



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

Meeting Notice & Agenda
South Central Regional MPO and COG
Wednesday May 22, 2024 – 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/86302826371>

Call-In Number: +1-929-205-6099 / Meeting ID: 863 0282 6371

- 1 **Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2 **Adopt Minutes of April 24, 2024 SCRCOG Meeting (motion)** Pages 2- 5
- 3 **Treasurer’s Report for month ending April 30, 2024 (motion)**
- 4 **MPO Business**
 - a) Adopt Resolution to Approve FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment Thirty-Six (motion) Pages 6 - 14
 - b) Adopt Resolution to Approve FTA Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors Program Priorities (motion) Pages 15 - 16
 - c) Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report
 - d) Transportation Staff Report
 - e) Greater New Haven Transit District Report
 - f) CT Rides Report
- 5 **COG Business**
 - a) Approval of 2024 South Central Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update (motion) Page 17
 - b) Approval of Proposed FY 25 Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan (motion) Pages 18 - 20
 - c) Approval of Proposed SCRCOG FY 2024-25 Budget (motion) Pages 21 -25
 - d) Executive Director’s Report
 - e) Regional Planning Staff Report
 - f) Regional Planning Commission May Action Table Page 26,27
 - g) REX Development Report Page 28
 - h) Sustainable CT Update
 - i) Congressional Reports
 - j) State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST
 - k) DEMHS Report
- 6 **Recommend Appointment of Interim Executive Director effective July 1, 2024 (motion)**
- 7 **Regional Cooperation/ Other Business**
- 8 **Adjournment**

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

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

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

www.scrkog.org T (203) 234-7555 F (203) 234-9850 camento@scrcog.org



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

TO: SCRCOG Board Members
FROM: Mayor Lauren Garrett, Secretary
DATE: May 15, 2024
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Board Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2024

Present:

Bethany First Selectwoman Paula Cofrancesco, **Chair**
Branford First Selectman James Cosgrove
East Haven Mayor Joseph Carfora
Guilford First Selectman Matthew Hoey
Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett, **Secretary**
Madison First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, **Vice Chair**
Meriden Acting City Manager Emily Holland
Milford Mayor Anthony Giannattasio
New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker
North Branford Town Manager Michael Downes
North Haven First Selectman Michael Freda
Orange First Selectman James Zeoli, **Immediate Past Chair**
Wallingford Mayor Vincent Cervoni
West Haven Mayor Dorinda Borer, **Treasurer**

SCRCOG Staff Carl Amento, Laura Francis, Christopher Rappa, James Rode, Stephanie Camp, Tatum Thomas, Amealia Maynard

Guests:

Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg, *REX Development*; Jen Pacacha, *CT Department of Transportation*; Mario Marrero, *Greater New Haven Transit District*; Al Carbone and Mike Anderson, *Avangrid*; Pamela Roach, *SCRCOG Solid Waste & Recycling Consultant*, Lou Mangini, *Office of U.S. Senator Rosa DeLauro*; Jameson Foulke, *Office of U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy*; Ellen Graham, *Office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal*; Brian O'Connor, *CCM*; Nan Birdwhistell, *Murtha Cullina*; Nicole Velardi, *DEMHS*; Charles Grady, *FBI Public Relations*; Dr. Lorenzo Boyd, *University of New Haven*; Ronnell Higgins, *Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection*

NOTE: The March SCRCOG Board meeting was a hybrid meeting

1. Call to order and Introductions.

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

2. Presentation: 2024 Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

Barbara Malmberg gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2024 Update. Malmberg reviewed demographics, economic growth, and key sectors: healthcare, higher education, bioscience, manufacturing, arts, culture and tourism, and entrepreneurship. She also reported on QuantumCT, ClimateHaven, and regional progress: Regional Sector Partnerships, SCRCOG Housing

Committee, high-speed broadband, Transportation, Arvinas & Alexion expansion, and Sustainable CT certification, as well as the challenges faced by the region in 2024: financial, population & workforce, diversity, sustainability, and aging infrastructure.

