordable housing plans and engaged residents and developers. Cities and towns have made varying degrees of progress, overcoming some barriers but getting stymied at times. At this meeting, municipal representatives will:

- Share updates on the housing development progress their cities/towns have been making,
- Describe the barriers they've confronted so they can hear advice about solutions, and
- Suggest what SCRCOG programs and events would be most helpful to them in the coming year.

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/v5ErLeYRugG2fhDq7>

Previous Workshop: May '23

Housing Working Group Session 9: Housing and Open Space: Can Towns Have Both?

In our most recent Housing Working Group session, *Housing and Open Space: Can Towns Have Both?*

We discussed the potential for housing legislation that could impact our region as the most recent session was closing. Guest speaker Michael Santoro, Community Development Specialist at the Department of Housing, talked about the upcoming opportunities the Department of Housing will be offering to help municipalities implement their affordable

housing plans.

We also discussed the need to rehabilitate old housing, the barriers to doing so, and how the need to preserve open space and the need for housing can both be met with a variety of planning tools and techniques with guest speaker Rebecca Augur, Director of the Connecticut Office of Responsible Growth.

Recording Link: For those of you who were unable to attend this meeting, we've provided [a link](#) to the recording on our [website](#).

[LINK | FY23 Housing Working Group Website](#)

Community Conversations with Ben Fink

Ben continues his mission to build as broad and diverse a base as possible to support expanded housing options in our municipalities. The goal is to be inclusive of residents with varying experience and open to all perspectives on housing, while working in tandem with municipal governments as they implement their affordable housing plans.

[LINK | Additional Information on Community Engagement](#)



MUNICIPAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Training Opportunity for SCRCOG Member Municipalities

SCRCOG recently hosted its 4th [Grants Training: Best Practices for Compiling and Writing Competitive Grant Applications](#).

If you were unable to attend, you can watch a recording through the [link on our website](#).

The Municipal Grants webpage is now live on [SCRCOG's website](#) and contains a wealth of information on the services we offer. The page contains an updated Grant Opportunities Worksheet, links to recordings of past webinars, sample documents, and more.

Please reach out to blovejoy@scrcog.org if you require additional assistance.

EMERGING GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

CDBG Small Cities

The State of Connecticut Department of Housing's Community Development Division announced CDBG Small Cities funding availability for the program year 2023-2024. Approximately \$14 million dollars in funding is expected from HUD to the State of Connecticut. A link to a secure portal will be provided for all applications. Please note that only complete applications will be accepted and scored, and one (1) application per town will be accepted. Communities (with less than 50,000 residents) with an eligible activity (refer to the website for qualifying projects) are encouraged to apply for this funding opportunity.

Application Deadline: Extended to June 23, 2023, by 2:00 PM

More information can be found [here](#).

Community Investment Fund (CIF) 2030

The NOFA for Round 3 of CIF is now available on their [application page](#). The CIF hosted webinars on April 27th & May 2nd to provide an overview of the program and review the timeline as well as the process for applying. The recordings can be found on the [Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development YouTube channel](#).

Application Deadline: June 30, 2023

More information can be found [on the Community Investment Fund 2030 website](#).

T-Mobile Hometown Grant Application Q2 2023

T-Mobile Hometown Grants is a \$25 million, five-year initiative to support the people and organizations who help small towns across America thrive and grow. Hometown Grants are given every quarter to up to 25 small towns. Apply for funding to support a community project of your choice, like revitalizing or repurposing a historic structure, creating a downtown asset or destination, or improving a space where friends and neighbors gather. Projects that add to a sense of place or could lead to further investment are of particular interest.

Application Deadline: June 30, 2023

To learn more about this opportunity, you can visit [T-Mobile's website](#) and click on the ["submit a proposal"](#) button to see more information.

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

The USDOT's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 [Notice of](#)

[Funding Opportunity is now open for applications.](#) The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

Application Deadline: July 10, 2023

More information can be found [here](#).

Community Connectivity Grants

CT DOT is soliciting applications for Community Connectivity Grants. Grants awarded in this solicitation are between \$100,000 and \$800,000 and can only be used to fund activities related to project construction. The Community Connectivity Program seeks to improve [accommodations](#) for bicyclists and pedestrians in urban, suburban, and rural community centers.

Application Deadline: July 21, 2023

More information can be found [here](#).

