



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

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

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Meeting Notice & Agenda

South Central Regional MPO and COG

Wednesday, November 15, 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 **Presentation: RPIP Cybersecurity Grant**, Greg Bugbee and Carl Fazzino from Novus Insight, Inc.
- 3 **Adopt Minutes of October 25, 2023 SCRCOG Meeting (motion)** Pages 2-6
- 4 **Treasurer's Report for month ending October 27, 2023 (motion)** Pages 7-9
- 5 **MPO Business**
 - a) Adopt Resolution Authorizing Sole Source for Geographic Information System Consultant Services (motion) Page 10
 - b) Adopt Resolution Authorizing Sole Source for Travel and Tourism Consultant Services (motion) Page 11
 - c) Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report
 - d) Transportation Staff Report
 - e) Greater New Haven Transit District Report
- 6 **COG Business**
 - a) SCRCOG Budget Revision #4 FY23 (motion) Pages 12-14
 - b) Calendar Year 2024 Meeting Calendar Approval (motion) Pages 15,16
 - c) Preliminary FY 2024-2025 Municipal SCRCOG Dues (motion) Pages 17,18
 - d) Appointment of Nominating Committee (motion)
 - e) FY2023-2024 RSG Spending Plan Amendment #3 (motion) Pages 19-21
 - f) Executive Director's Report
 - g) SCRCOG Newsletter Pages 22-36
 - h) Regional Planning Staff Report
 - i) REX Development Report Page 37
 - j) Congressional Reports
 - k) State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST
 - l) DEMHS Report
- 7 **Regional Cooperation/ Other Business**
- 8 **Adjournment**



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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

TO: SCRCOG Board Members
FROM: First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, Secretary
DATE: November 8, 2023
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Meeting Minutes of October 25, 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, Jr
Woodbridge	First Selectman Beth Heller

SCRCOG Staff Carl Amento, Laura Francis, James Rode, Chris Rappa, Benjamin Lovejoy, Rebecca Andreucci, Stephanie Camp, Amealia Maynard, Baishampayan Sarkar, Elise Boisvert, Joan Paglinco

Guests: Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg, *REX Development*; Olivia Rizzuto and Kevin Tedesco, *CT Department of Transportation*; Mario Marrero and Mary Bigelow, *Greater New Haven Transit District*; Mike Anderson and Al Carbone, *United Illuminating*; Keyri Ambrocio, *Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce*; Nicole Velardi, *DEMHS*; Lou Mangini, Darien McLaren and Ameer Konishi, *Office of U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro*; Ellen Graham, *Office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal*; Jameson Foulke, *Office of U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy*; Miriam Brody, *League of Women Voters of Hamden and North Haven*; Olivia Bissanti, *City of West Haven*; Betsy Gara, *COST*; Pamela Roach, *SCRCOG Solid Waste & Recycling Consultant*; Michelle Benivegna, *City of East Haven*

NOTE: The October SCRCOG Board meeting was a hybrid meeting

1. Call to order and Introductions

Chairman Zeoli called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Chairman Zeoli explained that today's meeting was noticed as a Special Meeting due to an error in the adopted calendar of meetings. All present introduced themselves.

2. Adopt Minutes of September 27, 2023 SCRCOG Meeting (motion)

First Selectwoman Lyons presented the minutes of the SCRCOG Meeting of September 27, 2023 which were included in the agenda packet on pages 2-6. First Selectman Cofrancesco made a motion and Mayor Garret seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report for the month ending September 30, 2023 (motion)

Mayor Garrett presented the Treasurer's Report on pages 7-9 of the agenda packet. The Balance Sheet shows that SCRCOG has total assets of \$ 3.1 million of which \$1.4 million is in cash and investments, \$486,000 is due from

CTDOT and \$131,000 is due from DEMHS. Since September 30, 2023, \$950,000 has been transferred from the checking account to the STIF account. All expenses appear to be appropriate for the one-month period. A motion was made by Mayor Garrett and seconded by First Selectman Cofrancesco to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. MPO Business

a. Resolution to Approve FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment Thirty-One (motion)

Mayor Dickinson reviewed TIP Amendment Thirty One on pages 10-14. A motion was made by Mayor Dickinson and seconded by First Selectman Freda. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Resolution for Endorsement of Targets for Safety Performance Measures Established by CTDOT (motion)

Mayor Dickinson made a motion for the endorsement of the Safety Performance Targets presented on pages 15-24. First Selectman Cofrancesco seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply for and Accept FY 2024 Highway Safety Specialist Pilot Program Grant (motion)

Deputy Director Francis reported on this pilot program funded by the CTDOT Highway Safety Department to address the behavioral causes of motor vehicle crashes in the region. This resolution is for permission to both apply for and to accept the grant. Francis noted the goals and deliverables of the grant were outlined on pages 35-36 of the packet. SCRCOG will be using the grant to create a Highway Safety Coordinator position for the region. A motion to approve was made by First Selectman Cofrancesco and seconded by Mayor Garrett. The motion was approved.

d. Approval of Salary Adjustment for New Hire: Transportation Project Manager (motion)

Deputy Director Francis reported that SCRCOG was successful in finding a qualified candidate for the position of Transportation Project Manager. The position was budgeted for \$61,000. The selected candidate has significant experience working in a CT COG and other planning organizations. SCRCOG would like to offer the candidate \$65K, which is possible within the current budget. A motion was made by First Selectman Cofrancesco and seconded by Mayor Garrett. The motion was approved.

e. Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report

Deputy Director Francis reported that several staff members attended the SNEAPA Conference in New Haven and the WTS Conference over the past month. SCRCOG's Congestion Management Plan was recognized as a runner up for the best project of the year at the WTS Conference.

Deputy Director Francis advised that SCRCOG has been invited to participate in the Technical Advisory Committee for the RiverCOG Trail Study. The trail will connect through Meriden, where SCRCOG recently completed a trail study. This will aid in the preparation of a RAISE grant for implementation.

f. Transportation Staff Report

Rebecca Andreucci gave an update on transportation studies. She noted there is an RFQ posted for 5 transportation studies: the Guilford Town Center Traffic Study, the Northford Center Connectivity Study, an update to the Congestion Management Study, the Regional Freight Study, and the Regional Mobility Study for Aging and Disabled Communities. The RFQs will close at the end of November.

Jim Rode reported on LOTCIP. The DOT reported that the Guilford Nut Plains Rd project will be getting their authorization to award of \$3M. Tomorrow, Jim will be attending the annual Financial Meeting at DOT

to discuss the LOTCIP program. CTDOT is projecting that \$14-\$16M will be designated to projects in our region for this fiscal year.

g. Greater New Haven Transit District Report

Mario Marrero reported that the Transit District had completed their financial report and audit. Last Monday, they had a training class for five new drivers. GNHTD recently received 12 new buses and two high-top vans that are ready to go out on the road. They have also ordered 2 electric buses. Chairman Zeoli asked what the hourly wage was for drivers. Mario replied that the hourly rate starts at \$20 per hour and goes up to \$29 per hour.

h. CT Rides Report

No report.

5. COG Business

a. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Amento reported Dec 1st is the tentative completion date for the office expansion. The Audit will be discussed at the November meeting. Amento introduced SCRCOG's 3 interns: Amealia Maynard, Elise Boisvert and Baishampayan "Bash" Sarkar. Amento reported that the GIS/ Data Manager position remains open and the Municipal Services Coordinator position will be posted soon. SCRCOG will also be soliciting for a second consultant to assist with the DEEP grant. There are still UBP/ food waste co-collection pilot programs going on in Meriden, Guilford and Madison. Amento also reported SCRCOG had convened a meeting of the Municipal Energy Task Forces together, also known as Sustainability Committees, to share ongoing projects, ideas and best practices. SCRCOG is also expecting to receive a Regional Waste Authority grant from CTDEEP.