3. Adopt Minutes of March 27, 2024 SCRCOG Meeting (motion)

Chair Cofrancesco referred to the minutes of the SCRCOG Meeting March 27, 2024, which were included in the agenda packet. Motion made by Mayor Garrett and seconded by First Selectman Freda. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report for month ending March 31, 2024 (acceptance)

Mayor Borer reported that as of March 31, 2024, SCRCOG had \$2.65 million in total assets of which \$1.4 million was in cash and investments. There was \$197,000 due from the CT DOT and \$57,000 was due from DEMHS. All expenses appeared to be appropriate for the one-month period. Mayor Garrett made a motion to accept and First Selectman Hoey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. MPO Business

a. 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Thirty-Five (motion)

First Selectman Cosgrove, Chairman of the Transportation Committee reviewed the amendment, which had been approved by the Transportation Committee, and made a motion to approve. First Selectman Hoey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

First Selectman Cosgrove reported that the Transportation Committee considered and approved three resolutions: (1) the Ozone Air Quality Conformity Resolution, (2) the PM 2.5 Air Quality Conformity Resolution, and (3) the 2025-2028 TIP Resolution. Cosgrove reported that all three resolutions were approved unanimously by the committee. For the Ozone Air Quality Conformity Resolution, a motion was made by Mayor Garrett and seconded by First Selectman Hoey. Regarding the PM 2.5 Air Quality Conformity Resolution, a motion was made by Mayor Garrett and seconded by First Selectman Hoey. Regarding the 2025-2028 TIP Resolution, a motion was made by Mayor Garrett and seconded by First Selectman Freda.

c. Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report

Deputy Director Francis advised that the kick-off for the Regional Bike/Ped Plan begins this week. Francis also noted that the data collection phase continues for the UPWP studies and reminded all CEOs that they may be asked for information or to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Study. Francis reported SCRCOG had the first meeting for the on-boarding process Francis also mentioned that there are still vacancies for the SCRCOG staff positions of Highway Safety Specialist, Transportation Planner, and Project Manager.

d. Transportation Staff Report

James Rode, Principal Transportation Planner, reported LOTCIP received two new applications, one submitted by the Town of Woodbridge, a result of a transportation study. The Town of Guilford received their Commitment to Fund letter. New Haven has submitted final design plans for their project. Rode also reported they received 14 applications for the Section 5310 Grant Program which provides funding for senior center buses. Tatum Thomas, GIS/Data Manager, reported that if a municipality uses something other than New England GO to gather personnel data, they should provide SCRCOG with the data and source.

e. Greater New Haven Transit District Report

Mario Marrero reported that Municipal Grant applications are due by May 15th. The new Regional Rides Program has a reduced cost per trip which will allow for additional trips 24x7 which now includes Sundays. There have been approximately 15 trips per day. The top five towns were New Haven, Hamden, West Haven, North Haven, and Branford. The DOT has received two electric vehicles. There will be 22 gas vehicles arriving soon.

6. Presentation: A Shared Vision To Reduce The Incarceration Rate While Making Communities Safer And Stronger

Charles Grady from the FBI and Dr. Lorenzo Boyd from University of New Haven gave a presentation on re-entry from prison into the workplace.

7. COG Business

a. FY 2023-24 Budget Revision #6 (motion)

Chair Cofrancesco made a motion to approve the Revision at the Board level and waive the lack of an Executive Committee approval and all were in favor. Executive Director Amento advised there is \$25,000 being added to the budget for the CTDOT Active Transportation Microgrant Program. Motion made by Mayor Garrett and seconded by First Selectman Hoey. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to extend an agreement with Brian Miller for FY 2023-24 Regional Services Grant-funded Consultant Services

Chair Cofrancesco made a motion to waive the lack of Executive Committee Executive approval and all were in favor. Mayor Garrett made a motion to table this item this item. The motion was seconded by First Selectman Lyons. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Amento advised that SCRCOG currently has 6 active employees and 4 vacancies. Amento also referred to the Newsletter on Cyber Security, Solid Waste and Recycling and an upcoming meeting hosted by the Grants Consultants.

d. Regional Planning Staff Report

Stephanie Camp, Senior Regional Planner, reported that meetings are being held with all municipal planners.

e. Regional Planning Commission April Action Table

Chair Cofrancesco referred to the attached Action Table.

f. Sustainable CT Update

Deputy Director Francis reported SCRCOG has received approval to have Fellow Jackie Flaherty assigned to SCRCOG to work with all municipalities on the Sustainable CT applications. The start date will be announced within the next week.

g. REX Development Report

Barbara Malmberg noted that REX had provided a spreadsheet of new businesses that have opened along with a new businesses guide. These will be provided to all municipalities, town halls, libraries and hotels in the next week.

h. Congressional Reports

Ellen Graham reported that the applications for Congressionally Directed Spending Program had closed on the U.S. Senate side as of April 14th. Lou Mangini reported that such funding requests for the House side will not close until late in FY 25. There is a possibility that non-profits will not be able to apply for the House spending program this year. Lou also suggested municipalities think of other municipal-driven projects that they will need funding for.