Thriving Communities Program (TCP)

The U.S. Department of Transportation will be announcing the notice of funding opportunity for the FY2023 Thriving Communities program later this summer to support additional communities in the coming year. This planning, technical assistance, and capacity building support will enable disadvantaged and under-resourced communities to advance a pipeline of transformative infrastructure projects that will increase mobility, reduce pollution, and expand affordable transportation options, connecting communities to the essential opportunities and resources that will help them thrive.

More information can be found [here](#).

Sustainable CT Equity Coach

Sustainable CT is offering a no-cost assistance program to help CT municipalities lay out a process to complete action to Optimize for Equity or to address other equity-related issues of importance regarding federal and state grant proposals.

More information can be found [here](#).

Wildlife Crossings Program

The Federal Highway Administration is funding projects through the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP) with the goal of reducing Wildlife Vehicle Collisions (WVCs) while improving habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. This program will provide funding for both construction and non-construction projects.

Application Deadline: August 1, 2023

For more information, please visit the [FHA's website](#).

PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program

The USDOT is funding projects that address the climate crisis by improving resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. Projects selected under this program should be grounded in the best available scientific understanding of climate change risks, impacts, and vulnerabilities. They should support the continued operation or rapid recovery of crucial local, regional, or national surface transportation facilities.

Application Deadline: August 18, 2023.

More information can be found on the [Federal Highway Administration's website](#).

Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) is now accepting applications for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA). The program provides grants to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to assist them in acquiring land for open space protection. The grant program is also available to water companies to acquire land to be classified and protected as Class I or Class II water supply watershed lands. Awards are granted to projects that offer the highest conservation and recreational value and that leverage the greatest percentage of private and municipal funding.

Application Deadline: October 2, 2023.

More information & applications can be found on [DEEP's website](#).

Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services

ADS has been awarded \$10 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that will be used to support upgrades and enhancements at senior centers statewide in Connecticut. The state is designating \$9 million of this funding to be distributed to municipalities. The municipalities can use the funding to support upgrades at their local senior centers through:

- Facility improvements, which can cover a variety of capital improvements, including air and HVAC systems, lighting, accessibility features, vehicle acquisition, maintenance, and repurposing; and
- Programming, which can include the acquisition of program registration software, web design renovation capability, extended senior center hours, special or focused

entertainment or programming, while also encompassing expanded staff hours to support those programs, when applicable.

To obtain funding, municipalities must develop a plan and submit it, along with an application, to the Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services' Unit on Aging.

Application Deadline: June 2024

More information for municipal officials is available online at portal.ct.gov/ADS-SeniorCenterARPA.

NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge

The Biden Administration recently announced approximately \$575 million in funding is available for projects that build resilience in coastal and great lake areas. The competitive funding is made possible through the Inflation Reduction Act and applications are now being accepted through Grants.gov. Proposed projects should address risk reduction, regional collaboration, and equity, and build enduring capacity for adaptation. The funding is available through two tracks. *Track One is for Regional Collaborative Building and Strategy Development and Track Two is for Implementation of Resilience and Adaptation Actions*. Outline your proposed project and submit a letter of intent by August 21, 2023 with final applications due in February of 2024.

Letter of Intent due August 21, 2023

Application Deadline: February 13, 2024

Additional information is available online at [View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](#) and [NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#)



SOLID WASTE, RECYCLING, & FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

Solid Waste, Food, and Recycling Updates

SCRCOG has requested technical assistance funding to conduct a Regional Waste Authority study to help guide and inform the SCRCOG region and its municipalities towards the creation of a Regional Waste Authority (RWA) through the SMM Regional Waste Authority Grant Program. The announcement of recipients is expected in late July.

SMM Pilot Program

Through the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) pilot program, West Haven has seen an [11.6 percent reduction in overall waste](#) in the first nine weeks of 2023 compared to the same time period in 2022. To find out more about the pilot program, please

visit [ReduceTheTrashCT – A sustainable solution with a positive environmental impact.](#)

Guilford and Madison have begun their SMM Pilot Program, and the City of Meriden is preparing to launch their pilot program as West Haven continues its program.

SCRCOG has received a grant from DEEP to assist SMM pilot programs being conducted in SCRCOG municipalities with education and outreach.



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC)

[LINK | June 2023 RPC Meeting Agenda](#)

[DOWNLOAD | June 2023 RPC Action Table](#)

[DOWNLOAD | RPC Informational Brochure](#)



SUSTAINABLE CT

Summer '23 Fellow

A new cohort of Sustainable CT fellows has begun working with each Council of Governments across the state to advance local and regional environmental initiatives. We are excited to welcome Katie Meder as our region's fellow. She will assist our member municipalities with their Sustainable CT certification processes, collaborate on a regional project, and support the Federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. She has begun working and is available throughout the summer to assist with any certification questions, funding opportunities, and sustainability events.

