

## Meeting Notice & Agenda

### Executive Committee

<b>DATE</b> October 23, 2024	<b>LOCATION</b> SCRCOG Office	<b>DIAL-IN</b> +1-929-205-6099
<b>TIME</b> 9:00 am	<b>MEETING URL</b> <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81514830649">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81514830649</a>	<b>MEETING ID</b> 815 1483 0649

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|---|---|--------------|
| 1 | Call to Order   |              |
| 2 | Adopt Minutes of September 25, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting (motion)   | Pages 2 - 3  |
| 3 | Recommend Approval of FY 2024-25 Budget Revision #4 (motion)  | Pages 4 - 6  |
| 4 | Recommend Resolution Authorizing Interim Executive Director to Execute Agreement for Acceptance of CT OPM Parcel and CAMA Improvements Grant (motion) | Page 7       |
| 5 | Discussion re: SCRCOG Legislative Agenda  | Pages 8 - 11 |
| 6 | Grant Consultant Resignation and Grants Program Discussion  |              |
| 7 | Regional Cooperation/Other Business   |              |
| 8 | Adjournment   |              |

Agenda and attachments for this meeting are available on our website at [www.scrkog.org](http://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".

TO: SCRCOG Executive Committee Members  
FROM: Mayor Lauren Garrett, *Secretary*  
DATE: September 26, 2024  
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2024

***Present:***

Bethany First Selectman Paula Cofrancesco, *Chair*  
East Haven Mayor Joseph Carfora  
Guilford First Selectman Matthew Hoey  
Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett, *Secretary*  
Madison First Selectman Peggy Lyons, *Vice Chair*  
West Haven Mayor Dorinda Borer, *Treasurer*  
Woodbridge First Selectman Mica Cardozo

SCRCOG Staff Laura Francis, Christopher Rappa, Stephanie Camp, Joan Paglinco

**NOTE: The September SCRCOG Executive Committee meeting was a hybrid meeting**

**1. Call to order**

Chair Cofrancesco called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Chair Cofrancesco referred to a handout and advised of amendments to the agenda before and after agenda item 3 which were included in the packet. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo on the amendment to the two items before agenda item 3. The motion passed. Chair Cofrancesco then advised of the next two amendments to the agenda after item 3. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo.

**2. Adopt Minutes of August 28, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting (motion)**

Chair Cofrancesco referred to the minutes of the SCRCOG Executive Committee Meeting of August 28, 2024, which were included in the agenda packet on pages 2-3. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo. The motion passed

**3. Recommend Approval of Resolution Authorizing Interim Executive Director to Accept an Amended EDA CARES Act Sub-Grant and to Execute an Amended and Restated Agreement with CT DECD (motion)**

Interim Executive Director Francis explained the resolution. Motion made by First Selectman Lyons and seconded by Mayor Garrett. The motion passed.

**4. Recommend Approval of Resolution Authorizing Interim Executive Director to Negotiate and Execute Agreement Amendment with REX Development related to the Amended and Restated EDA Care Act Sub-Grant (motion)**

Interim Executive Director Francis the resolution. Motion made by First Selectman Cardozo and seconded by First Selectman Hoey. The motion passed.

**5. Recommend Approval of FY 2024-25 Budget Revision #2 (motion)**

Chair Cofrancesco asked for a motion to approve budget revision #2. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by Mayor Garrett. The motion passed.

**6. Recommend Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Interim Executive Director to Apply for and Accept a FY 2025 Highway Safety Specialist Program Grant (motion)**

Interim Executive Director explained the resolution. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectman Lyons. The motion passed.

**7. Recommend Approval of FY 2024-25 Budget Revision #3 (motion)**

Interim Executive Director explained Revision #3 to the SCRCOG Budget. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo. The motion passed.

**8. Discussion re: SCRCOG Legislative Agenda**

Interim Executive Director Francis referred to the draft SCRCOG Legislative Agenda. . First Selectman Hoey requested to add Affordable Housing to the agenda. Mayor Garrett discussed Affordable Housing preservation and involving CT DEEP in the planning process when it involves contaminated properties.

**9. Discussion re: Regional Planning Commission**

Stephanie Camp reported that the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is no longer required by State Statute. Camp suggested that instead of the RPC, SCRCOG staff could make recommendations regarding zoning regulation amendments. SCRCOG will also explore compiling a library of zoning regulation amendments.

**10. Discussion re: Solid Waste and Recycling Program**

Interim Executive Director Francis reported that SCRCOG received nine responses to the solid waste needs assessment survey. The top items are to promote back yard composting, textile recycling, food waste diversion at community centers and schools, regional agreements for sharing equipment, public education and awareness, community engagement and cooperation with stakeholders, and transfer station site assessments.

**11. Regional Cooperation/Other Business**

None

**12. Adjournment**

First Selectman Cardozo made a motion to adjourn at 9:53 a.m.