i. State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST

Brian O'Connor reported on several of the bills in a distributed CCM report including House Bill 5347 – School Construction, Senate Bill 452-- Board of Assessment Appeals, House Bill 5335-- Middle Housing, and Senate Bill 293-- Solid Waste,

j. DEMHS Report

Nicole Velardi reported that the Emergency Management Symposium was successful. The Migrant Response Planning workshop has been canceled due to low registration. For any town that participates in the Emergency Management Performance Grid (EMPG Grant), the 2020 reimbursements are due to DEMHS by May 31st. Towns are also able to apply for EMPG funding for EOC upgrades or Emergency Shelter upgrades. However, you cannot apply for both. Applications are due May 15th. The Homeland Security Grant Program memoranda need to be signed and returned to DEMHS by June 30th. The U.S. Preparedness Grants are open for applications due to DEMHS by June 3rd. The REPT By-laws update process is continuing. The next REPT meeting will be held on May 17th in Bethany.

8. Regional Cooperation/Other Business

First Selectman Freda advised that in surrounding communities you may see Be Kind signs. Ken Engleman may reach out to see if you would like these signs.

9. Adjournment

First Selectman Hoey made a motion to adjourn. First Selectman Freda seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Lauren Garrett, *Secretary*

South Central Regional Council of Governments
2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
Amendment Number 36

Project 0043-0143 PLANNING FOR ROADWAY IMPROVS TO ADDRESS FLOODING

Changes Amendment 36 adds a new project to conduct the planning phase for roadway improvements at the intersection of Route 142 and Route 337 in East Haven to alleviate existing flooding issues. Project will be accomplished using available PROTECT Formula Program funds.

Project 0061-0154 FARMINGTON CANAL TRAIL CROSSING IMPRVMENTS

Changes Amendment 36 adjusts funding for the Construction phase.

Reason This action is necessary based on a revised cost estimate.

Project 0083-0275 DRAINAGE & OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Changes Amendment 36 moves FD and ROW from FY24 to FY25

Reason This action is necessary based on a revised project schedule.

Project 0092-0696 Rehab Bridge #00333 rte34 o/ Route 1 and MNRR

Changes Amendment 36 moves FD and ROW from FY24 to FY25

Reason This action is necessary based on a revised project schedule.

Project 0156-0187 DRAINAGE STUDY TO ADDRESS FLOOD PRONE AREA

Changes Amendment 36 removes PROTECT Formula Program funds as this area will no longer be studied under a federally funded project. There is an existing project (156-186) in this same are and decisions made during construction could effect drainage. CTDOT will revisit this area and determine if the flooding is still a problem after the construction project is completed.

Project 0170-3732 STATEWIDE TDM: NY-NJ-CT MODERATE

Changes Amendment 36 adds a new project to provide funds for Statewide Transportation Demand Management (TDM) project (NY-NJ-CT moderate portion) for the period 07/01/2024-06/30/2025.

Using selected contractors, CTDOT will market, educate and provide outreach to individuals and employers in support of CTDOT's statewide Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program under the brand name CTrides.

South Central Regional Council of Governments
 FFY2021-FFY2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment 36

State Project #0043-0143
Municipality East Haven

SCRCOG # 2024-A36-0
AQ Code X6
 Proposed

Project Name PLANNING FOR ROADWAY IMPROVS TO ADDRESS FLOODING

Description Planning phase for roadway improvements at the intersection of Route 142 and Route 337 in East Haven to alleviate existing flooding issues.

Current TIP Funding (In Thousands)

Proposed TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
PRFP	PL	Federal				120	
		State				30	
PRPL		Federal				280	
		State				70	
TIP Funds	\$500		0	0	0	500	0

Amendment Notes

FY21 TIP Amend 36 adds a new project

South Central Regional Council of Governments
 FFY2021-FFY2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment 36

State Project #0061-0154
Municipality Hamden

SCRCOG # 2022_A12_8
AQ Code X6
 Proposed

Project Name FARMINGTON CANAL TRAIL CROSSING IMPRVMNTS

Description The Farmington Canal Heritage Trail (FCHT) - At Grade Crossing Improvement Phase 1 project will construct safety upgrades at eight existing locations where the trail crosses local streets in Hamden and New Haven

Current TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
TAPNH	CON	Federal				1,040	
		Local				260	
Total Cost	\$1,300		0	0	0	1,300	0

Proposed TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
TAP-FLEX	CON	Federal				257	
		Local				64	
TAPNH		Federal				1,069	
		Local				267	
TIP Funds	\$1,657		0	0	0	1,657	0

Amendment Notes

FY21 TIP Amend 12 adds a new project, FY21 TIP Amend 36 adjusts funding

South Central Regional Council of Governments
 FFY2021-FFY2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment 36

