

Meeting Notice & Agenda

South Central Regional MPO and COG

DATE	January 21, 2026	LOCATION	SCRCOG Office	DIAL-IN	+1 929-346-7262 103423992#
TIME	10:00 am	MEETING URL	Teams Link	MEETING ID	234 598 065 221 9
				PASSCODE	Ki9fy6bS

- 1 Call to Order and Introductions
- 2 Adopt Minutes of January 7, 2026 Special SCRCOG Meeting (motion) Pages 2-3
- 3 Treasurer's Report for month ending December 31, 2025 (motion) Pages 4-6
- 4 Presentation – GIS Mandates Public Act 25-33 & Public Act 25-1
Alfredo Herrera & Sarah Hurley, Office of Policy and Management
- 5 MPO Business
 - a) Fiscal Year 2025 – Fiscal Year 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Fourteen (motion) Pages 7-12
 - b) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreements for FY 26 UPWP Consultant Services (motion)
 - c) Transportation Staff Report Page 13
 - d) Greater New Haven Transit District Report
 - e) CT Rides Report
- 6 COG Business
 - a) Nominating Committee Report for Calendar Year 2026 Officers and Committees Page 14
 - b) Election of Officers and Appointment of Committees (motion)
 - c) Acceptance of Gavel by New Chair
 - d) Adopt Resolution to appoint SCRCOG Bank Signatories (motion) Page 15
 - e) Approval of FY 2025-26 Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan Amendment #3 (motion) Pages 16-20
 - f) Approval of FY 2025-26 Budget Revision #3 (motion) Pages 21-23
 - g) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Negotiate and Sign a Consultant Agreement for the Regional Planning & Natural Resources Dashboard (motion)
 - h) Executive Director's Report Pages 24-25
 - i) Regional Planning & Municipal Services Staff Report Pages 26-27
 - j) Regional Planning Commission December and January Action Tables Pages 28-29
 - k) Adoption of 2026 SCRCOG Legislative Agenda (motion) Pages 30-37
 - l) REX Development Report
 - m) Congressional Reports
 - n) State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST
 - o) DEMHS Report Page 38
- 7 Regional Cooperation/Other Business
- 8 Adjournment

TO: SCRCOG Board Members
FROM: Mayor Dorinda Borer, Secretary
DATE: January 7, 2026
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Board Special Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2026

Present:

Bethany	First Selectwoman Carol Goldberg
Branford	First Selectman Joshua Brooks
East Haven	Mayor Joseph Carfora
Guilford	First Selectman Matthew Hoey
Hamden	Mayor Adam Sendroff
Madison	First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, <i>Chair</i>
Meriden	City Manager Brian Daniels
North Branford	Acting Town Manager Rory Burke
North Haven	First Selectman Michael Freda
Wallingford	Mayor Vincent Cervoni

SCRCOG Staff: Laura Francis, Christopher Rappa, James Rode, Brendon Dukett, Kellie Kingston, Colette Kroop, Ian McElwee, Angelina DeBenedet, Sabrina Davis

Guests: Joe Feest, Shirley Kuang, Farian Rabbani

NOTE: The January SCRCOG Board Special Meeting was held virtually.

- 1 Call to Order and Introductions**
Chair Lyons called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.
- 2 Adopt Minutes of SCRCOG Special Meeting December 22, 2025 (motion)**
Chair Lyons referred to the minutes of the SCRCOG Board Meeting on December 22, 2025, included in the agenda packet on pages 2-3. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectwomen Goldberg. The motion passed unanimously.
- 3 Discuss and Approve Preliminary Amendment to the RSG Spending Plan (motion)**
Chair Lyons referred to the presentation and synopsis document shared with Board members ahead of the meeting. Chair Lyons made a motion to approve the Preliminary Amendment outlined in the provided presentation which includes SCRCOG staff recommendations for positions and projects for housing technical assistance and regional solid waste and recycling. The motion was seconded by Mayor Cervoni. A brief discussion followed on the benefit of a SCRCOG position for housing technical assistance and upcoming decision deadlines related to the housing regional plan. It was noted that the job descriptions for the approved positions would be posted promptly and the final spending plan amendment would be approved at the

BETHANY | BRANFORD | EAST HAVEN | GUILFORD | HAMDEN | MADISON | MERIDEN | MILFORD | NEW HAVEN | NORTH BRANFORD
NORTH HAVEN | ORANGE | WALLINGFORD | WEST HAVEN | WOODBRIDGE

next meeting. The motion was called to approve staff recommendations and passed unanimously.

4 **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Mayor Cervoni, seconded by Mayor Carfora, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.

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".