First Selectman Hoey noted the Newsletter was not attached in the packet. Amento stated that SCRCOG staff decided it would be beneficial to send the Newsletter out on the first Monday of the month. Ben Lovejoy explained the change in cycle allows the staff to report on information which aligns with the month and allows you to review prior to the meeting. First Selectman Lyons suggested it continue to be included in the meeting packets in the event the CEOs did not have the opportunity to see the email or had any questions..

Mayor Dickinson asked what the municipal Energy Task Forces is working on. Amento explained they are discussing heat pumps, solar energy and EVs. Mayor Dickinson suggested the task force get a projection of what the cost of energy will be once the wind farms are brought online. Mayor Dickinson believes the cost of energy will increase in consumer bills.

b. Regional Planning Staff Report

Ben Lovejoy spoke on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant which was a \$1M grant to do a 4-year project to create a greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plans. The first report is due on March 1st. SCRCOG has entered into an agreement with the University of Massachusetts Regional Planning program to draft and write the plan. The university is responsible for the bulk of the plan and SCRCOG is working with NVCOG on the stakeholder engagement process. Ben asked for municipal input on projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A Google Form will be sent out in the coming weeks to gather feedback. The region's list of priority projects will be put together into an application for the \$4 billion in federal implementation grants. Ben then mentioned there will be a grant coordination meeting in November to go over the application process. First Selectman Cosgrove asked who is eligible for these grants. Ben stated that municipalities, COGs, non-profits, and transit authorities would be eligible. Kevin Tedesco from CTDOT asked if they can

be included in the planning process. CTDOT is working on a \$3M grant statewide and would suggest coordinating on a state and regional level.

Ben then shared that this afternoon there is a tour of affordable housing developments in the region. Ben also reported on the completion of the Land Use Commissioner Training, in which there were 83 participants from the region's municipalities. The training was recorded and has been uploaded to the Basecamp website. Ben mentioned there will be a grants workshop on November 30th focusing on the Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grants.

Deputy Director Francis congratulated the towns who achieved Sustainable CT certifications. Branford received bronze certification and Hamden received silver certification. The climate leaders recognized were Guilford and New Haven. New Haven also received gold certification, becoming the first gold certified town in the state. First Selectman Lyons expressed how difficult it is to maintain certification and how difficult it is for staff to keep on top of it. Francis stated that towns are finding it difficult to find staff to do this work. She has brought this issue back to the Sustainable CT board. They are looking at awarding points and/or having Fellows/Volunteers year-round to work on the effort.

c. Regional Planning Commission October Action Table

Chairman Zeoli referred to pages 47-48 of the attached for the action table.

d. REX Development Report

Ginny Kozlowski discussed the report she shared. REX received a letter from the Economic Development Administration for approval of a grant that REX had submitted in June. She also shared a report on unemployment and labor workforce numbers going back to 2010. The region has a labor force of 319,162 which is the highest it has been since 2010. There are 308,000 people employed and the unemployment rate is 3.4%. The report is organized by town and year. Ginny also reported on the State of CT's new logo.

e. Congressional Reports

Ellen Graham reported the Senate is at a standstill regarding funding the government and is monitoring the situation in the Middle East. Jameson Foulke mentioned his office and Homeland Security are focusing on religious groups who need support. Lou Mangini reported there is no legislation due to not having a Speaker of the House. He mentioned yesterday they received word that the State of CT will receive \$74M for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) which is \$25M less than last year due to additional COVID funding expiring. Lou also mentioned constituent assistance for CT residents in Israel who are trying to leave. He asked meeting attendees to refer anyone in your town that needs assistance to his office. Lou introduced the new Veteran staffer in the Congresswoman's Office, Darien McLaren. Darien can assist with anything related to our Veterans such as Widows' VA pension benefits, disability claims, assisting with the PACT Act or residents who are interested in military academies.

f. State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST

Betsy Gara mentioned that the Car Tax Task Force met earlier this week and is charged with looking at the elimination or repeal of the car tax and how to make up the revenue. OPM was clear that there is over \$1B in revenue generated by the car tax for municipalities. Betsy also mentioned the Majority Leaders Affordable Housing Roundtable has been meeting to develop recommendations. Additionally, there have been a few Workers Compensation Task Forces that convened earlier this week looking at medical record fees and injured employee's partial permanent disability payments and benefits. COST held their Key Issues Conference last week. There were many presentations such as PFAS Contamination and Remediation, Climate Resiliency Programs and Financing, and Housing and Land Use updates. CT Green Bank spoke about the issues of Energy Efficiency and grant opportunities for towns, and DEEP did a presentation on

stormwater management. On November 28th, the Legislature's Regulations Review Committee is meeting on DEEP's proposed emissions regulations that would prohibit the manufacture of gas-powered motor vehicles and trucks after 2035. COST's town meeting will be held on February 8, 2024. Speakers will include the Governor, the Constitutional Officers, and will include information on Infrastructure Funding. COST will also hold an event for newly elected town leaders and municipal officials to provide updates on key issues they may be facing, provide information that will be useful for them, and have a panel from the COGs who can provide important resources.

g. **DEMHS Report**

Nicole Velardi reported that the 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant applications were sent out in September. The application process is now open, and she encouraged municipal Emergency Management Directors to submit their applications. DEMHS is working with the Emergency Management Directors to update the Local Emergency Operations Plan. The updates are to be submitted by January 1, 2024. Nicole also stated that School Safety and Security Plans are due to be submitted to DEHMS by November 1st. The Field Day and special REPT meeting was successful, and she thanked all that attended. The next REPT meeting is on Friday, November 17th.

6. Regional Cooperation/Other Business

First Selectman Freda reported that the State of CT sent out checks to municipalities from a portion of the sales tax. Finance departments should apply to MRSA for their share of excess sales tax.

Mayor Dickinson referred to the issue of the target set for purchase of Electric Vehicles. He stated that a shift to EVs could affect the transportation program for COGs and municipalities who get the benefit of the money from gasoline tax and programs that are funded from it. He stated that in Texas the EV purchaser pays \$400 to replace some of the gas tax money. Every year, there is a charge to the owner to offset the loss of revenues for roads and bridges. Deputy Director Francis advised that other states are looking at implementing vehicle miles traveled taxes versus the gas tax. Kevin Tedesco from CTDOT advised they are participating in a study for mileage-based user fees. First Selectman Hoey asked if out of state vehicles contribute to a mileage tax.

Al Carbone from United Illuminating/SCG advised that Southern CT Gas has applied for a rate increase. Those towns in the SCG territory will be invited to open houses to be educated on the rate case. Fact sheets have also been sent out. First Selectman Zeoli asked what is going to happen to gas in the future and if towns should still expand their gas lines. Al explained gas is not going away and is still needed to serve existing customers. First Selectman Hoey asked if demand is expected to double and he asked Al to comment. Al explained that the reason for the proposed rate increase is to raise capital for infrastructure projects.

Chairman Zeoli reminded everyone the December SCRCOG meeting will be a Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 14th at the Racebrook Country Club in Orange.