State Project #0083-0275
Municipality Milford

SCRCOG # 2022-A22-6
AQ Code X7

Proposed

Project Name DRAINAGE & OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

Description Resolve recurring flooding on US Route 1 in Milford by upgrading and extending drainage network. Construct left-turn lanes at intersection of Schoolhouse Road and replace traffic signals

Current TIP Funding (In Thousands)							
<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
NHPP	PD	Federal			680		
		State			170		
	FD	Federal				600	
		State				150	
	ROW	Federal				40	
		State				10	
	CON	Federal					5,200
		State					1,300
Total Cost	\$8,150		0	0	0	850	800
							6,500

Proposed TIP Funding (In Thousands)							
<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
NHPP	PD	Federal			680		
		State			170		
	FD	Federal					600
		State					150
	ROW	Federal					40
		State					10
	CON	Federal					5,200
		State					1,300
TIP Funds	\$8,150		0	0	0	850	0
							7,300

Amendment Notes

FY21 Amend 22 add a new project. FY21 Amend 32 adjusts CON funds. FY21 TIP amend 36 moves FD and ROW from FY24 to FY25

South Central Regional Council of Governments
 FFY2021-FFY2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment 36

State Project #0092-0696
Municipality New Haven

SCRCOG # 2022-A17-1
AQ Code X6
 Proposed

Project Name Rehab Bridge #00333 rte34 o/ rte 1 and MNRR

Description Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 00333 carrying Route 34 over U.S. Route 1 and MNRR in New Haven.

Current TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>	
NHPP-BRX	PD	Federal		884				
		State		221				
	FD	Federal				651		
		State				163		
	ROW	Federal				40		
		State				10		
BRFP	CON	Federal					13,280	
		State					3,320	
Total Cost	\$18,569		0	0	1,105	0	864	16,600

Proposed TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>	
NHPP-BRX	PD	Federal		884				
		State		221				
	FD	Federal					651	
		State					163	
	ROW	Federal					40	
		State					10	
BRFP	CON	Federal					13,280	
		State					3,320	
TIP Funds	\$18,569		0	0	1,105	0	0	17,464

Amendment Notes

FY21 TIP Amend 17 adds new project, FY21 TIP amend 36 moves FD and ROW from FY24 to FY25

South Central Regional Council of Governments
 FFY2021-FFY2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment 36

State Project #0156-0187
Municipality West Haven

SCRCOG # 2023-A32-1
AQ Code X6
 Proposed

Project Name DRAINAGE STUDY TO ADDRESS FLOOD PRONE AREA

Description Drainage study to provide alternatives to address a flood prone area on Route 122 in West Haven by the exit 43 off-ramp of I-95

Current TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
PRPL	PL	Federal				280	
		State				70	
Total Cost	\$350		0	0	0	350	0

Proposed TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
PRPL	PL	Federal				0	
		State				0	
TIP Funds	\$0		0	0	0	0	0

Amendment Notes

FY21 TIP Amend 32 adds new project, FY21 TIP Amend 36 deletes project from TIP

South Central Regional Council of Governments
 FFY2021-FFY2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment 36

State Project #0170-3732

SCRCOG # 2024-A36-1

Municipality Statewide

AQ Code

Proposed

Project Name STATEWIDE TDM: NY-NJ-CT MODERATE

Description Provide funds for Statewide Transportation Demand Management (TDM) project (NY-NJ-CT moderate portion) for the period 07/01/2024-06/30/2025;

Current TIP Funding (In Thousands)

Proposed TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
CMAQ	OTH	Federal				2,092	
		State				523	
TIP Funds	\$2,615		0	0	0	2,615	0

Amendment Notes

FY21 TIP Amend 36 adds a new project



Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Fiscal Year 2021-Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Thirty Six

- Whereas:* U.S. Department of Transportation “Metropolitan Planning Regulations” (23 *CFR* 450) prescribe that each metropolitan planning organization maintain a financially constrained multi-modal transportation improvement program consistent with a *State Implementation Plan for Air Quality (SIP)* conforming to both U.S. Environmental Protection Administration-established air quality guidelines and *SIP*-established mobile source emissions budgets; and
- Whereas:* The Council, per 23 *CFR* 450.324 and in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) and public transit operators and relying upon financial constraints offered by ConnDOT, adopted a *Fiscal Year 2021-Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Improvement Program* on September 23, 2020, after finding the *Program* conforming per U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (U.S. EPA) final conformity rule (40 *CFR* 51 and 93) and relevant Connecticut Department of Transportation air quality conformity determinations: *Air Quality Conformity Reports: Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program* and the Region’s *Metropolitan Transportation Plans—2023 to 2050, (April, 2023)*; and
- Whereas:* The Council, on *September 23, 2020*, indicated that periodic *Program* adjustment or amendment was possible; and
- Whereas:* Projects referenced in the *Program* amendment (below) are consistent with the region’s metropolitan transportation plan *Metropolitan Transportation Plans—2023 to 2050, (April, 2023)*; and
- Whereas:* Council *Public Participation Guidelines: Transportation Planning* have been observed during the development of the proposed *Program* amendment (below); and
- Whereas:* By agreement between the Council and the Connecticut Department of Transportation, public involvement activities carried out by the South Central Regional Council of Governments in response to U.S. Department of Transportation metropolitan planning requirements are intended to satisfy the requirements associated with development of a *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program* and/or its amendment; and
- Whereas:* Council of Governments’ review of transportation goals, projects and opportunities may result in further adjustment or amendment of the *Program*.