Balance Sheet

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 12/31/2025

Assets

Cash and Investments

Key Bank - Checking Account	374,636.56
State of CT - Short-Term Investment Fund	1,668,822.59

Accounts Receivable

CT Department of Transportation	67,278.81
CT Office of Policy and Management	5,880.00
US EPA - CPRG	14,205.54
CT DEEP – SMM Grant	33,713.24
CT DEEP – RWA Grant	118,323.73
Retiree Health Insurance	1,030.20

Other Assets

Prepaid Expense - UConn MPA Interns	28,076.90
Accrued Leave & Security Deposit	24,968.92
Furniture & Equipment	54,899.00
Right to Use Asset - Real Property	2,841,457.29
Right to Use Asset - Equipment	19,002.78
Amortization	(634,977.85)

Total Assets	4,617,317.71
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable	13,000.00
Payroll Taxes Payable & Accrued Interest	9,049.64
Deferred Revenue - Municipal	149,049.36
Deferred Revenue - OPM	678,897.29
Deferred Revenue - LOTCIP	259,467.08
Deferred Rev. - Other (Election Monitor)	3,690.77
Deferred Revenue – Special Assessment	22,830.00

Total Liabilities	1,254,238.13
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Fund Balance

Fund Balance	955,164.14
Committed Fund Balance	230,174.00
Amount for Accrued Leave	13,306.00
Investment in Equipment	54,899.00
Lease Obligation	2,216,324.36
Change in Fund Balance	11,466.07

Total Fund Balance	3,481,333.57
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	4,617,317.71

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 12/31/2025

Resources	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Municipal - Revenue	20,389.35	100,750.64	393,870.00
Municipal - Special Assessment		142,040.10	375,000.00
CT OPM - Regional Planning	97,210.61	311,314.56	962,502.00
CT OPM - RPIP (Cybersecurity)		142,040.10	181,500.00
CT OPM - Parcel and CAMA Data Grant	5,880.00	37,320.00	1,805,066.00
CT OPM - RPIA Additional Positions			250,000.00
CTDOT - Transportation Planning	95,945.93	568,067.18	2,300,925.00
CTDOT - Highway Safety Grant	12,234.88	74,750.77	169,718.00
CTDOT - LOTCIP	654.03	8,978.77	250,000.00
CTDOT - Active Trans. Microgrants Program		19,599.00	19,599.00
US EPA - CPRG	19,502.66	114,944.51	320,895.00
CT SotS - Regional Election Monitor			3,691.00
CT DEEP - SMM Grant	8,407.95	9,344.88	20,706.00
CT DEEP - RWA Grant	1,046.03	119,461.83	112,500.00
Interest - Revenue	5,480.92	28,060.94	20,000.00
Retiree Health Insurance	2,076.00	11,720.04	20,000.00
Total Resources	268,828.36	1,688,393.32	7,205,972.00

Direct Expenses	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Retiree Health Insurance	2,076.00	11,720.04	20,000.00
Transportation Planning Consultants	35,750.55	205,047.70	1,807,539.00
Land-Use Planning Consultants	8,850.00	18,600.00	137,500.00
Other Consultants	64,449.30	601,668.93	1,439,200.00
Subrecipients	11,237.54	60,330.98	89,599.00
Travel	729.45	4,914.47	17,000.00
Data Processing		5,265.00	9,500.00
Office Supplies		662.20	5,846.00
Subscriptions and Books	85.00	1,101.11	5,800.00
Insurance and Professional Services		1,350.00	35,000.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising	3,401.92	8,252.54	25,300.00
Miscellaneous			1,802.00
Transportation - Reserved			69,745.00
LOTICIP - Reserved			164,125.00
Highway Safety Grant - Reserved			17,240.00
CT OPM (RPIP Grant) - Reserved			1,430,066.00
CT DEEP (SMM Grant) - Reserved			8,175.00
CT DEEP (RWA Grant) - Reserved			6,008.00
US EPA (CPRG) - Reserved			116,164.00
Total Direct Expenses	126,579.76	918,912.97	5,405,609.00

Direct Labor	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Direct Labor - Employees	54,575.30	318,773.99	780,140.00

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 12/31/2025

Overhead	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Indirect Labor - Employees	13,943.50	99,712.81	237,384.00
Employee Benefits	28,180.00	176,569.00	455,789.00
Travel			100.00
Data Processing		8,824.02	34,600.00
Rent	15,962.06	108,857.72	188,100.00
Telephone and Internet	955.92	2,564.52	10,600.00
Office Supplies	846.99	1,475.03	3,200.00
Equipment Maintenance	624.81	22,705.34	40,500.00
Subscriptions and Books			500.00
Insurance and Professional Services	3,601.35	18,506.85	47,800.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising			1,150.00
Miscellaneous		25.00	500.00
Total Overhead	64,114.63	439,240.29	1,020,223.00
Total Operating Expenses	245,269.69	1,676,927.25	7,205,972.00

2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - Amendment Number 14

Project # 0092-0689: Interstate 46/ Route 69 Improvements (Phase 2)

Cost: \$38,942,400

Action: Rename project to reflect renumbering of exits and funding increase

Summary: Phase 2 improvements at Route 15 Exit 59 interchange in New Haven and Woodbridge to address safety and operational deficiencies. Improve safety, mobility, and connectivity; reduce crash rates.