7. Adjournment

Chairman Zeoli made a motion to adjourn. First Selectman Cofrancesco seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*

Balance Sheet

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 10/31/2023

Assets

Cash and Investments

Key Bank - Checking Account	219,440.33
State of CT - Short-Term Investment Fund	1,093,131.24

Accounts Receivable

CT Department of Transportation	530,611.66
CT DESPP – FEMA Grant	131,321.03
US EPA – CPRG	8,243.54
CT DECD – EDA Grant	63,440.74
CT DEEP – SMM Grant	45,927.97
CIRCA	(534.80)

Other Assets

Prepaid Expense - UConn MPA Intern	(4,312.50)
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	3,107,420.03
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable	9,500.00
Payroll Taxes Payable & Accrued Interest	775.10
Deferred Revenue - Municipal	117,803.71
Deferred Revenue - OPM	800,311.74
Deferred Revenue - LOTCIP	165,508.10
Deferred Rev. - Other (Election Monitor)	3,690.77

Total Liabilities	1,097,589.42
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Fund Balance

Fund Balance	730,272.15
Committed 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	(27,709.72)

Total Fund Balance	2,009,830.61
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	3,107,420.03

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 10/31/2023

Resources	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Municipal - Revenue	7,754.96	34,716.50	298,186.00
Municipal - Special Assessment			175,000.00
CT OPM - Regional Planning	54,280.49	170,052.92	948,502.00
CT OPM - RPIP (Cybersecurity)			2,220,066.00
CTDOT - Transportation Planning	43,796.42	207,999.39	2,139,298.00
CTDOT - LOTCIP	7,274.10	10,574.20	171,611.00
CT DECD (EDA Grant)	63,440.74	63,666.66	203,490.00
US EPA - CPRG	8,243.54	33,548.55	999,479.00
CT SotS - Regional Election Monitor			3,691.00
CT DEEP - SMM Grant	15,714.01	25,177.51	112,800.00
Miscellaneous		9,501.37	0.00
Interest - Revenue	2,770.71	3,864.50	20,000.00
Retiree Health Insurance Contribution	444.62	2,223.10	6,500.00
Total Resources	203,719.59	561,324.70	7,298,623.00

Direct Expenses	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Retiree Health Insurance	444.62	2,223.10	6,500.00
Transportation Planning Consultants	5,175.00	5,175.00	1,309,658.00
Land-Use Planning Consultants			13,000.00
Other Consultants	86,693.02	122,780.02	1,101,157.00
Passthrough Grants			155,105.00
Travel	276.37	494.49	9,400.00
Data Processing		2,150.00	34,500.00
Commercial Printing	51.68	51.68	500.00
Subscriptions and Books		331.65	8,250.00
Insurance and Professional Services	4,371.00	5,811.00	5,000.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising	1,162.29	6,636.47	20,050.00
Office Equipment and Furniture			25,000.00
Miscellaneous	212.58	512.92	1,297.00
Transportation - Reserved			152,181.00
LOTCIP - Reserved			128,343.00
CT OPM (RPIP Grant) - Reserved			2,045,066.00
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved			36,714.00
CT DEEP (SMM Grant) - Reserved			16,769.00
US EPA (CPRG) - Reserved			747,202.00
Total Direct Expenses	98,386.56	146,166.33	5,815,692.00

Direct Labor	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Direct Labor - Employees	40,249.51	168,279.65	615,887.00

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 10/31/2023

Overhead	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Indirect Labor - Employees	11,658.49	50,056.85	213,511.00
Employee Benefits	24,611.68	119,420.64	411,683.00
Travel			100.00
Data Processing	598.26	3,370.26	19,300.00
Rent	9,573.29	48,009.70	152,900.00
Telephone and Internet	634.92	1,342.68	8,100.00
Office Supplies	9.65	549.21	3,600.00
Equipment Maintenance	2,227.98	8,214.88	26,900.00
Insurance and Professional Services		9,832.00	29,600.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising			650.00
Miscellaneous	73.00	564.76	700.00
Total Overhead	49,387.27	241,360.98	867,044.00
Total Operating Expenses	188,023.34	555,806.96	7,298,623.00



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

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Authorizing Sole Source for Geographic Information System Consultant Services

Whereas: SCRCOG’s Geographic Information Services have been provided by New England Geosystems for a number of years, based upon prior solicitations; and

Whereas: Geographic Information System website hosting, maintenance and data refresh are approved tasks in the Unified Planning Work Program approved by the Council on May 24, 2023; and

Whereas: New England Geosystems also provides Geographic Information Services to a number of our member municipalities; and

Whereas: the utilization of New England Geosystems by SCRCOG and our member municipalities has provided coordinated data sets for the benefit of the region and the municipalities; and

Whereas: The hosting of the regional site, maintenance and data refresh is efficiently and cost-effectively accomplished by New England Geosystems as in years past; 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 regional data coordination, cost-effectiveness, prior knowledge of the various systems and inter-connections, and coordination with the systems of the member municipalities are demonstrated by the past experience, skills and background of New England Geosystems.

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

That the Board approves the utilization of the sole source and that the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and sign a consulting services agreement with New England Geosystems.

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 November 15, 2023.

Date: November 15, 2023

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



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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Authorizing Sole Source for Travel and Tourism Consultant Services

Whereas: SCRCOG’s Travel and Tourism Services have been provided by REX Development for a number of years; and

Whereas: Travel and Tourism Services are an approved task in the Unified Planning Work Program approved by the Council on May 24, 2023; and

Whereas: REX Development was originally created in coordination with SCRCOG and provides services to a number of our member municipalities; and

Whereas: REX Development shares and coordinates with Visit New Haven and other hospitality-based services which have benefited the region and our member municipalities; and

Whereas: The unified Travel and Tourism services provided by REX Development have efficiently and cost-effectively promoted the region as in years past; 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 unified travel and tourism services, cost-effectiveness, vast knowledge of the region and the economic impact of travel and tourism, knowledge of the attractions and services available to the visiting and traveling public in our member municipalities have been demonstrated by the past experience, skills and success of the outreach of REX Development.

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

That the Board approves the utilization of the sole source and that the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and sign a consulting services agreement with REX Development.

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 November 15, 2023.

Date: November 15, 2023

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

FY 2023-24 Budget Revision #4

This revision updates the FY 2023-24 budget to incorporate the Regional Highway Safety Grant.

Revenue

Budget Revision #4 adds \$170,727 of revenue from the Regional Highway Safety Grant to the adopted FY 2023-24 budget, broken down as follows.

- \$169,718 of U.S. DOT – Highway Safety
- \$1,009 of Fund Balance
 - It is anticipated that the Highway Safety Grant will not reimburse the full overhead rate. This is the estimated amount of Fund Balance that will be required to cover the overhead associated with the Highway Safety Grant.

Expenses

Budget Revision #4 includes the following changes. This revision reduces the projected overhead rate from 1.4078 to 1.3844.

- Salaries increase by \$34,616.
 - The Highway Safety Specialist’s budgeted salary is \$60,000. This is the expected amount to be paid during this fiscal year.
- Benefits increase by 22,733.
 - Payroll taxes and benefits associated with the Highway Safety Specialist.
- Travel increases by \$3,000.
 - Travel associated with the Highway Safety Specialist.
- Computer Supplies & Software increases by \$1,500.
 - Computer equipment for the Highway Safety Specialist.
- General Office Expenses increase by \$8,829
 - Materials and supplies related to the Highway Safety Grant.
- Other Consultants increase by \$3,000.
 - This consists of Regional Service Grant (RSG) funds that are made available due to the decrease in the projected overhead rate. A future update to the RSG Spending Plan will re-program these funds.
- Project Contingencies
 - The Transportation, LOTCIP, SMM Grant, and CPRG contingency line-items have been adjusted to account for the decrease in the projected overhead rate.

Actual line-item revisions are on the following page, followed by a resolution authorizing Budget Revision #4.