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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Fiscal Year 2021-Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Thirty Six (Continued)

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

The Program Amendment *Thirty Six* shall be transmitted to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, for inclusion in the *State Transportation Improvement Program*

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 **May 22, 2024**

Date May 22, 2024

By: _____
Mayor Lauren Garrett, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

FFY 2023 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities.

Whereas: The State of Connecticut has received annual Federal Section 5310 funding for transportation of seniors and individuals with disabilities, since 1975; and

Whereas: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, reauthorizes surface transportation programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 through FY 2026; and

Whereas: Funding is apportioned based on Urbanized Areas (UZAs). The New Haven UZA includes the South Central Region and portions of the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) to allow funds for capital and operating expenses; and

Whereas; \$755,601 has been appropriated to the New Haven UZA for FY23, of which a minimum of 55% must be used for capital purchases; and

Whereas: SCRCOG and RiverCOG, have reviewed all applications from interested non-profit organizations, and prioritized projects based on criteria provided by CTDOT; and

Whereas: Agreement has been reached among the above mentioned parties on the priorities for capital purchases and operating funds after review of applications from municipalities, interested non-profit organizations, and area paratransit operators, based on ranking criteria provided by CTDOT



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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

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

That the South Central Regional Council of Governments adopts the following 5310 priorities:

Traditional Capital Funding

1. Mary Wade
2. Guilford Senior Center
3. Goodwill Industries
4. Marrakech
5. Milford Senior Center
6. Meriden Senior Center
7. Allie's Dream

Nontraditional Operating

1. Allie's Dream
2. ALS United Ct
3. ETD – Mobility Mgmt.
4. ETD- Feeder Route
5. ETD – Taxi Voucher
6. GNHTD
7. Kennedy Collective

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 **May 22, 2024**

Date May 22, 2024

By: _____
Mayor Lauren Garrett, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments



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Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Approving the 2024 South Central Connecticut Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update

Whereas: South Central Connecticut aims to develop the region's resiliency, diversity, and community while striving for the creation and implementation of business-friendly policies and projects that result in a more attractive business environment and higher quality of life for its residents;

Whereas: South Central Connecticut is a designated Economic Development District (EDD) through the US Economic Development Administration (US EDA);

Whereas: South Central Connecticut Regional Economic Development Corporation a.k.a. REX Development is responsible for developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy every five years that is amended annually, as required by US EDA;

Whereas: The purpose of the 2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update is to create a cohesive plan for the entire region to promote economic activity and to prepare for potential economic disruptions; and

Whereas: The plan was developed over the past year by a broad spectrum of regional stakeholders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

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

That the *2024 South Central Connecticut: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update* is hereby approved.

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 May 22, 2024.

Date: May 22, 2024

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

FY 2024-2025 REGIONAL SERVICES GRANT (RSG)
Spending Plan and Proposed Summary of Consultant-Supported Work
May 22, 2024

Source of Project Funding:

CT OPM Regional Services Grant (RSG)	\$948,502
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FY 2024-25 Budget

Line Item	Budget
1. Staff Labor and Expenses	\$415,502
2. GIS Consultant	\$13,000
3. UConn MPA Interns - 2	\$34,500
4. Capitol Region Purchasing Council Dues	\$7,500
5. Regional Planning Consultants	\$177,500
6. Municipal Services Consultants	\$300,500
Total	\$948,502

Details of Regional Planning Consultants (#5 above)

5a. Affordable Housing Part 1	
Consultant: David Fink (continuing)	\$41,500
<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 interacting with municipal staff to further their housing goals. This year we will also offer bus tours of successful developments.</i>	

5b. Affordable Housing Part 2	
Consultant: Benjamin Fink (continuing)	\$48,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue to assist its member municipalities in the facilitation/promotion of resident education/communication through community-wide education programs and trainings.</i>	