Includes:

- Acceleration/deceleration lane improvements for all ramps
- New loop ramp (Route 69 SB → Route 15 NB)
- Bridge No. 00771 replacement and Bridge No. 00772 widening
- Traffic signal upgrades on Route 69

Project #0170-3795: Install Electronic Vehicle Charging Stations- Phase 1A (Design Build)

Cost: \$8,883,496.17

Action: Add new Design-Build project for EV charging stations under NEVI Program

Summary: Installation of Level 3 DC Fast Charging stations at nine locations along Connecticut's Alternative Fuel Corridors. Expand EV infrastructure and support statewide clean transportation goals.

Includes:

- Minimum of four DCFC ports per site
- Vendor-owned, maintained, and operated stations
- CTDOT oversight and administration

Project #0173-0560: Replace Traffic Control Signals at Various Locations

Cost: \$3,346,000

Action: Add new project. Full replacement or partial upgrade or removal of traffic control signals to meet current standards at various locations in District 3.

Summary: Full replacement or partial upgrade or removal of traffic control signals to meet current standards at various locations in District 3.

Includes:

Full replacement:

- 014-239: Branford - I-95 Ramps at Leetes Island Road and Gould Lane
- 014-214: Branford - US Route 1 at North Main Street

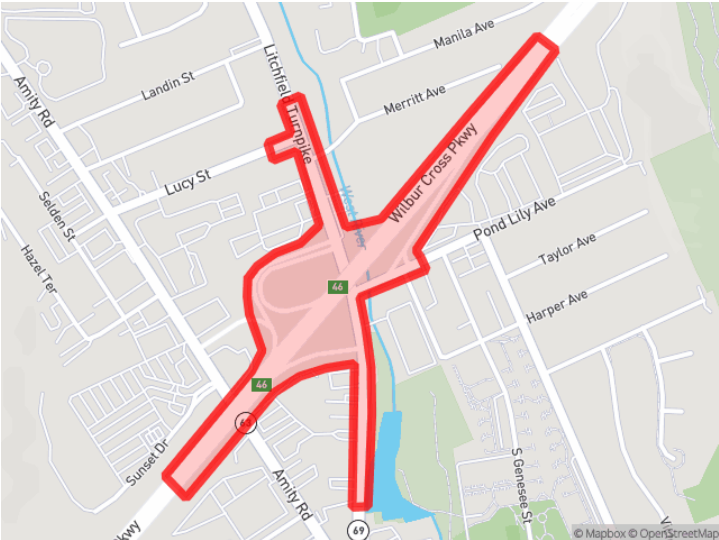
Controller Replacement Only:

- 014-215: Branford - US Route 1 (E. Main St) at Mill Plain Rd.

0092-0689 - INTERCHANGE 46/ROUTE 69 IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE 2)

INTERCHANGE 46/ROUTE 69 IMPROVEMENTS (PHASE 2)

Lead Agency:	CTDOT
Project Type:	FHWA
Region:	8
Town:	NEW HAVEN, WOODBRIDGE
Air Quality Status:	-
Total Cost:	\$93,760,000



Phase	Fund Source	Prior	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	Future	Total
Final Design	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$1,600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,600,000
Final Design	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000
Total Final Design		\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000
Right of Way	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$1,408,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,408,000
Right of Way	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$352,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$352,000
Total Right of Way		\$0	\$0	\$1,760,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,760,000
Construction	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$26,000,000	\$46,000,000	\$72,000,000
Construction	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,500,000	\$11,500,000	\$18,000,000
Total Construction		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$32,500,000	\$57,500,000	\$90,000,000
-	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
-	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Future Costs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$57,500,000	\$57,500,000
Total Programmed		\$0	\$0	\$3,760,000	\$0	\$32,500,000	\$57,500,000	\$93,760,000

0170-3795 - INSTALL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS - PHASE 1A (DESIGN-BUILD)

INSTALL ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS - PHASE 1A (DESIGN-BUILD)