FY 2023-24 Budget Revision # 4

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Municipal Contribution			
Municipal Contribution - Dues	239,600		239,600
Municipal Contribution - Special Projects	175,000		175,000
Fund Balance	25,000	1,009	26,009
Committed 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
U.S. DOT - Highway Safety	-	169,718	169,718
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)	948,502		948,502
CT OPM - RPIP (Cybersecurity)	2,220,066		2,220,066
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	7,298,623	170,727	7,469,350

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Salaries	829,398	34,616	864,014
Benefits	418,183	22,733	440,916
Travel	9,500	3,000	12,500
Computer Supplies & Software	53,800	1,500	55,300
Rent	152,900		152,900
General Office Expenses	104,648	8,829	113,477
Transportation Consultants	1,309,658		1,309,658
Other Consultants	1,114,157	3,000	1,117,157
Passthrough Grants	155,105		155,105
Office Equipment and Furniture	25,000		25,000
Contingency	-		-
Transportation - Reserved	152,181	26,096	178,277
LOTICIP - Reserved	128,343	174	128,517
Highway Safety - Reserved	-	69,754	69,754
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved	36,714		36,714
SMM Grant - Reserved	16,769	176	16,945
CPRG - Reserved	747,202	847	748,049
RPIP (Cybersecurity) - Reserved	2,045,066		2,045,066
Total	7,298,623	170,727	7,469,350



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

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

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

South Central Regional Council of Governments

Fiscal Year 2023-24 - Budget Revision # 4

- Whereas: The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) adopted an operating budget for FY 2023-24 on May 24, 2023;
- Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #1 on June 28, 2023;
- Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #2 on August 23, 2023;
- Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #3 on September 27, 2023;
- Whereas: SCRCOG has been awarded a \$169,718 Regional Highway Safety Grant from the CT Department of Transportation;
- Whereas: SCRCOG staff estimates that \$1,703 of Fund Balance will be required to cover a portion of the overhead costs associated with the Highway Safety Grant; and
- Whereas: SCRCOG has identified SCRCOG office cybersecurity services as an important initiative to undertake during the current fiscal year (an indirect expense of \$12,000).

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

That Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Revision # 4, which incorporates the Regional Highway Safety Grant and an indirect expense related to SCRCOG office cybersecurity services, 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 November 15, 2023.

Date: November 15, 2023

By: _____
First Selectman 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

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

UNLESS NOTIFIED OTHERWISE

- All meetings shall be held in the SCRCOG offices at 127 Washington Ave, North Haven with opportunities to participate via ZOOM
- SCRCOG shall meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month, except for November, when it meets on the 3rd Wednesday, and in December on the 2nd Thursday.
- The SCRCOG Executive Committee shall meet, when necessary, before the regular board meeting.

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

SCRCOG's Regular Board Meetings take place at **10:00 A.M.**

The Executive Committee Meetings are at **9:00 A.M.** (when necessary)

January 24, 2024	July 24, 2024
February 28, 2024	August 28, 2024
March 27, 2024	September 25, 2024
April 24, 2024	October 23, 2024
May 22, 2024	November 20, 2024
June 26, 2024	December 12, 2024
	January 22, 2025

- The Transportation Committee shall meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, except for December, when it meets on the 1st Wednesday

Transportation Committee Meetings are held at **Noon.**

January 10, 2024	July 10, 2024
February 14, 2024	August 14, 2024
March 13, 2024	September 11, 2024
April 10, 2024	October 9, 2024
May 8, 2024	November 13, 2024
June 12, 2024	December 4, 2024
	January 8, 2025

One week before the meeting date, Agendas are posted on our website, www.scrcog.org



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

**Regional Planning Commission (RPC)
2024 MEETING SCHEDULE**

The South Central Connecticut Regional Planning Commission meets the second Thursday of every month at 5:15 PM, unless notified otherwise. The RPC Agendas will be posted a week prior to the meeting.

The meetings shall be held in the SCRCOG offices at 127 Washington Ave, North Haven with opportunities to participate remotely.

January 11, 2024	August 8, 2024
February 8, 2024	September 12, 2024
March 14, 2024	October 10, 2024
April 11, 2024	November 14, 2024
May 9, 2024	December 12, 2024
June 13, 2024	January 9, 2025
July 11, 2024	

***Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 SCRCOG Municipal Dues
Preliminary for Municipal Budgeting Purposes***

The Preliminary *Municipal Dues* schedule is prepared as a budget indicator to assist local officials in the development of municipal budgets. Dues assessed to SCRCOG municipalities are based on a per capita rate and are rounded to the nearest \$100.

Final dues are approved by resolution of the full SCRCOG Board in conjunction with the *FY 2024-25 Operating Budget*.

Option 1 – No Increase

Option 1 for FY 2024-25 is no increase in the per capita rate (\$0.42). However, there will be adjustments due to shifts in population. SCRCOG By-Laws prescribe the use of the most current set of Connecticut Department of Health Services’ municipal population estimates (July 1, 2022). All municipalities lost population, except for Milford, New Haven, Orange, and Woodbridge.

SCRCOG is in the middle of the two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) 2-year cycle. The dues increase that was approved in FY 2023-2024 covers the local match for federal transportation funding, therefore Option 1 is viable.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>FY 2023-24 Dues</i>		<i>FY 2024-25 Dues</i>	
	<i>Population ⁽¹⁾</i>	<i>0.42</i>	<i>Population ⁽²⁾</i>	<i>0.42</i>
<i>Bethany</i>	5,288	2,200	5,277	2,200
<i>Branford</i>	28,176	11,800	28,148	11,800
<i>East Haven</i>	27,804	11,700	27,682	11,600
<i>Guilford</i>	22,031	9,300	22,019	9,200
<i>Hamden</i>	60,923	25,600	60,809	25,500
<i>Madison</i>	17,619	7,400	17,565	7,400
<i>Meriden</i>	60,517	25,400	60,242	25,300
<i>Milford</i>	52,390	22,000	52,679	22,100
<i>New Haven</i>	135,081	56,700	138,915	58,300
<i>North Branford</i>	13,498	5,700	13,464	5,700
<i>North Haven</i>	24,169	10,200	24,114	10,100
<i>Orange</i>	14,246	6,000	14,258	6,000
<i>Wallingford</i>	44,194	18,600	44,017	18,500
<i>West Haven</i>	55,294	23,200	55,004	23,100
<i>Woodbridge</i>	9,045	3,800	9,051	3,800
<i>Total</i>	570,275	239,600	573,244	240,600

(1) State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, Estimated Population in Connecticut Towns As of July 1, 2021.

(2) State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, Estimated Population in Connecticut Towns As of July 1, 2022.

**Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 SCRCOG Municipal Dues
Preliminary for Municipal Budgeting Purposes**

Option 2 – One Cent Increase

Option 2 – Proposes a \$.01 increase. A \$.01 increase would yield an additional \$6,000. This would create a contingency fund for unforeseen expenses and/or unforeseen opportunities. Use of the contingency fund would require board approval. If the contingency fund was not appropriated, it could replenish a portion of the funds taken from reserves for furniture and equipment related to the office expansion.

Municipality	FY 2023-24 Dues		FY 2024-25 Dues	
	Per Capita (rounded to \$100)		Per Capita (rounded to \$100)	
	Population ⁽¹⁾	0.42	Population ⁽²⁾	0.43
<i>Bethany</i>	5,288	2,200	5,277	2,300
<i>Branford</i>	28,176	11,800	28,148	12,100
<i>East Haven</i>	27,804	11,700	27,682	11,900
<i>Guilford</i>	22,031	9,300	22,019	9,500
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Total	570,275	239,600	573,244	246,600

(1) State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, Estimated Population in Connecticut Towns As of July 1, 2021.

(2) State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health, Estimated Population in Connecticut Towns As of July 1, 2022.