5c. Regional Data Dashboard	
Consultant: UMass Center for Economic Development (CED)	\$25,000
<i>CED in conjunction with SCRCOG staff will develop a web-based Data Dashboard with interactive features and graphing/mapping capabilities useful to the region and its municipalities.</i>	

5d. Regional Tree Canopy Mapping	
Consultant: UVM (University of Vermont) Geospatial Analysis Lab	\$38,000
<p><i>Drawing upon data from the State of CT's spring 2023 flyover, which will not be processed until June 2024, UVM will create a Regional Tree Study of the SCRCOG Region. The current study will be comparable to the 2018 SCRCOG Regional Tree Mapping Study also developed by UVM. SCRCOG will coordinate with the Yale School of the Environment (YSE,) sharing our Tree Mapping Study as we did with our 2018 Regional Tree Study with YSE, and, in turn, YSE will share their NASA-funded Heat Island Study of the region. Both studies will assist municipal and regional planners with determining where the planting of shade trees and other measures could be taken to mitigate extreme heat and its deleterious effect on human health.</i></p>	

5e. MS4 Mapping	
Consultant: To Be Selected	\$25,000
<p><i>The proposed Regional MS4 Inventory seeks to take a geographic inventory of all MS4 assets within the SCRCOG region and develop a comprehensive database of locations, conditions, and characteristics of MS4 infrastructure. The purpose of the database will be to create an authoritative and standardized inventory of all MS4 assets in the region to allow for better prioritization of improvements, maintenance, and coordination between municipalities for stormwater resilience.</i></p>	

Details of Municipal Services Consultants (#6 above)

6a. Municipal Grants Assistance	
Municipal Grants Consultants: Juliet Burdelski/Renata Bertotti (continuing)	\$60,000
<p><i>SCRCOG will continue providing grants assistance to its member municipalities by offering: (1) grants training and workshops with the Regional Grants Working Group; and (2) research and information to member municipalities of relevant municipal grants opportunities; and (3) providing individualized grants writing and administration assistance to SCRCOG member municipalities.</i></p>	

6b. Solid Waste & Recycling, Food Waste Diversion and Composting	
Consultant: Pam Roach (continuing)	\$70,000
<p><i>SCRCOG will continue offering guest speakers, presentations, workshops, 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></p>	

6c. Information Technology/ Cybersecurity	
Consultant: Novus Insight (continuing)	\$30,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue offering cyberawareness training for SCRCOG municipal members' employees. Currently, 2010 municipal employees are involved in the training. The emphasis for the coming year and beyond will be on implementation of the OPM \$2.2 million Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant funding for Regional Cybersecurity Assessment and Protection.</i>	

6d. Economic Development	
Consultant: REX Development (continuing)	\$90,000
<i>In collaboration with the South Central Regional Council of Governments, REX Development will offer free on-call economic development services under SCRCOG's 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: On-Call Staff Coverage: when municipal 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 assistance with the Local Economic Development Processes.</i>	

6e. Regional Energy Initiative	
Consultant: People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE)	\$50,500
<i>The SCRCOG consultant and staff will share resources and best practices with municipal Energy Task Forces to develop programs and take advantage of existing programs that will result in municipal energy efficiency savings and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.</i>	



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 Budget
Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)**

Whereas: The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) By-Laws prescribe that the Council shall review and approve SCRCOG budgets, and

Whereas: SCRCOG’s Executive Committee has reviewed and recommends acceptance of the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget totaling \$8,412,550.

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

That a Fiscal Year 2025 Budget is adopted (copy attached), and

That Fiscal Year 2025 SCRCOG municipal dues are established at 43 cents per capita, per the Connecticut Department of Public Health’s July 2021 population estimates.

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 SCRCOG on May 22, 2024.

Date: May 22, 2024

By: _____
Mayor Lauren Garrett, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Executive Director Carl Amento, Deputy Director Laura Francis, and Finance Director Christopher Rappa

TO: SCRCOG Board

RE: Proposed FY 2024-25 SCRCOG Budget

DATE: May 15, 2024

Below are highlights of the Proposed FY 2024-25 SCRCOG Budget.

- **Total Budget Increases by about \$942,500**

The proposed FY 2024-25 budget totals \$8,412,550 as compared to a FY 2023-24 budget of \$7,470,044

- **Municipal Dues**

The proposed budget includes a one cent dues increase. This increase will allow SCRCOG to provide match for and utilize federal transportation funding without creating unsustainably large carryovers of unused funds.

- **Office of Policy and Management - Regional Services Grant (RSG)**

It is expected that RSG funding will remain stable at \$948,502. RSG funds, municipal dues, and competitively awarded grants received by SCRCOG, account for all non-federal revenue to SCRCOG. RSG funds are used for non-transportation regional planning, municipal shared services, and special projects.