You can reach Katie via email or phone:

- Email: kmeder@scrcog.org

- Phone: (203) 466-8602

Other Sustainable CT events

There are many events and information sessions that can be viewed on the Sustainable CT calendar, located [on their website](#).

- **June 24th** – Sustainable CT is hosting a series of six regional Community Leadership and Action Conferences located at the Free Center in Hartford, CT from 10 AM – 3 PM
 - *This in-person event is focused on generalized information regarding the Community Match Fund and provides the opportunity to work together on individual ideas. There will also be a section of the conference that is dedicated to funding and support resources.*
 - **Pre-registration is required.**
- **June 28th** – The ECB Connecticut Chapter will be hosting a webinar at 9 AM titled “Show Me the Money” in which they will explore strategies to manage the complexity of funding for environmental projects in the state.
- **July 13** – Sustainable CT will host a webinar from 12 PM – 1 PM regarding how to use CIRCA’s climate change vulnerability index to plan for extreme heat. It will go into detail on how to use the CCVI mapping tool and describe uses for local and regional planning.



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

UPWP Update

- The Central CT Loop Trail Connection Study has been completed and is now available on the SCRCOG website. The goal of the study was to identify a potential connection between the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail and the Airline Trail within the City of Meriden. The City is now looking into funding design and construction of the identified route.

LOTICIP Update

- In June, The City of New Haven received a Commitment to Fund letter for the Whitney Avenue Corridor Improvements Project (L092-008). This \$5,000,000 dollar project will improve bicycle and pedestrian access along this busy corridor. Guilford

is updating their final design plans for the Pavement Reconstruction Project (#L059-002) to address CTDOT comments. This \$2,200,000 project is for the reconstruction of Nut Plains Rd in their town. Lastly, the Town of Orange submitted their LOTCIP application for a \$2,000,000 culvert replacement project on Pine Tree Dr and Peck Ln. Currently there is over \$52,000,000 in LOTCIP funding committed to 17 projects in our region. SCRCOG continues to work with our member municipalities to solicit new applications.

Other Programs

- The CT Electric Bicycle Rebate Program begins on June 28. All Connecticut residents are eligible for a \$500 rebate toward the purchase of a new e-bike with an MSRP under \$3,000. A \$1,500 rebate is available to residents who fall below certain income thresholds, participate in income-qualified programs such as SNAP, or live in Environmental Justice zones or Distressed Municipalities. CT DEEP has put together a list of eligible e-bikes and will soon be releasing a list of participating brick and mortar bike shops. More information on the program is available here: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Air/Mobile-Sources/CHEAPR/Electric-Bicycles>
- CT DEEP has included 4 sites in Hammonasset State Park (Madison) and Wilbur Cross Athletic Fields Parking Lot on Mitchell Drive and Wooster Square along Chapel Street in New Haven for new EV Charging Stations in its grant application that was submitted for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Opportunity.
- Rural Road Safety Awareness Week (RRSAW) will be held July 17-21 this year. With new federal funding available for rural communities through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the National Center for Rural Road Safety is excited about promoting the tools and resources practitioners need to reach their safety goals. The overall theme of RRSAW 2023 is “What’s Speed Got To Do With It?” Each weekday of the campaign will have a separate topic, all related to speed management on rural roads. To learn more about this year's theme, check out the [RRSAW 2023 announcement](#). The National Center for Rural Road Safety held a **Sneak Peak Webinar** in May. For a preview of what we've been working on, watch the recording [here](#). [RRSAW Campaign Page](#)



LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 legislative session ended on June 7th with the passage of a bipartisan \$51B [budget](#). The state kept many of the fiscal guardrails in place while also boosting spending on Education, Disability Services, Housing, Local Grants, Regional Planning and more. Details on the budget and the implementer bill can be found on the CT General Assembly website [here](#).

Additionally, major legislation was passed that addresses [solid waste](#), [housing](#), and [transportation](#). Highlighted links will bring you to the bill website which contains a bill analysis, vote tallies, fiscal notes, and additional action.



AROUND THE TOWNS

Guilford Recognized as Climate Leader

Congratulations to Guilford and New Haven on earning the [Climate Leader](#) designation through the Sustainable CT program. This designation celebrates municipalities that are reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions & preparing their communities for the impacts of climate change.