**FY 2023-2024 REGIONAL SERVICES GRANT (RSG) SPENDING PLAN
Amendment #3
November 15, 2023**

Source of Project Funding:

CT OPM Regional Services Grant (RSG)	\$948,502
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FY 2023-24 Budget

Line Item	Original	Change	Revised
1. Staff Labor and Expenses	\$411,971		\$411,971
2. GIS Consultant	\$13,000		\$13,000
3. UConn MPA Intern	\$17,250		\$17,250
4. Capitol Region Purchasing Council Dues	\$7,500		\$7,500
5. Recreational Trails Update	\$30,000		\$30,000
6. Data Dashboard (DataHaven)	\$40,000		\$40,000
7. UVermont Regional Tree Canopy Mapping	\$36,200		\$36,200
8. Municipal Services Consultants	\$392,581		\$392,581
Total	\$948,502	0	\$948,502

Details of Municipal Services Consultants (#8 above)

8a. Affordable Housing Part 1	
Consultant: David Fink (continuing)	\$40,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue offering guest speakers, presentations, workshops and discussions for its Regional Housing Working Group and will dedicate additional time and more specific resources to municipal staff to further their housing goals. This year we will also offer bus tours of successful developments.</i>	

8b. Affordable Housing Part 2	
Consultant: Benjamin Fink (continuing)	\$60,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue to assist its member municipalities in the facilitation/promotion of resident education/communication through community-wide education programs and trainings. This year an additional \$15,000 will be set aside for the training and development of citizen outreach specialists allowing for expansion of the scope of this work</i>	

8c. Affordable Housing Part 3	
Consultant: To be selected by RFP/RFQ process	\$60,000
<i>SCRCOG staff will work with an affordable housing expert consulting firm to update and enhance its Draft Regional Affordable Housing Plan and will develop an Action Plan for assisting with the implementation of the region's 8-30j Local Affordable Housing Plans.</i>	

8d. Municipal Grants	
Municipal Grants Consultants: Juliet Burdelski/Renata Bertotti (continuing)	\$85,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue providing grants assistance to its member municipalities in two Grants programs: (1) Offering training and workshops to the Regional Grants Working Group; and (2) researching and informing member municipalities of relevant grants opportunities. In addition, the grants consultants will provide individualized grants assistance to SCRCOG member municipalities, with a pool of funds set aside for more dedicated attention to individualized municipal grants assistance.</i>	

8e. Solid Waste & Recycling, Food Waste Diversion and Municipal Composting	
Consultant: Pam Roach (continuing)	\$65,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue offering guest speakers, presentations, workshops, resources and discussions for its Regional Solid Waste & Recycling Working Groups. SCRCOG will also assist its member municipalities in the facilitation/promotion of resident education/communication through community-wide education programs and trainings, as well as the production of educational materials. SCRCOG will also provide individualized assistance to member municipalities in researching grant opportunities and assisting in applying for such grants. Finally, SCRCOG will provide assistance in municipal efforts to individually and collaboratively pursue new programs of glass and plastics recycling, and food waste diversion, as well as the conversion of existing municipal leaf and brush piles to use as composting facilities with the addition of food waste diversion.</i>	

8f. Information Technology/ Cybersecurity	
Consultant: Novus Insight (continuing)	\$28,905 (previously \$20,500)
<i>SCRCOG will continue offering cyberawareness training for SCRCOG municipal members' employees. Currently, 2050 municipal employees are involved in the year-long training. The emphasis for the coming year and beyond will be on implementation of the OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant for Regional Cybersecurity Assessment and Protection.</i>	

8g. Purchasing	
Consultant: To be selected by RFP/RFQ process	\$23,676 (previously \$20,000)
<i>SCRCOG provided this program for its municipalities in FY 2021-2022 during which time it created a Regional Purchasing Working Group, established rules and procedures for a Regional Purchasing Consortium, developed two consortium bids for on-call engineers and on-call architects. SCRCOG also provided group and individualized training for the several municipalities that lacked a Purchasing Agent or had a new Purchasing Agent. The program wasn't offered in FY 2022-2023. In FY 2023-2024, SCRCOG would like to revive the Regional Purchasing Working Group and its training and discussion sessions as well as having the Purchasing Consortium offer new regional bids as requested by SCRCOG's municipalities</i>	

8h. Risk Management	
Consultant: To be selected by RFP/RFQ process	\$12,081
<i>Because the majority of SCRCOG municipalities do not have a dedicated Risk Manager position, SCRCOG would like to hire an expert consultant and to organize a Regional Risk Management Working</i>	

Group to provide best practices, resources, and training to its member municipalities in the areas of risk identification and assessment, safety, insurance coverage and claims management, and employee training and workplace culture.

8h. Economic Development	
Consultant: REX Development	\$30,000
<p><i>In collaboration with the South-Central Regional Council of Governments, Rex Development will offer free on-call economic development services under the Municipal Services Program. These services will provide peer-to-peer coaching or direct service based on the market and organizational needs of the community. Such services will include:</i></p> <p><i>On-Call Staff Coverage (When staff is absent due to attrition or your staff is temporarily away or unavailable, the program will provide limited in-house coverage); Economic Development Training; Economic Development Consulting; Workforce Development; Resources; and Peer Review of Documents and the Local Economic Development Processes</i></p>	



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

NEWSLETTER

Volume III, Issue 10

November 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

General Announcements

4-Credit Land Use Commissioner Training – Now Available Online

SCRCOG recently hosted a 4-credit Land Use Commissioner Training with UConn's CLEAR Institute. The session included 3 credits on Land Use Basics and 1 Credit on Affordable Housing and can be used to satisfy the four-hour training requirements that were created in Public Act 21-29. SCRCOG has made all these documents publicly available by uploading the recording and all the associated handouts to our [Basecamp webpage](#).

If you are a planner and still have Land Use Commissioners who need to complete their training, please feel free to host a watch party or forward this link to your respective commissions. The goal of this training was to get as many of the state's commissioners certified. Please share the link with anyone you believe would benefit from this training.

For those of you who were unable to attend the full four hours, you can also pick up where you left off

SCRCOG's Newest Staff Member: Gabriel Filer

This week, SCRCOG was pleased to welcome its newest staff member, Gabriel Filer, as SCRCOG's Transportation Planner/Project Manager. Gabe has extensive experience in project management, and in grants writing and administration, at Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) in Waterbury and most recently at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) in Springfield.

Gabe was a Transportation Planner/Civil Rights Officer at PVPC, which is the Regional Planning Organization and Metropolitan Planning Organization for 42 municipalities in Western Massachusetts. During his two years at PVPC, Gabe's duties were focused on grants writing and administration.

At NVCOG, Gabe was the liaison for the COG's member municipalities, as well as for the Waterbury Transit District, for transportation and transit grants writing and administration. In his 2 years at NVCOG, he also oversaw NVCOG's social media accounts and oversaw the COG's community engagement efforts.

Gabe is a graduate of the University of Washington with a B.A. in Community, Environment and Planning. He holds a Master of City and Regional Planning from Ohio State University.

SCRCOG's FY 2023-2024 Interns*Amealia Maynard, UConn MPP student*

Amealia Maynard is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Policy (MPP) at the University of Connecticut School of Public Policy. This is the fifth year that SCRCOG has hosted a UConn master's student part-time intern. Amealia grew up in Mansfield, CT, and stayed local while she earned her Bachelor of Science in Applied and Resource Economics at UConn. During her undergraduate years, Amealia applied her passion for environmental issues with marketable skills relating to economics and public policy. At SCRCOG since late August, Amealia has been working on varied projects including land use and placemaking, SCRCOG's public participation policy, and climate change, clean energy and environmental research.

Baishampayan Sarkar, Quinnipiac University Student

"Bash" is a senior at Quinnipiac University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a minor in Applied Data Statistics. This past summer, Bash was a Presidential Public Service Fellow working in Hamden government in the Department of Economic and Community Development, supervised by Director Erik Johnson, doing data collection and analysis, budgeting for capital projects, developing website content, and grants writing. Bash started working at SCRCOG as a part-time intern in October and has been assisting Executive Director Amento on municipal services programs such as cybersecurity, the tree canopy study, the data dashboard project, and solid waste and recycling research.

Elise Boisvert, Quinnipiac University Student

Elise is a senior at Quinnipiac University pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a Public Relations minor. This past summer, Elise was a Presidential Public Service Fellow working in Hamden government, supervised by Town Planner Eugene Livshits, researching zoning policy models including

been assisting Executive Director Amento on municipal services programs such as cybersecurity, the tree canopy study, and solid waste and recycling research.