Lead Agency:	CTDOT
Project Type:	FHWA
Region:	2, 5, 8, 10, 15
Town:	HARTFORD, MERIDEN, NEW MILFORD, PLAINFIELD, PUTNAM, WATERBURY, WILLINGTON
Air Quality Status:	-
Total Cost:	\$8,883,496

Phase	Fund Source	Prior	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	Future	Total
Construction	EVFP	\$0	\$0	\$5,756,416	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,756,416
Construction	Local Match	\$0	\$0	\$3,047,080	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,047,080
Construction	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$80,000
Total Construction		\$0	\$0	\$8,883,496	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,883,496
Total Programmed		\$0	\$0	\$8,883,496	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,883,496

0173-0560 - REPLACE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

REPLACE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNALS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Lead Agency:	CTDOT
Project Type:	FHWA
Region:	1, 6, 7, 8
Town:	DISTRICT 3
Air Quality Status:	-
Total Cost:	\$3,346,000

Phase	Fund Source	Prior	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	Future	Total
Preliminary Design	STPA	\$0	\$0	\$2,474,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,474,000
Total Preliminary Design		\$0	\$0	\$2,474,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,474,000
Final Design	STPA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$752,000	\$0	\$0	\$752,000
Total Final Design		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$752,000	\$0	\$0	\$752,000
Right of Way	STPA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
Total Right of Way		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$0	\$120,000
Total Programmed		\$0	\$0	\$2,474,000	\$872,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,346,000

Resolution

Fiscal Year 2025-Fiscal Year 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Fourteen

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 2025-Fiscal Year 2028 Transportation Improvement Program* on April 24, 2024, 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 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program* and the Region’s *Metropolitan Transportation Plans—2023 to 2050, (April, 2023)*; and

Whereas: The Council, on April 24, 2024, 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

Resolution

***Fiscal Year 2025-Fiscal Year 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment
Fourteen (Continued)***

Whereas: The Council of Governments' review of transportation goals, projects and opportunities may result in further adjustment or amendment of the Program.

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

The Program Amendment *Fourteen* 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 **January 21, 2025**

Date January 21, 2026

By: _____

Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Secretary

South Central Regional Council of Governments

January 2026 Transportation Staff Report

1. Public Meeting for Valley Service Road Safety Study on November 13th

Staff attended a public meeting in North Haven to present the findings of the Valley Service Road Safety Study. This study was conducted with the help of AKRF consultants as well as the North Haven staff. This was the study's final public meeting providing a space for residents to voice their comments and concerns. The consultant team is now in the process of drafting the final report for review this month

2. LOCHSTP Survey & Mobility Access Working Group

Staff are collaborating with CTDOT to gather input via a shared survey on transportation barriers faced by elderly residents, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents. CTDOT is encouraging all stakeholders across the region—individuals, agencies, municipalities, and service providers—to take a few minutes to complete the survey: [Locally Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan \(LOCHSTP\) Survey](#). Responses will be used to shape strategy for funding and implementation of transportation services and projects.

A LOCHSTP Mobility Access Working Group meeting will be held in our offices and hosted by our Regional Mobility Manager, Laurie McElwee, on January 29, 2026.

3. Website Development Update

Staff are coordinating with Zero Gravity Marketing on the development of SCRCOG's new website. The scope and timeline have both been developed, with a tentative new website launch date in February.

4. Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Update

During the month of December, three more projects received their Authorizations to Advertise and are now out to bid with the anticipated start of construction in the spring. These projects are:

- #L059-0003 Falcon Rd Roadway and Seawall Reconstruction in Guilford - \$7,108,800
- # L075-0002 Copse Rd and Warpus Rd Pavement Rehabilitation in Madison - \$3,794,400
- # L148-0003 Toelles Road Bridge Replacement in Wallingford - \$3,541,200

Meriden received their Commitment to Fund (CTF) letter in December for L079-0006 East Main and Broad Street Improvements project. On January 2nd, L156-0006 Traffic Signal Upgrade in West Haven received their CTF letter. Both municipalities can now begin to work on the final design plans. SCRCOG Staff will coordinate with the municipalities and the CTDOT to move these projects forward.