## ***FY 2024-25 Budget Revision #4***

*This revision updates the FY 2024-25 budget to incorporate additional CTDOT Active Transportation Microgrants Program funding.*

### **Revenue**

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Budget Revision #4 adds \$15,000 of revenue to the adopted FY 2024-25 budget, broken down as follows.

- \$15,000 of CTDOT – Active Transportation Microgrants Program

### **Expenses**

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Budget Revision #4 includes the following changes.

- Passthrough Grants increases by \$15,000 (Active Transportation Microgrants Program)

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

**FY 2024-25 Budget Revision #4**

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
<b>Municipal Contribution</b>			
Municipal Contribution - Dues	245,300		245,300
Municipal Contribution - RPIP Match	636,188		636,188
Fund Balance	52,657		52,657
Committed Fund Balance	69,519		69,519
<b>Transportation Planning</b>			
U.S. DOT	1,714,416		1,714,416
U.S. DOT - Carryover	683,790		683,790
U.S. DOT - Highway Safety	239,472		239,472
CTDOT	214,302		214,302
CTDOT - Carryover	85,474		85,474
CTDOT - Active Transportation Microgrants Program	17,147	15,000	32,147
CTDOT - LOTCIP	110,291		110,291
<b>Regional Planning</b>			
CT OPM - Regional Services Grant (RSG)	948,502		948,502
CT OPM - RSG - Previous Fiscal Year	17,653		17,653
CT OPM - RPIP (Cybersecurity)	2,205,066		2,205,066
CT Secretary of the State - Regional Election Monitor	3,691		3,691
CT DEEP - SMM Grant	63,406		63,406
CT DEEP - RWA Grant	353,000		353,000
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - CARES Act Funds	104,890		104,890
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - 4CT Funds	79		79
US EPA - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	749,672		749,672
<b>Other</b>			
Investment Income	20,000		20,000
Retiree Health Insurance	9,000		9,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,543,514</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>8,558,514</b>

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Salaries	988,736		988,736
Benefits	438,470		438,470
Travel	14,700		14,700
Computer Supplies & Software	38,100		38,100
Rent	182,700		182,700
General Office Expenses	142,458		142,458
Transportation Consultants	1,993,378		1,993,378
Other Consultants	2,403,392		2,403,392
Passthrough Grants	285,252	15,000	300,252
Capital	-		-
Contingency	8,805		8,805
Transportation - Reserved	90,912		90,912
LOTCIP - Reserved	0		0
Highway Safety - Reserved	91,409		91,409
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved	-		-
SMM Grant - Reserved	673		673
RWA Grant - Reserved	50,000		50,000
CPRG - Reserved	245,650		245,650
RPIP (Cybersecurity) - Reserved	1,568,879		1,568,879
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,543,514</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>8,558,514</b>

***Resolution***

**South Central Regional Council of Governments**

**Fiscal Year 2024-25 - Budget Revision # 4**

Whereas: The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) adopted an operating budget for FY 2024-25 on May 22, 2024;

Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #1 on August 28, 2024; and

Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #2 on September 25, 2024;

Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #3 on September 25, 2024; and

Whereas: SCRCOG has received an additional \$15,000 of CTDOT Active Transportation Microgrants Program funds.

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

That Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Revision #4, which incorporates additional CTDOT Active Transportation Microgrants funding 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 October 23, 2024.

Date: October 23, 2024

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Lauren Garrett, Secretary  
South Central Regional Council of Governments

**Resolution Authorizing Interim Executive Director to Execute Agreement for Acceptance of CT OPM Parcel and CAMA Improvements Grant**

Whereas: Section 7-100l of the Connecticut General Statutes requires that Councils of Governments collect digital parcel files and standardized assessment data (CAMA) from each of their member municipalities by May 1 annually;

Whereas: The spatial accuracy and completeness of the data can vary by COG and Municipality;

Whereas: The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management has created a grant program to assist with enhancing the accuracy, completeness, and recency of this data;

Whereas: SCRCOG has been awarded \$181,500.00 for a Parcel and CAMA Improvements Grant for Councils of Governments from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management; and

Whereas: The Office of Policy and Management requires an adopted resolution by the SCRCOG Board.

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

That SCRCOG execute and deliver to the State of Connecticut a Notice of Grant Award (the "Agreement") in the amount of \$181,500.00 for the Parcel and CAMA Improvements Grant; and

Be It Further Resolved:

That Laura Francis, as Interim Executive Director of SCRCOG, is directed to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of SCRCOG and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.

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 October 23, 2024.

Date: October 23, 2024

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor Lauren Garrett, Secretary  
South Central Regional Council of Governments

## **SCRCOG Legislative Agenda 2025**

Adopted: **DRAFT for October SCRCOG Board Meeting**

The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) is a diverse region of fifteen municipalities with a population consisting of approximately 570,000. Geographically, the South Central Region covers a great portion of New Haven County along the coast of Long Island Sound.