Energy Rebate Programs

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains has two rebate programs that can provide benefits for entities making energy efficiency equipment investments. The first program offers rebates for entities who have or are currently replacing inefficient distribution transformers with newer models as part of increasing grid resiliency, capacity upgrades, or recovery from storms or natural disasters. The second program benefits manufacturers and other commercial entities that have purchased and installed energy efficient variable speed motor systems, such as pumps, fans, and air compressors. The programs have \$10 million available apiece, and they are accepting applications on a rolling first-come-first-serve basis. The transformer program has a statutory deadline of December 8, 2023. Both programs are available to the private sector and to state, local, territorial, and tribal government entities.

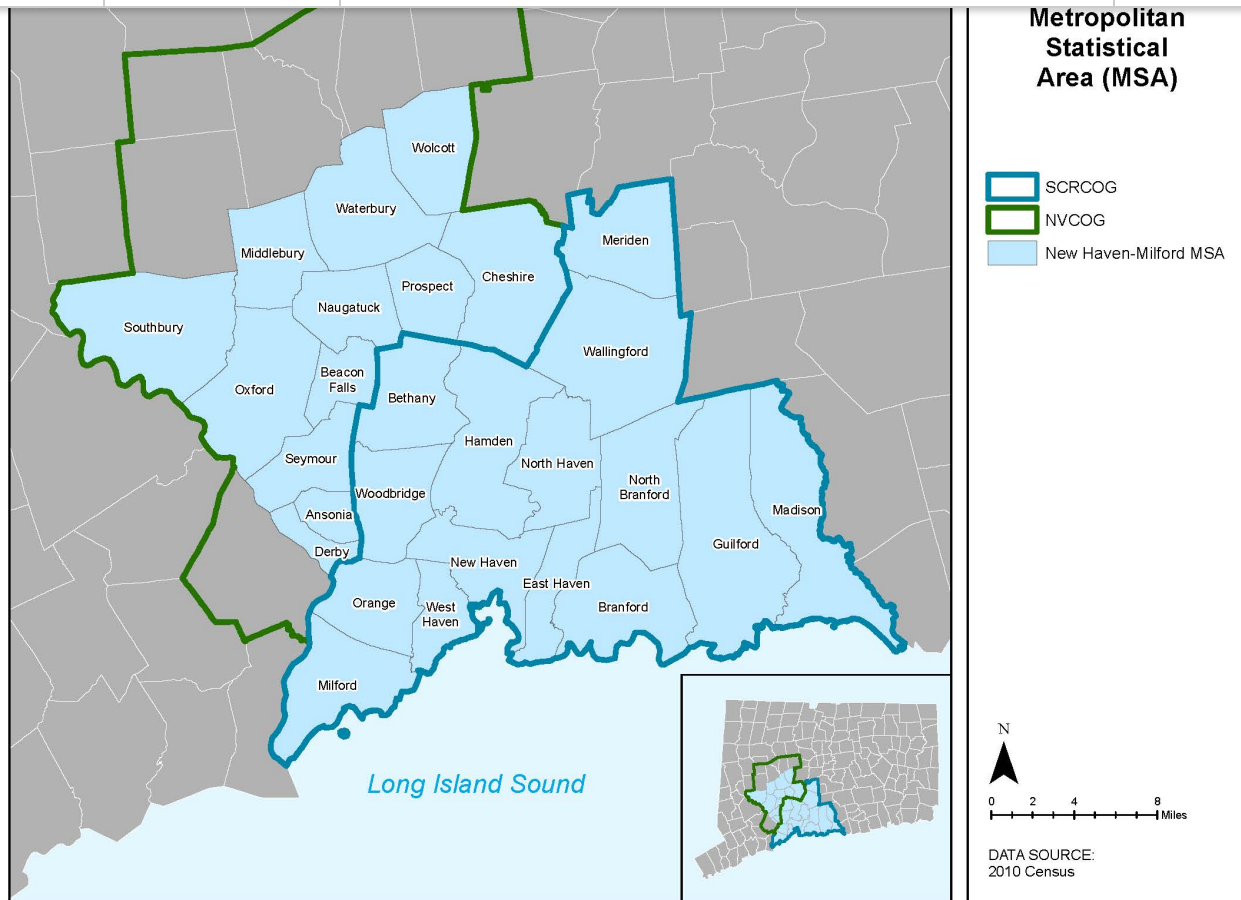
For more information, please visit the [Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains' webpage](#).



CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT

SCRCOG has received \$1 million from the EPA to create Climate Action Plans through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program and will function as project lead for the New Haven-Milford region over the four (4) year project period. SCRCOG will be collaborating with the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) to create three distinct Climate Action Plans that offer recommendations for how the region can lower GHG through a variety of projects and policies. A primary focus of the grant program is to also offer direct solutions designed to improve air quality, create jobs, and ensure the region's low income and disadvantaged communities are prioritized as solutions are created. To learn more about the CPRG Program as it pertains to the New Haven County region, please visit [CPRGCT.org](https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants). For general information on the CPRG Program, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>

New Haven-Milford MSA – Study Region:



Climate Planning Stakeholder Workshop

As part of the beginning of our public engagement process for our first deliverable, the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), SCRCOG and NVCOG hosted a Stakeholder Workshop on **August 29th**. We invited stakeholder groups in the New Haven-Milford MSA/New Haven County region to this meeting to share the ins and outs of the CPRG Program, highlight opportunities for involvement, and gather feedback on next steps. If you were unable to attend this workshop, you can [watch the recording online](#).

If you would like to be included on future emails regarding CPRG events, please email smcamp@scrcog.org or subscribe to our email list on CPRGCT.org, where you can also find other events SCRCOG and NVCOG will be attending throughout the region.

LINK | CPRGCT.org

SCRCOG Grants Training for EPA CPRG Implementation Grants – November 30th

SCRCOG has scheduled a hybrid training event for our municipalities to be held on Thursday, November 30th from 10:00am to 11:30am at the SCRCOG Conference Room and via Zoom. SCRCOG Grant Consultants Renata Bertotti and Juliet Burdelski will present on the recently announced EPA

organizations. This competitive implementation phase seeks to offer grant funding for shovel ready, transformative projects, that seek to reduce harmful air pollutants throughout the region. Applications for the Implementation Grants are due by April 1, 2024. More information on the CPRG Implementation Grants and the Grants Training is provided below under the subtitle “Grant Writing Services.”

[LINK | Register for SCRCOG Grants Training for EPA Implementation Grants](#)



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2023-2024 Housing Working Group Meetings

SCRCOG continues its housing work building community and educating residents, advocates, and municipal staff throughout the second half of 2023.

The next Housing Working Group meeting will be on November 15, 2023.

Reviewing Our Housing Tour with Mixed-Income Housing Experts. A discussion of what we learned from the mixed-income housing tour and a look at how various towns have created mixed-income developments using inclusionary zoning in its many forms, and other tools. If you are interested in attending, please register using the link below.

[LINK | Register for SCRCOG Housing Working Group Meeting](#)



Events
Working Group

Housing

**SCRCOG Housing Working Group
2023 - 2024**

Check Out List of Events for 2023 - early 2024

- September 27**
Kick-Off!
 A town-by-town look at what methods and strategies are working well and why & a review of our upcoming Mixed-Income Housing Tour and future sessions.
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- October 25**
Mixed-Income Housing Tour
 A 3-hour tour of 5 examples in the region of very successful mixed-income developments.
 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
- November 15**
Tour Post-Mortem & The Ins And Outs of Inclusionary Zoning
 A discussion of what we learned from the tour and a look at inclusionary zoning -- how it was adopted and how it's worked in different municipalities around the state.
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- January 24**
Our Region's Efforts To Deal With Homelessness
 A visit to homeless shelters and supportive housing in the region and discussions with providers about how the region's municipalities can help.
 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM
- February 28**
Working With Builders & Developers
 Now that your town wants to create housing, how do you attract a developer? What type of property is a developer looking for? A conversation with our region's developers.
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

For detailed information: scrcog.org/
Email Stephanie Camp at smcamp@scrcog.org

SCRCOG
SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Please email smcamp@scrcog.org if you would like to be added to the Housing Working Group email list.