Resilience Project Development Grants

The following municipalities will receive [Resilience Project Development Grants](#) to advance resilience projects in our region through the inaugural round of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Climate Resilience Fund:

- **Town of Hamden, \$567,500:** The Town of Hamden will develop and design a pump station replacement in the lower Pardee Brook watershed and nature-based green infrastructure in the upper Pardee Brook watershed using a collaborative design process to reduce flooding in the Meadowbrook Co-Op neighborhood.
- **Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority, New Haven, \$506,000:** The Greater New Haven WPCA will conduct studies on street flooding and sewer back-ups in the Westville neighborhood, and identify and evaluate options for potential projects that include nature-based solutions.
- **City of West Haven, \$669,900:** The City of West Haven will develop preliminary designs for reducing flooding in the Sanford Street Basin, in the Allintown District, including new piping, culverts, a structured wetland, and a new outfall path to the Cove River. The city will also conduct a feasibility study for a stormwater authority.

Bipartisan Bond Package Bill

Through the Bond Package Bill that passed in the most recent legislative session, several SCRCOG member municipalities will receive funds for the following:

- Up to \$3 million for alterations, repairs, renovations, or construction at Lake Whitney Dam in **Hamden** for various flood control improvements, flood repair, erosion damage repairs and municipal dam repairs.
- Up to \$1 million for grants-in-aid to homeowners with homes located in the immediate vicinity of the West River in the Westville section of **New Haven** and **Woodbridge** for structurally damaged homes due to subsidence and to homeowners with homes abutting Yale Golf Course for damage to such homes from water infiltration or structural damage due to subsidence.
- \$4 million in grants to companies adversely impacted by the construction at the **Quinnipiac Bridge** to offset the increase in costs of commercial overland transportation of goods or materials brought to the port of New Haven by ship or vessel.

Additional Information on the Bond Package Bill available [here](#).



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

June

- June 28th – SCRCOG Board Meeting – 10:00 AM
- June 28th – Housing Working Group Meeting – Housing in the SCRCOG Region: Where We Are, Where We're Headed – 1:00 PM - **IN-PERSON ONLY**

July

- July 4th - Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day
- July 12th –Transportation Committee Meeting – 12:00 PM
- July 13th – Regional Planning Commission Meeting & Meet and Greet: Location TBD – 5:15 PM
- July 26th – SCRCOG Board Meeting – 10:00 AM

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
Regional Planning Commission**

June 2023 RPC Action Table

Ref. #	Received	Description	Adjacent RPC Towns	RPC Action
2.1	4/20/23	Town of Wallingford:	Hamden, Meriden, North Branford, North Haven	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning regulation text amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor does there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound. Furthermore, the proposed text amendments lowering parking requirements align with recommendations offered in the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development.
2.2	4/13/23	Town of Prospect:	Bethany	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning regulation text amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor does there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound. But the RPC cautions the Prospect P&Z Commission that if the proposed change is accepted that they should consider limiting the storage and dismantling of salvaged vehicles on the new lot. Salvaged vehicle dismantling and storage can be linked to environmental damage and challenges to repurposing the parcels in the future.

South Central Regional Council of Governments

127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West, North Haven, CT 06473

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June 21, 2023

Dear Chief Elected Officials of SCRCOG,

The tourism season is in full swing. We recently held the Connecticut Office of Tourism Listening Tour, where representatives from arts, culture, hotels, attractions, chambers of commerce, and restaurants shared their opinions with the state's new Chief Marketing Officer, Anthony Anthony. The hoteliers expressed their concern about the soft business, particularly in the business segment. To promote events and attractions across different town lines, participants suggested that the state advertises on Metro-North, Amtrak, Shoreline East, and the Hartford Line, aligning with the state's plan to focus on the "drive market."

During the Yale Innovation Summit, REX operated a table that highlighted the benefits of living, working, and playing in the Greater New Haven area. This event was a wonderful chance to emphasize the region's excellent quality of life and increase the retention of businesses and students.

In the coming months, we will prioritize community outreach on resiliency planning, covering essential topics such as weather disasters, cybersecurity, and power outages as part of an EDA grant. Businesses play a crucial role in disaster preparedness and response. Using digital media channels, we will promote the importance of conducting risk assessments, creating a comprehensive emergency plan, establishing a communication plan, securing data, developing a business continuity plan, reviewing insurance coverage, educating employees, and registering for municipal and state alerts.

The 2023-2028 South Central Connecticut Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy has been submitted to EDA and we are awaiting their approval. We received very positive feedback from DECD and see many avenues for collaboration with the state.

Sincerely,

Ginny Kozlowski
Executive Director