This legislative agenda outlines the policy topics of emphasis for the South Central Region. The document synthesizes a broad range of information from member municipalities, the regional delegation, non-profit entities, and other organizations. The agenda is organized by committee and will guide SCRCOG in its testimony on the respective policy areas.

### **Legislative Priority Items and Policy Areas**

#### **Energy and Technology**

- Update Energy Efficiency Standards for Products

Connecticut's energy efficiency standards for products, outlined in [Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 16a-48](#), have not been updated since 2010. Revising these standards could enhance Connecticut's ability to avoid energy waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in manners like other states within New England.

#### **Environment**

- Increased State Assistance & Solutions for Solid Waste and Trash

To enhance local sustainability efforts, the state of Connecticut should increase direct assistance available or provide state solutions for managing solid waste streams. Providing greater support will help communities and municipalities implement more effective waste reduction strategies and improve overall environmental health.

- Private Haulers and Registration

To alleviate the burden on municipalities throughout Connecticut, the state should take responsibility for overseeing the registration of private haulers. Currently, municipalities are tasked with ensuring that haulers are properly licensed,



maintaining accurate records, adhering to state regulations, and complying with waste management policies. This responsibility requires significant administrative effort and oversight, which can be a considerable strain on municipal resources. Shifting this responsibility to the state would streamline the process and reduce the administrative load on local governments.

## Government Administration and Elections

- Funding Streams for Election Security Mandates

Public Act No. 24-148 mandates municipalities install video recording devices at secure ballot drop boxes beginning July 1, 2025. To implement these security measures effectively, adequate funding for both the equipment and data storage is essential; otherwise, municipalities may face significant financial burdens. We urge the state of Connecticut to explore revenue streams or grant opportunities to support local governments in acquiring the necessary security equipment.

## Housing

- Continued Support for Affordable Housing

The state of Connecticut should continue to assist municipalities in supporting the creation of affordable housing. There are various creative ways to promote this construction, but these methods should be implemented without imposing mandates or penalizing municipalities in the process.

- Support for Middle Housing

The state of Connecticut should assist municipalities in promoting the development of middle housing – defined in Section 8-1a of Chapter 124 as including duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, cottage clusters and townhouses – given the crucial need for new construction in this area. Creative approaches should be explored to encourage this development without imposing mandates or penalizing municipalities.

- Study of Short-term Rentals on the State’s Housing Market

In the 2024 Legislative Session the General Assembly passed Public Act No. 24-143, giving municipalities the power to regulate short-term rentals through ordinances. To improve transparency and understanding on short-term rentals, the state could direct the Commissioner of the Department of Housing (DOH) to conduct a study on short-term rentals which will analyze their impact on the

housing market, as well as their economic impact and how they may contribute to the displacement of residents.

- **Scaled Housing Incentives – Further Clarification**

The need for housing is a significant issue across the state of Connecticut, affecting every municipality in various ways. To address this challenge effectively, the state should implement incentives tailored to municipalities of differing sizes. Larger municipalities cannot be expected to shoulder the entire responsibility for housing development. By establishing programs that support municipalities of various sizes, all local governments will have the opportunity to contribute to housing solutions in a meaningful way.

## Human Services

- Support for CCM’s “Young People First,” Report

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the 119K Commission with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) published their report titled “Young People First.” This report is a comprehensive plan to tackle the growing crisis of disconnected youth in Connecticut. It is imperative that the State of Connecticut consider adopting and implementing these findings and recommendations to address this pressing issue.

## Judiciary

- Cap on Municipal Liability

The South Central Regional Council of Governments asks that the state examine a municipal liability cap. As municipalities continue to be targeted with costly litigation, it stands to reason that municipal funds would be better served elsewhere.

## Planning and Development

- Increased Regional Cooperation

The Council of Governments plays a vital role in supporting its member municipalities. As new policy challenges arise, there is greater opportunity for collaboration across the region. To maintain a COG’s ability to serve as a valuable resource for these efforts, it is crucial for the State to continue providing sufficient funding to Councils of Governments.

- Online Publication of Legal Notices by Municipalities

To save money and enhance circulation, municipalities should be allowed to publish legal notices online. This shift will reduce costs for municipalities and align with other state agencies that have already begun this transition.

## Public Safety & Security

- Enforcement Against Street Takeovers & Illegal Vehicle Use

The South Central Regional Council of Governments asks the state to pass Senate Bill No. 337 from the 2024 session, aimed at addressing street takeovers and illegal use of ATVs and dirt bikes. Previously proposed legislation provided essential resources to municipalities, including grants for enforcement efforts, enhanced local authority to penalize and address these activities.

## Transportation

- Expanded Support for Shore Line East Commuter Rail Services

To enhance regional connectivity and support economic growth, the state could consider expanding support for Shore Line East commuter rail services. Increasing service frequency and coverage will improve accessibility, reduce traffic congestion, and provide greater convenience for commuters across Connecticut's shoreline.