January 21, 2026

To: South Central Regional Council of Governments Members
From: Nominating Committee
Subject: First Selectman Michael Freda, First Selectman Matthew Hoey, and Mayor Dorinda Borer
Nominating Committee Report for Calendar Year 2026 Officers and Committees

<u>SCRCOG Board Officers</u>		
1.	Chair	Mayor Dorinda Borer
2.	Vice Chair	First Selectman Mica Cardozo
3.	Secretary	Mayor Vincent Cervoni
4.	Treasurer	Mayor Joseph Carfora
5.	Immediate Past Chair	First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons
<u>Executive Committee</u>		
1.	Chair	Mayor Dorinda Borer
2.	Vice Chair	First Selectman Mica Cardozo
3.	Secretary	Mayor Vincent Cervoni
4.	Treasurer	Mayor Joseph Carfora
5.	Immediate Past Chair	First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons
6.	Member At-Large	Mayor Justin Elicker
7.	Member At-Large	First Selectman Matthew Hoey
8.	Member At-Large	Mayor Adam Sendroff
<u>Transportation Committee</u>		
1.	Chair	First Selectman Matthew Hoey
2.		Mayor Justin Elicker
3.		Mayor Vincent Cervoni
4.		Mayor Dorinda Borer
5.		Mayor Adam Sendroff
6.		First Selectman Josh Brooks
7.		First Selectman Peggy Lyons
<u>Administrative & Personnel Subcommittee</u>		
The Executive Committee will serve as the Administrative & Personnel Subcommittee as needed.		

Resolution

South Central Regional Council of Governments SCRCOG Bank Signatories

Whereas: On January 21, 2026 the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) elected new officers for calendar year 2026; and

Whereas: SCRCOG By-Laws identify the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director as signatories on all bank accounts for the South Central Regional Council of Governments.

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

SCRCOG appoints Dorinda Borer, Mica Cardozo, Vincent Cervoni, Joseph Carfora, and Laura Francis as signatories on all SCRCOG bank accounts.

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 January 21, 2026.

Date: January 21, 2026

By: _____
Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments

FY 2025-2026 REGIONAL SERVICES GRANT (RSG)
Proposed Spending Plan for Additional Funding
January 21, 2026

Source of Project Funding:

CT OPM Regional Services Grant (RSG) Amendment	\$278,015.00
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FY 2025-26 Budget

Line Item	Budget
Staff Labor and Expenses	\$158,015.00
Consultant(s)	\$100,000.00
Legal Fees	\$20,00.00
Total	\$278,015.00

Details of Consultants (above)

a. Municipal Zoning Technical Assistance	
Consultant: To Be Selected	\$45,000.00
<i>The selected consultant will provide temporary planning and zoning services to SCRCOG member municipalities. Services will focus on direct municipal implementation support for zoning, regulatory, and procedural changes required under Special Session Public Act 25-1 and related housing legislation.</i>	

b. Regional Land Bank Assessment	
Consultant: To Be Selected	\$45,000.00
<i>The selected consultant will conduct an assessment for the establishment of a regional land bank to support housing production, as identified in the 2024 SCRCOG Regional Affordable Housing Assessment. The work will evaluate a variety of parameters necessary to support the goal of state housing production targets.</i>	

c. Regional Fair Rent Commission Framework Development	
Consultant: To Be Selected	\$10,000.00
<i>The selected consultant will develop a framework for establishing a Regional Fair Rent Commission, to enable voluntary municipal participation in a shared fair rent review process consistent with Connecticut General Statutes. They will assess legal and governance structures and other necessary requirements for this process.</i>	

FY 26 REGIONAL SERVICE GRANTS AMENDMENT

STATEMENT OF WORK AND BUDGET

January 21, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

This Statement of Work and Budget relate to the requirements of November Special Session Public Act 25-1 which directs the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to distribute funds from the Regional Planning Incentive Account to Regional Councils of Governments (COGs) for 1) funding positions within each COG and costs associated with providing technical support and legal services for the planning and development of additional housing in each such regional council's region; and 2) either a regional stormwater management and flood mitigation coordinator, or a regional municipal solid waste and recycling coordinator and associated costs.

The Public Act is effective January 1, 2026, while the funds are to be made available beginning with FY 26. Additionally, the law enables OPM to pro-rate these service-specific funds in FY 26. This statement of work and budget serves as an amendment to the current FY 26 RSG contract, adding these newly enabled tasks and funding.

Note that the funds dedicated to housing services must be used to provide staff and/or technical and legal services to member municipalities, while the funds dedicated to either stormwater/ flood management or solid waste/ recycling must be used to provide for a designated coordinator on staff (whether that's new or existing staff) and costs associated with the coordinator's work.

Please complete Parts I and II on the following pages and submit to Rebecca.Augur@ct.gov by February 1, 2026 in order to cover expenditures dating back to January 1, 2026. Note that FY 26 budgets cover relevant expenditures made only from January 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026.

All funds in this amendment must be fully expended by June 30, 2026, meaning that the COG has received goods or services procured with these amended funds, while payment of any invoices associated with such goods or services may continue to be processed after the end of the grant period. Once COGs have completed their fiscal year close-out process, OPM's business office will issue an invoice for the return of any unspent funds from this amendment.

