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Meeting Notice & Agenda Executive Committee

DATE	September 24, 2025	LOCATION	SCRCOG Office	DIAL-IN	unavailable
TIME	9:00 am	MEETING URL	Join the meeting now	MEETING ID	262 142 784 090 6 Passcode: 3Uh79et7

- 1 Call to Order
- 2 Adopt Minutes of, SCRCOG Executive Committee Meeting July 23, 2025 (motion) Page 2
- 3 Recommend Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreement with Zero Gravity Marketing LLC for development of new SCRCOG Website (motion) Page 3
- 4 Recommend Resolution Authorizing Sole Source for Geographic Information System Consultant Services (motion) Page 4
- 5 Recommend Resolution Authorizing Sole Source for Travel and Tourism Consultant Services (motion) Page 5
- 6 Recommend Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply for and Accept a FFY 2026 Highway Safety Specialist Program Grant (motion) Page 6
- 7 Recommend Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Negotiate and Sign a Consultant Agreement for the Municipal Shared Services Study
- 8 Bylaw Revision Status
- 9 Discussion Item: Planning for 2026 Legislative Session and SCRCOG Legislative Agenda
- 10 Appoint Nominating Committee
- 11 Personnel – Director of Regional Planning & Regional Services Resignation
- 12 Draft Legislative Agenda Pages 7-9
- 13 Regional Cooperation/Other Business
- 14 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".

TO: SCRCOG Executive Committee Members
FROM: Mayor Dorinda Borer, *Secretary*
DATE: July 28, 2025
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2025

Present:

East Haven	Mayor Joseph Carfora
Hamden	Mayor Lauren Garrett, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Madison	First Selectman Peggy Lyons, <i>Chair</i>
New Haven	Mayor Justin Elicker
West Haven	Mayor Dorinda Borer
Woodbridge	First Selectman Mica Cardozo, <i>Treasurer</i>

SCRCOG Staff Laura Francis, Christopher Rappa, Joan Paglinco

NOTE: The July SCRCOG Executive Committee meeting was a hybrid meeting

1. **Call to order**

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

2. **Adopt Minutes of June 25, 2025 SCRCOG Executive Committee Meeting (motion)**

Chair Lyons referred to the minutes of the SCRCOG Executive Committee Meeting of June 25, 2025 which were included in the agenda packet on page 2. Motion made by First Selectman Cardozo and seconded by Mayor Garrett. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Recommend Approval of FY 2-025-26 Budget Revision #1 (motion)**

Chair Lyons referred to pages 3-5 of the agenda packet. Motion made by Mayor Carfora and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Recommend Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Agreement for Acceptance of the 2025-26 Regional Services Grant (motion)**

Chair Lyons referred to page 6 of the agenda packet. Motion made by Mayor Garrett and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Regional Cooperation/Other Business**

Chair Lyons discussed the status of the SCRCOG Bylaws

Executive Director Francis suggested adding Public Comments to the agenda under MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) business.

6. **Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Resolution

Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreement with Zero Gravity Marketing LLC for Development of new SCRCOG Website

Whereas: SCRCOG's Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), adopted by the Council on May 28, 2025, identified New MPO / Transportation Website to be developed with consultant support services; and

Whereas: SCRCOG through the Connecticut State Portal solicited price quotes from design and development firms to design, develop and launch a new SCRCOG website; and

Whereas: the Request for Quotes was posted on July 28, 2025, with responses due on August 22, 2025; and

Whereas: After reviewing the proposals received, the SCRCOG selection committee is recommending the selection of Zero Gravity Marketing, LLC.

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

That the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and sign a consulting agreement with Zero Gravity Marketing LLC.

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 September 24, 2025.

Date: September 24, 2025,

By: _____
Mayor Dorinda Borer, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments

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 28, 2025; 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.