Don't forget that SCRCOG has a vast library of housing-related articles as well as video recordings of all our past Housing Working Group meetings. To watch or listen to these meetings, please visit <https://scrcog.org/regional-planning/affordable-housing/housing-working-group-meetings/>

Community Conversations with Ben Fink

Ben continues his mission to build as broad and diverse a base as possible to support expanded

implement their affordable housing plans.

Training: *How to Share Stories Effectively in Public* on December 5th, 2023, from 9:30 – 11:30 AM.

In this hands-on training, participants will learn how to use the *public narrative* framework to share stories in public settings in a way that connects with a community's shared interests and values, and lead to effective action — the *story of self*, the *story of us*, and the *story of now*. A light breakfast and refreshments will be provided, starting at 9 AM. For more details, please see the flyer below. A link to the registration is also provided below.

[LINK | Register for Public Narrative Training](#)

How to Share Stories Effectively in Public

with SCRCOG consultant, Ben Fink

Tuesday, December 5th from 9:30 - 11:30 AM
127 Washington Ave, 4th Floor West, North Haven, CT
or online via Zoom.

In this hands-on training, participants will learn how to use the public narrative framework to share stories in public settings in a way that connects with a community's shared interests and values, and lead to effective action — *the story of self, the story of us, and the story of now*. Participants will get practice developing their own public narratives and applying these tools to achieve breakthroughs in challenging issues and situations they face in their own communities. This training is open to all — including people and municipalities who have started hosting community conversations and want to learn from each other's experience, and those who are looking for somewhere to begin.

[Register here >](#)

Questions? Contact Stephanie Camp at smcamp@scrcog.org



If your municipality would like to begin working with Ben to facilitate honest and productive community discussions, please contact Stephanie Camp, Regional Planner, at smcamp@scrcog.org or Ben Fink at ben.fink@gmail.com



HAZARD MITIGATION

Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Awareness

This course, funded by the DHS/FEMA, will introduce participants to the key terms, policy, guidance, 29

2023, from 8 AM to 5 PM. Anyone looking to register for this course will need a TEEEX Student Portal account. Once they've created an account, they can use the link below to sign in and enroll.

Register via the following link: <https://my.teex.org/TeexPortal/?MO=mExtLogin>

Draft Connecticut Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023 (NHMP)

The Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has drafted the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan 2023, and it is open for review and public comment.

You can review the draft document through the following link: [CT HMP 2023 - 2023.10.10 DRAFT.pdf - Google Drive](#)

Once reviewed, please use this form to provide feedback by the end of the day on Sunday, November 19th: [Connecticut Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Draft Review Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

DEMHS Region 2

Connecticut DEMHS is working with the New England States Emergency Management programs to offer additional training opportunities. If you are a representative of your organization, complete this 10 – 15 minute survey. Results will assist in the development and delivery of no-cost training for emergency management professionals throughout New England.

This survey is a product of the Northeast Emergency Management Training & Education Center (NEMTEC). NEMTEC was launched in March of 2023 and is coordinated by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. NEMTEC is a collaborative program between the six New England state emergency management agencies, offering accessible, no-cost training to all emergency management practitioners that would not otherwise be achievable by any one state, alone. NEMTEC was established to help professionals within the emergency services sector meet the evolving needs of the region in response to the emerging threats & expanding roles for emergency management.

Link to the survey: <https://forms.office.com/g/9BXkGJkzSq>.

The survey can also be accessed at <https://www.mass.gov/northeast-emergency-management-training-education-center-nemtec>.



MUNICIPAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants Writing Services

SCRCOG continues to offer free grant writing support and education through a partnership with consultants Renata Bertotti and Juliet Burdelski. In this Fiscal Year, the Grants consultants will offer more in-depth and more individualized assistance to the SCRCOG municipalities.

Training Opportunity for SCRCOG Member Municipalities

In this training, to be held on Thursday, November 30th at the SCRCOG Conference Room and via Zoom, SCRCOG Grant Consultants Renata Bertotti and Juliet Burdelski will review the EPA's [Implementation Grant Funding opportunity](#), also known as Phase 2 of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. The Implementation Grant is a significant amount of funding that will be available to municipalities, groups of municipalities, and COGs to implement greenhouse gas reduction projects ranging from clean transportation, bike and pedestrian trails, building retrofits, public infrastructure upgrades, waste reduction programs, and more.

Register for the Grants Workshop below:

[LINK | Register for the Grants Workshop](#)

Past Grants Trainings & Resources

SCRCOG co-hosted grants training sessions throughout 2022 and 2023. Past meetings featured guest speakers, best practices, and guidance for attendees. You can watch recordings of these past training sessions on our [webpage](#).

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

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

Needs Assessment Questionnaire

SCRCOG is continuing and enhancing its grants training and technical assistance program for its member municipalities in 2023 and 2024. To help us make the most of the training, please provide us with feedback related to proposed topics. This survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. Thank you for your input!

[LINK | Needs Assessment Survey](#)

Emerging Grant Opportunities *Highlights:*

AID Demonstration Program

Are you looking to deploy an innovation on a highway project and need funding to offset the costs? The [Accelerated Innovation Deployment \(AID\) Demonstration](#) provides incentive funds to eligible entities to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation. AID Demonstration funds can be used in any phase of a highway transportation project between project planning and project delivery, including planning, finance, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment, and construction.

2023 to January 23, 2024. The “FY 24” solicitation period will quickly follow---from **February 27, 2024** to **May 28, 2024**. The NOFO will also cover FY 25 and FY 26. The 2023-2026 AID Demonstration will make up to \$10 million in grants in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and \$12.5 million FYs 2024 through FY 2026. The FHWA will host an external webinar to overview the program on November 20, 2023 from 3 – 4 PM ET.

You can register here: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/8ef5041e-98fd-4935-9059-da51457af215@c4cd245b-44f0-4395-a1aa-3848d258f78b>

Application Deadline: January 23, 2024.

For more information, please visit the [FHWA Innovation Grants webpage.](#)

CT DECD Community Investment Fund (CIF) Grants (Round 4)

The Department of Economic and Community Development (“DECD”) is administrating the fourth round of the Community Investment Fund 2030. CIF provides funding for a variety of capital improvement and small business support projects. Eligible projects can be viewed in the [Notice of Funding Availability.](#)

Application Deadline: December 15, 2023 at Noon.

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

Clean School Bus Program Rebates

The EPA is offering a Clean School Bus Rebate Program to eligible entities to subsidize the purchase of a zero-emission (ZE) or clean school bus, eligible infrastructure, and other costs, including workforce training, that meet the requirements of the program. Rebates allow selectees to receive awarded funds before purchasing the buses and associated infrastructure listed in their application. Eligible entities include public school districts and third parties. The EPA plans to award at least \$500 million through this rebate competition.

For more information, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus/clean-school-bus-program-rebates>

Application Deadline: January 31, 2024, before 4 PM.

For a full list of current grant opportunities, please visit SCRCOG’s Municipal Grants webpage linked below.

[LINK | Municipal Grants Webpage](#)



SOLID WASTE, RECYCLING, & FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

decision regarding resumption of a voluntary program or introduction of a mandatory program will await the beginning of the term of a new city administration.

Meriden has initiated a second SMM Pilot Voluntary Co-Collection Program.