FY 26 REGIONAL SERVICE GRANTS AMENDMENT

STATEMENT OF WORK AND BUDGET

PART I

NAME OF GRANTEE: South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG)

GRANT PROGRAM NAME: Regional Services Grant (RSG)

GRANT PROGRAM SUMMARY (PURPOSE/INTENT/MISSION): Provides annual grant-in-aid to regional councils of governments (COGs).

GRANT CONTRACT NUMBER: (SCRCOG): RSG-26-07

GRANT/ CONTRACT AWARD AMOUNT: (SCRCOG): \$948,501.80

ADDITIONAL TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR AMENDMENT: \$ 278,015.16

INTRODUCTION:

This Statement of Work and Grant Award Budget relates to the requirements of Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Sections 4-66k and 4-66r and Section 8-31b, as amended by November Special Session Public Act 25-1 (SS PA 25-1). The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is responsible for administering funds deposited to the Regional Planning Incentive Account, which is the source of Regional Service Grant and other grant awards to the COGs. Individual grant amounts related to SS PA 25-1 are assigned by law and are to be used for housing and either stormwater/ flood mitigation or solid waste/ recycling services.

Each COG shall complete its Statement of Work and Grant Award Budget following the format and budget categories prescribed in Part II below. The total dollar amount for each budget category shall be provided to the right of the drop-down box. Each budget category shall be followed by a listing of typical activities expected to be performed by COG staff and/or contractors, including administrative activities.

PART II – FY 26 SERVICE-SPECIFIC GRANTS SOW AND BUDGET

Please complete Section A and either Section B or C below.

Note: Each category cannot exceed \$200,000. The sum of the Budget Amounts listed below must add up to the total ADDITIONAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR AMENDMENT in Part I – up to a maximum of \$400,000.

South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) shall complete a selection, or all, of the work activities outlined below in sections A and either B or C.

A. Housing

Budget Amount: \$ 189,007.58

Expected work activities include: (Expand list as necessary.)

1. Provide comprehensive support to the region's municipalities in the areas of housing planning, housing production strategies, and compliance with state statutes and regional housing goals;
2. Collect, manage, analyze, and report regional housing data to support municipal decision-making and state performance measures;
3. Support municipalities in evaluating and advancing local housing policies, zoning strategies, and best practices by providing research, data analysis, and policy guidance for local needs;
4. Facilitate and manage a Regional Housing Working Group by organizing meetings, preparing materials, and fostering peer-to-peer learning among municipalities;
5. Prepare the region for the future development of a Regional Housing Growth Plan by establishing baseline data, documentation, coordination structures, and implementation frameworks in advance of the statutory planning timeline;
6. Provide zoning implementation and regulatory support to help SCRCOG municipalities with zoning analysis, ordinance development, regulatory and procedural changes necessary for opt-in housing reforms and compliance with state legislation;
7. Develop a feasibility study with the assistance of a consultant and/or legal counsel on the formation of a regional land bank and/or trust to support the redevelopment of vacant and blighted properties for the use of affordable housing across SCRCOG municipalities.
8. Explore the feasibility with the assistance of a consultant and/or legal counsel on the formation of a regional Fair Rent commission to carry out the duties of such a commission under state statute on a regional basis.
9. SCRCOG staff time to implement, support, and/or manage the above tasks.

B. Regional Stormwater Management and Flood Mitigation Coordinator

Budget Amount: \$ \$0.00

Expected work activities include: (Expand list as necessary.)

- 1.
- 2.

3.

4.

C. Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Budget Amount: \$ 89,007.58
Coordinator

Expected work activities include: (Expand list as necessary.)

1. Provide comprehensive support to the region's municipalities in the areas of solid waste management, recycling, organics diversion, contamination reduction, and compliance with evolving state policies and programs;
2. Coordinate and support regional solid waste and recycling initiatives to promote inter-municipal collaboration, efficiency, and cost-effective service delivery;
3. Collect, manage, analyze, and report municipal solid waste, recycling, and diversion data to support program evaluation, transparency, benchmarking, and required state reporting;
4. Support municipalities through legal counsel analysis, technical assistance, education, and/or outreach related to recycling compliance, contamination reduction, food waste diversion, and other best practices in solid waste management;
5. Monitor, analyze, and disseminate solid waste related guidance and funding opportunities, and translate complex policy requirements into practical tools and resources for municipal use;
6. SCRCOG staff time to implement, support, and/or manage the above tasks.

FY 2025-26 Budget Revision #3

This revision updates the FY 2025-26 budget to align the budget with the amended FY 2025-26 Regional Services Grant Statement of Work.