- **Transportation Planning – Federal Funds and State Match**

FY 2024-25 is the second year of the two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). CTDOT is providing its 10% match for both current-year funds and carryover funds.

- **Operating Expenses Increasing by about \$156,000**

Total operating expenses¹ are increasing from \$1,650,583 this year to a proposed \$1,806,217 in FY 2024-25. The proposed budget includes a 2.6% general wage increase for all positions except the Director of Regional Planning (recently filled) and the Highway Safety Specialist position (salary determined by grant from CTDOT)². The remaining increases are largely due to the increased office rent³, computer equipment maintenance⁴, software subscription costs⁵, and legal fees⁶.

¹ Includes Salaries, Benefits, Travel, Computer Supplies & Software, Rent and General Office Expenses

² New positions that were pro-rated in last year's budget (due to start date) are budgeted for a full year

³ This is the first full year of the increased rent related to the office expansion

⁴ Includes general computer/server maintenance

⁵ Includes Deltek Accounting Software

⁶ Including, but not limited to, review of contracts and retirement plan documents

**South Central Regional Council of Governments
Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Summary**

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>FY 24 Budget</i>	<i>FY 25 Budget</i>
Municipal Contribution		
Municipal Contribution - Dues	239,600	245,300
Municipal Contribution - RPIP Match	175,000	636,188
Fund Balance	1,703	52,657
Committed Fund Balance	33,586	69,519
Transportation Planning		
U.S. DOT	1,394,144	1,714,416
U.S. DOT - Carryover	507,454	683,790
U.S. DOT - Highway Safety	169,718	239,472
CTDOT	174,268	214,302
CTDOT - Carryover	63,432	85,474
CTDOT - Active Transportation Microgrants Program	25,000	0
CTDOT - LOTCIP	171,611	110,291
Regional Planning		
CT OPM - Regional Services Grant (RSG)	948,502	948,502
CT OPM - RSG - Previous Fiscal Year	0	8,805
CT OPM - RPIP (Cybersecurity)	2,220,066	2,205,066
CT Secretary of the State - Regional Election Monitor	3,691	3,691
CT DEEP - SMM Grant	112,800	63,406
CT DEEP - RWA Grant	0	353,000
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - CARES Act Funds	195,100	0
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - 4CT Funds	8,390	0
US EPA - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	999,479	749,672
Other		
Investment Income	20,000	20,000
Retiree Health Insurance	6,500	9,000
TOTAL	7,470,044	8,412,550

**South Central Regional Council of Governments
Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget Summary**

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>FY 24 Budget</i>	<i>FY 25 Budget</i>
Salaries	864,014	988,736
Benefits	440,916	438,470
Travel	12,500	14,700
Computer Supplies & Software	55,300	38,100
Rent	152,900	182,700
General Office Expenses	124,953	143,512
Transportation Consultants	1,309,658	1,971,378
Other Consultants	1,089,157	2,298,380
Passthrough Grants	180,105	268,105
Capital	25,000	0
Contingency	0	0
Transportation - Reserved	171,449	108,112
LOTICIP - Reserved	128,379	0
Highway Safety - Reserved	69,754	95,156
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved	36,714	0
SMM Grant - Reserved	16,805	673
RWA Grant - Reserved	0	50,000
CPRG - Reserved	747,375	245,650
RPIP (Cybersecurity) - Reserved	2,045,066	1,568,879
Total	7,470,044	8,412,550

Municipal Dues

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Municipal Dues

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>FY 2024-25 Dues</i>	
	<i>CT DPH Population ⁽¹⁾</i>	<i>Per Capita (rounded to \$100)</i>
		<i>\$ 0.43</i>
<i>Bethany</i>	5,288	\$ 2,300
<i>Branford</i>	28,176	12,100
<i>East Haven</i>	27,804	12,000
<i>Guilford</i>	22,031	9,500
<i>Hamden</i>	60,923	26,200
<i>Madison</i>	17,619	7,600
<i>Meriden</i>	60,517	26,000
<i>Milford</i>	52,390	22,500
<i>New Haven</i>	135,081	58,100
<i>North Branford</i>	13,498	5,800
<i>North Haven</i>	24,169	10,400
<i>Orange</i>	14,246	6,100
<i>Wallingford</i>	44,194	19,000
<i>West Haven</i>	55,294	23,800
<i>Woodbridge</i>	9,045	3,900
<i>Total</i>	570,275	\$ 245,300