Guilford and Madison are now several weeks into their SMM Pilot Voluntary Program which involves voluntary participation of residents contracted with subscription haulers as well as a drop-off site for food scraps at the two-town shared Transfer Station.

SCRCOG and NVCOG are planning joint educational forums as required by DEEP SMM Grants awarded to each COG. The plan is to have SCRCOG and NVCOG organize and facilitate forums for both regions: 1) Transfer Station PAYT/Food Scrap Diversion programs; 2) Curbside PAYT/Food Scrap Diversion Co-Collection Programs. Additionally, SCRCOG will plan separately for a third Forum for Recycling Education.

DEEP Regional Waste Authority Grant

SCRCOG is in negotiations with DEEP with regard to a possible Regional Waste Authority Grant. The grant, if awarded, would provide funds for technical and legal assistance required by the region to create a Regional Waste Authority, including determination of terms of municipal participation and operational rules for the Authority.



CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM

SCRCOG OPM \$2,220,066 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) Cybersecurity Grant

This grant will fund a 4 -year cybersecurity assessment and protection program provided on a regional basis and available to all 15 SCRCOG municipalities. The grant will establish a new full-time equivalent Virtual Chief Information Security Office and a Security Operations Center, as well as a regional program to pool services and resources, achieve volume pricing on products and services, and facilitate sharing of best practices. The program will help protect SCRCOG municipalities from the substantial costs of cyberattacks, while reducing cyber-insurance premiums. Each municipality will be offered the option of adding its school system or its Police Department to the program at a cost to be negotiated.

The Organizational Meeting of SCRCOG CEO's and SCRCOG's consultant, Novus Insight, to begin implementation of the cybersecurity grant is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21st at 10 AM at the SCRCOG Conference Room or via Zoom. In-person participation of the CEOs is strongly encouraged. Mayors, First Selectmen and City and Town Managers are also encouraged to enlist the participation in this meeting in person or via Zoom of technical or cybersecurity officials from their respective municipalities. Register using the link below.

[LINK | Register for SCRCOG & Novus Insight Meeting](#)

municipal employees in our region are involved in the training. If your municipality has not implemented this program, and you have an interest, please let us know. We have another 2,000 spaces available to begin additional municipal employee training. SCRCOG staff will begin their KnowBe4 training shortly.



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC)

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

[LINK | October 2023 RPC Action Table](#)

[DOWNLOAD | RPC Informational Brochure](#)



SUSTAINABLE CT

Sustainable CT Updates

The Sustainable CT Awards Celebration was held on Tuesday, October 17th at the American Mural Project Site. This event honored municipalities that have achieved bronze, silver, or gold certification, or Climate Leader Designation, during the organization's spring and fall 2023 certification cycles. SCRCOG congratulates all municipalities that have achieved certification or Climate Leader Designation, especially to our member municipalities:

- The City of New Haven, who received both Climate Leader Designation and is the first recipient of the Gold certification,
- the Town of Hamden, who received Silver certification,
- the Town of Branford, who received Bronze certification, and
- the Town of Guilford, who received Climate Leader Designation.

The Sustainable CT Spring 2024 certification deadline (including the Climate Leader Designation) is April 10, 2024, by noon.

Feedback Request

Sustainable CT wants your feedback on new potential actions and program updates/improvements for 2024! Watch a presentation of the proposed updates [here](#). To view the draft text of new actions and larger revisions, you can visit their [Google Drive](#) folder. In each document, you can leave comments or



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

UPWP Update

The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) seeks the services of one or more consultants for the following transportation planning studies during the 2024-2025 Fiscal Years:

- Guilford Town Center Traffic Study
- Northford Center Connectivity Study
- Congestion Management Study
- Regional Freight Study
- Regional Mobility Study for Aging and Disabled Community

Responses are due November 22, 2023 at 12:00 noon. Screened firms will be notified by November 29, 2023, and interviews will be scheduled December 6-7, 2023.

The full RFQ is available on SCRCOG's website: <https://scrcog.org/rfq-upwp-fy24/>

LOTICIP Update

- Guilford had a bid opening for their project L059- 002 the Nut Plains Rd Reconstruction project. The low bid came in higher than anticipated and with SCRCOG support was submitted to CTDOT for approval. The town was notified that CTDOT approved the bid amount of \$3,112,273.00 and will receive both an authorization to award letter and their PAL from the state.
- The service agreement BETA Group has been amended to allow the consultant to provide additional services to our member municipalities to assist with project design. It is anticipated that North Branford could be the first town to take part in this pilot program.
- At the end of the first quarter of FY24, the LOTICIP program maintains a balance of allocated funds of \$36,709,432 with a remaining \$67,559,500 in approved funding yet to be allocated.
- The program provided \$6,553,724 of funding in FY23 and expects to fund upwards of \$16,000,000 in the current fiscal year.



AROUND THE TOWNS

Congratulations to the City of New Haven for receiving multiple grants in October!

- The City received a combined \$3,002,847 with the New Haven Urban Resources Initiative, Inc. to expand infrastructure to deliver urban forestry services & to pay disadvantaged residents to plant trees in New Haven communities through the [Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program](#).

energy-burdened New Haven residents in a new program aimed at the electrification of aging heating and cooking systems.

- The New Haven Ecology Project will receive \$500,000 through the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Program to engage New Haven high school students in at least 200 paid jobs as environmental justice problem-solvers. These young people will work with community organizations and residents to set the vision and tackle goals by leading community outreach activities for New Haven's next comprehensive city plan.



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

November

- November 8th – Transportation Committee Meeting – 12:00 PM
- November 9th – Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Meeting – 5:15 PM
- November 10th – Veterans Day, Holiday Observed (Office Closed)
- November 15th – SCRCOG Board Meeting – 10:00 AM
- November 15th – Housing Working Group Meeting – 1:00 PM
- November 21st – Organizational Meeting for SCRCOG CEO's on RPIP Cybersecurity Grant – 10:00 AM
- November 23rd and 24th – Thanksgiving, Holiday Observed (Office Closed)
- November 28th – CCM Convention at Mohegan Sun
- November 30—SCRCOG Grants Workshop – 10:00 AM





November 8, 2023

Dear Chief Elected Officials of SCRCOG,

REX will launch training sessions in December to teach businesses best practices in digital marketing. These sessions will be interactive and later accessible on the Visit New Haven website. Although primarily intended for the hospitality industry, the content is relevant to other businesses.

I attended the 2023 Yale Alumni Real Estate Association Annual Conference in October. This event offers an opportunity for alumni, students, and faculty to engage with prominent experts in the real estate industry. The symposium focuses on discussing new ideas and trends that could potentially impact the quality of our communities.

REX is providing technical and grant support on a brownfield assessment in Guilford. REX has received an application for a brownfield assessment loan in Hamden that is currently being reviewed by the Brownfield Committee.

Through our partnerships with Discover New England and the Connecticut Office of Tourism, we welcomed two travel writers. While they had minimal time to spend in Greater New Haven as they traveled throughout New England, we provided information about all of the towns, including providing the writers with the Greater New Haven Visitors & Relocation Guide. We are just kicking off ad sales for the 2024-2025 Greater New Haven Visitors & Relocation Guide. If you have high-res images of tourism assets in your town, please send them to us. We are always looking for new images to feature in our printed and digital collateral. In addition, we are accepting submissions for the Visit New Haven calendar. Visitors looking for a traditional New England experience are interested in tree-lighting events, fairs, and entertainment. The events can be submitted via the Visit New Haven website.

Speaking of the holidays, we will encourage visitors and residents alike to shop locally through social media. We request any tourism-related businesses to sign up for a listing on our website. The events calendar and shopping page are two of our most popular website pages.

We hope you can join us for an in-person REDFO meeting on November 16 at noon at SCRCOG. The meeting will provide an update on Frontier's fiber network and the launch of REX's on-call economic development services.

Sincerely,

Ginny Kozlowski
Executive Director