Revenue

Budget Revision #3 adds \$28,015 of revenue to the adopted FY 2025-26 budget, broken down as follows.

\$ 278,015.00	CT OPM - Regional Services Grant (RSG)
<u>(250,000.00)</u>	CT OPM - RPIA Additional Positions*
\$ 28,015.00	

* These funds are moved to CT OPM – RSG to reflect actual funding source

Expenses

Budget Revision #3 includes the following changes. This revision anticipates an overhead rate of 1.3690 compared to 1.3082 in the original budget.

- Salaries decrease by \$56,890
 - To better reflect projected salary expense for this fiscal year
- Benefits decrease by \$7,152
 - Associated with decrease in Salaries
- General Office Expenses increase by \$18,589
 - Reflects anticipated legal costs included in the amended RSG Statement of Work and adjustments due to the increased budgeted overhead rate
- Other Consultants increase by \$100,000
 - For the housing program projects included in the RSG Statement of Work
- Due to the increase in the budgeted overhead rate, the following program contingencies have been adjusted accordingly -
 - Transportation, LOTCIP, Highway Safety, SMM Grant, and RWA Grant

Actual line-item revisions are on the following page, followed by a resolution authorizing Budget Revision #3.

FY 2025-26 Budget Revision #3

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Municipal Contribution			
Municipal Contribution - Dues	249,800		249,800
Municipal Contribution - RPIP Match	375,000		375,000
Committed Fund Balance	144,070		144,070
Transportation Planning			
U.S. DOT	1,350,692		1,350,692
U.S. DOT - Carryover	781,396		781,396
U.S. DOT - Highway Safety	169,718		169,718
CTDOT	168,837		168,837
CTDOT - Active Transportation Microgrants Program	19,599		19,599
CTDOT - LOTCIP	250,000		250,000
Regional Planning			
CT OPM - Regional Services Grant (RSG)	948,502	278,015	1,226,517
CT OPM - RSG - Previous Fiscal Year	14,000		14,000
CT OPM - RPIP (Cybersecurity)	1,805,066		1,805,066
CT OPM - Parcel and CAMA Data Grant	181,500		181,500
CT Secretary of the State - Regional Election Monitor	3,691		3,691
CT OPM - RPIA Additional Positions	250,000	(250,000)	-
CT DEEP - SMM Grant	20,706		20,706
CT DEEP - RWA Grant	112,500		112,500
Other			
Investment Income	20,000		20,000
Retiree Health Insurance	20,000		20,000
TOTAL	7,205,972	28,015	7,233,987

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Salaries	1,017,524	(56,890)	960,634
Benefits	475,791	(7,152)	468,639
Travel	17,100		17,100
Computer Supplies & Software	44,100		44,100
Rent	188,100		188,100
General Office Expenses	177,998	18,589	196,587
Transportation Consultants	1,807,539		1,807,539
Other Consultants	1,576,700	100,000	1,676,700
Passthrough Grants	89,599		89,599
Capital	-		-
Contingency	0		0
Transportation - Reserved	69,745	(20,191)	49,554
LOTICIP - Reserved	164,125	(279)	163,846
Highway Safety - Reserved	17,240	(3,228)	14,012
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved	-		-
SMM Grant - Reserved	8,175	(166)	8,009
RWA Grant - Reserved	6,008	(548)	5,460
CPRG - Reserved	116,164	(2,123)	114,041
RPIP (Cybersecurity) - Reserved	1,430,066		1,430,066
Parcel and CAMA Data Grant - Reserved			
Total	7,205,972	28,015	7,233,987

Resolution

South Central Regional Council of Governments

Fiscal Year 2025-26 - Budget Revision #3

Whereas: The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) adopted an operating budget for FY 2025-26 on May 28, 2025;

Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #1 on July 23, 2025; and

Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #2 on October 23, 2025; and

Whereas: SCRCOG amended the FY 2025-26 Regional Service Grant Statement of Work on January 21, 2026;

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

That Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Revision #3, which aligns the budget with the amended FY 2025-26 Regional Services Grant Statement of Work, 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 January 21, 2026.

Date: January 21, 2026

By: _____
_____, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments

January 2026 Executive Director's Report

Staffing Updates

1. Please help circulate the postings for the two new positions that were approved earlier this month. It is important that hire the right people for these integral functions.

[Job Opening: Regional Housing Program Manager | South Central Regional Council of Governments](#)

[Job Opening: Regional Solid Waste & Recycling Specialist | South Central Regional Council of Governments](#)

2. I am pleased to announce that **Angelina DeBenedet, Administrative Assistant**, has successfully completed her probationary period. Angelina's contributions have already positively impacted our office operations. Congratulations to Angelina, and we look forward to her continued success at our agency.
3. Congratulations to **Brendon Dukett, Director of Regional Planning and Regional Services**, on achieving the status of CCM Certified Connecticut Municipal Official (CCMO). This accomplishment reflects his commitment to professional development and excellence in municipal service.