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

May 2024 RPC Action Table

Ref. #	Received	Description	Adjacent RPC Towns	RPC Action
2.1	04/09/2024	Town of Branford: Proposed zoning text amendment to remove Section 7.19.B, Subparagraph 6 – to delete the 20 non-farm event limit.	East Haven, North Branford, Guilford	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning text amendment may generate negative inter-municipal impacts to adjacent towns if the non-farm event borders residential uses in one of those towns and may have an impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.2a	04/10/2024	City of Milford: Proposed zoning text amendment to Section 3.17 – Corridor Design Development District 2 – Devon Center – Naugatuck Avenue: CDD-2	Stratford, Shelton, Orange, West Haven	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.2b	04/11/2024	City of Milford: Proposed zoning text amendment to Article III District Use Regulations, Section 3.6 Design Office Districts; Section 3.6.6 Adaptive Reuse Design District (ARDD)	Stratford, Shelton, Orange, West Haven	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.2c	04/15/2024	City of Milford: Proposed zoning text amendment to Article V, Section 5.1.4, Figure 4.	Stratford, Shelton, Orange, West Haven	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.3a	04/11/2024	City of West Haven: Proposed zoning text amendments to allow a 24-hour convenience store & to allow smoke shops and tobacco stores in specific districts/locations by special permit.	Milford, Orange, New Haven	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.3b	04/30/2024	City of West Haven: Proposed zoning text amendments for: central business signs; signs and billboards; commercial sign standards; and prohibited, exempt and temporary signs.	Milford, Orange, New Haven	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.

2.4a	04/24/2024	Town of Guilford: Proposed zoning text amendment for Design Review	Branford, North Branford, Durham, Madison	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.4b	04/24/2024	Town of Guilford: Proposed zoning text amendment for Exterior Lighting	Branford, North Branford, Durham, Madison	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.4c	04/24/2024	Town of Guilford: Proposed zoning text amendment for Landscaping and Screening	Branford, North Branford, Durham, Madison	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.4d	04/24/2024	Town of Guilford: Proposed zoning text amendment for Financial Guarantee Provisions	Branford, North Branford, Durham, Madison	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.4e	04/24/2024	Town of Guilford: Proposed zoning text amendment for Chairman's Signature	Branford, North Branford, Durham, Madison	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.4f	04/24/2024	Town of Guilford: Proposed zoning text amendment for Short Term Rentals and Vacation Stays	Branford, North Branford, Durham, Madison	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.5	04/26/2024	Town of Hamden: Proposed zoning text amendment to Section 636: Day Care.	Cheshire, Wallingford, North Haven, New Haven, Woodbridge, Bethany	The proposed zoning amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impact to the towns in the South-Central Region nor does there appear to be any impact to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.

May 15, 2024

Dear Chief Elected Officials of SCRCOG,

At the upcoming May SCRCOG meeting, we will seek your approval for the 2024 South Central Connecticut Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Update and Performance Report. The content has not changed significantly since our last presentation in April. If you have any questions or comments regarding the CEDS update, please feel free to let us know.

As the tourism season approaches, Greater New Haven prepares for an influx of visitors. During the April REDFO meeting, Rachel Lenda, the Director of Tourism for the state, presented an ambitious vision for the upcoming season, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and innovation. Additionally, REX and the Town of Branford are taking the lead in hosting the state's listening tour, inviting all tourism-related businesses to share their insights and needs to ensure that state strategies align with community interests. Visit New Haven is actively engaging in the Central Regional Tourism District's brochure swap on May 20th, facilitating the dissemination of information to eager travelers. The arrival of the first of several groups from Lakeland, Florida (next week)—thanks to Avelo's latest destination—marks the beginning of potential partnerships in tourism and economic development. With these events and initiatives underway, Greater New Haven is well-positioned to showcase its diverse offerings and welcome visitors.

In collaboration with the City of New Haven, we recently participated in an exciting downtown tour for Ken Gosselin and Ed Stannard from the Hartford Courant. The tour showcased the area's evolution, highlighting the growing bioscience sector and the numerous housing projects that are either in progress or recently completed. Additionally, the tour included discussions about upcoming projects, including discussions about the Long Wharf Responsible Growth Plan, Hill to Downtown (including visions for Union Station), Downtown Crossing Phase 4, and Union Square, which aims to revitalize the former Church Street South housing complex.

We have tentatively scheduled Jim Gildea, the president of ManufactureCT and Bigelow Tea, for the upcoming REDFO meeting on May 23.

Applications for the CEDAS Best Practices Certification are due by June 30. A Zoom information session will be held on May 23. For more information, visit cedas.org.

Attached is the updated report from CT Data Collaborative on new business starts within the region from June 2018 to March 2024.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Ginny Kozlowski
Executive Director