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Date: September 24, 2025,

By: _____
Mayor Dorinda Borer, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments

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 28, 2025; 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

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Date: September 24, 2025

By: _____
Mayor Dorinda Borer, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments

Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Apply for and Accept a FFY 2026 Highway Safety Specialist Program Grant

Whereas: SCRCOG completed an update to the Regional Transportation Safety Plan (RTSP) in June 2023;

Whereas: The RTSP identified that a significant number of crashes in the region were the result of behavioral issues;

Whereas: Since Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Highway Safety Office has been assisting SCRCOG with the development of a pilot program to fund a Regional Highway Safety Specialist (the "Program") to provide highway safety programming to municipalities within the region; and

Whereas: The CTDOT Highway Safety Office has allocated \$169,718.38 for FFY 2026 for the Program.

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

That SCRCOG apply for and execute the agreement with the State of Connecticut (the "Agreement") in the amount of \$169,718.38 for the FFY 2026 Highway Safety Program Grant; and

Be It Further Resolved:

That Laura Francis, as 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

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Mayor Dorinda Borer, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments

DRAFT - SCRCOG Legislative Agenda 2026

Adopted: **N/A**

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 large 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

Education

Energy and Technology

Environment

Finance

- Transparency, Efficiency, and Timely Disbursement of State Funding

To enhance the effectiveness of municipal planning and service delivery, the State should improve transparency and efficiency in its funding and contracting processes, while also ensuring that funds are disbursed to municipalities in a timely manner. Current delays and “red tape” often stall or cancel projects, leaving municipalities unable to meet pressing local needs or cover rising costs. By reducing administrative barriers and improving the reliability of funding streams, the State can ensure that municipalities are enabled to plan effectively, maintain fiscal stability, and advance community priorities without unnecessary setbacks.

Government Administration and Elections

- Shortened Early Voting Period

The State of Connecticut recently approved No Excuse Absentee Ballot voting. However, despite these changes, municipalities are still required to have fourteen (14) days of an early voting period. These requirements are not suitable or realistic for municipalities as a variety of operating costs and staffing are required to achieve early voting. Therefore, it is requested that the early voting period be shortened to reflect these changes.

Housing

- Incentives for Municipalities Advancing Zoning Reforms & Affordable Housing

The state of Connecticut should establish a system of incentives and recognition for municipalities that are actively implementing zoning reforms and working to advance affordable housing initiatives. Incentives could take a variety of forms, but this framework would ultimately encourage municipalities to continue pursuing reforms, while recognizing and reinforcing the work already being done.

- Economic Development Incentives for Municipalities Exceeding Affordable Housing Threshold

SCRCOG requests that the State develop a comprehensive incentive framework for municipalities that have already surpassed the affordable housing threshold set under 8-30g. Certain municipalities in our region who exceed the affordability threshold should be supported through alternative incentives that could bolster economic growth. By rewarding municipalities that have met or exceeded housing affordability goals, the state can encourage balanced growth that promotes housing stability and local economic vitality.

Human Services

Judiciary

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.

- Dedicate a Portion of Meals and Beverage Tax Revenue for Tourism

Target a portion of the meals and beverage tax revenue to support municipalities and the Connecticut Office of Tourism. Under the proposal from the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, funding could help assist tourism in Connecticut, as tourism is a vital economic driver for our member municipalities.

Public Safety & Security

- Support Local Fire Marshal Inspections of Multi-Family Dwellings

Assist local fire marshals in conducting inspections of three-or-more family dwellings by allowing inspection to occur every two years rather than annually, unless there is a history of violations, and by permitting qualified third parties to conduct these inspections. Inspections of these properties are often time-consuming, difficult to schedule with absentee or unknown property owners, and increase municipal liability. These changes would ease a massive burden and improve efficiency for many municipalities.

Transportation

- Expand the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Micro-transit Grant Program

Several municipalities in the SCRCOG region have seen strong success in the pilot Micro-transit Grant Program. We recommend that the State expand and sustain this initiative by providing dedicated funding to continue or subsidizing these projects. Ongoing investments will ensure that municipalities can maintain and grow these innovative mobility solutions, which have already demonstrated measurable benefits for residents and communities.