Letters of Support

Remember to request letters of support from SCRCOG to enhance any grant applications you prepare that are in alignment with the region's goals and plans. Please send your requests directly to me at lfrancis@scrcog.org. The SCRCOG Team is building a database in the [Grants Hub](#) of applications as a resource to municipalities. If you are willing to share, please send your completed applications to Colette Kroop at ckroop@scrcog.org.

Here is a list of Letters of Support issued in 2025

1. Connecticut Education Network (CEN) funding for Meriden and Hamden
2. Community Investment Funding (CIF) rounds 7 and 8 for New Haven, Hamden, Meriden, Lost in New Haven, Connecticut Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Alumni Network and the City of New Haven
3. Trees For Communities (DEEP) for Meriden
4. Support for Adjusting Revaluation Schedule for Guilford, Waterford, and Stonington sent to OPM
5. Recreational Trails Grant for East Haven and Meriden
6. Sustainable Materials Management Round 2 (SMMR2) Grant (DEEP) for Bethany
7. Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program (DEEP) for New Haven

DEEP CRF Grant Submission

SCRCOG submitted an application to the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund on January 14, 2026 in the amount of \$250,000.00. Congratulations to staff for writing a compelling application.

The proposed project will advance regional climate resilience across the SCRCOG region by developing a framework to establish Resilience Improvement Districts (RIDs) that translate identified climate and hazard risks into implementable, equitable, and sustainable investment strategies. Building on existing regional plans, the project will identify and map priority areas where district-scale funding mechanisms can most effectively reduce flooding, extreme heat, and infrastructure vulnerability.

Grant funding will support technical analysis, mapping and comprehensive community engagement to evaluate where and how RIDs can be utilized to support long-term resilience investments. The project will prioritize Environmental Justice communities and incorporate affordability and equity considerations throughout the planning process. Expected outcomes include regionally consistent RID siting criteria and clear pathways for municipalities to advance coordinated, proactive resilience investments that reduce climate risk and improve community outcomes across municipal boundaries.

January 2026 Regional Planning & Municipal Services Staff Report

1. SCRCOG Municipal Shared Services Study Update

SCRCOG will use this report to provide a monthly update on the Municipal Shared Services Study with Raftelis. For the past month, Raftelis has met with a majority of municipalities to discuss priorities and trouble areas within their respective municipalities. Raftelis and SCRCOG staff will continue to reach out to the remaining municipalities to schedule meetings. A synthesis of existing conditions and trouble areas is in progress.

2. SCRCOG Regional Planning Commission – VACANCIES

SCRCOG currently has several vacancies on the Regional Planning Commission (RPC). RPC members review land use referrals every month, including zoning and subdivision applications that may have inter-municipal impacts, and will be an advisory body when SCRCOG begins the Regional POCD update next fiscal year. Members must be on the municipality's planning commission and be able to meet monthly virtually. The following seats are vacant:

- Bethany
- East Haven
- Hamden
- New Haven
- North Branford
- North Haven
- West Haven
- Woodbridge

It is imperative for the commission to be fully staffed for true regional representation on important issues and discussions. Please contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@scrcog.org regarding appointments or with any questions.

3. SCRCOG Resilience Working Group Creation

As SCRCOG transitions from climate and resilience planning to implementation, there is a need for a regionally coordinated structure to advance items related to the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and tandem resiliency initiatives. The proposed SCRCOG Resilience Working Group would serve as a standing body to support collaboration and implementation, aligning regional priorities, coordinating funding opportunities, and tracking progress while respecting municipal authority to implement. SCRCOG would act as the backbone organization for the Working Group, providing facilitation and support, with regular updates made to the Board to ensure accountability, transparency, and measurable implementation outcomes.

4. Upcoming: Solid Waste & Recycling Working Group – Haven’s Harvest

SCRCOG is planning to schedule an in-person tour of Haven’s Harvest facility in Hamden at 266 Morse Street for **Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, at 9:00 am**. During this tour, we will learn more about their work on food waste diversion. Haven’s Harvest aims to reduce food waste by keeping good, edible food (specifically perishable and prepared foods) out of the waste stream by donating to community partners such as senior centers and daycare centers. Please complete this brief [form](https://forms.office.com/r/H9hmvHSsjL) if you would like to attend: <https://forms.office.com/r/H9hmvHSsjL>. Form submissions are due Thursday, February 19th, 2026, at 8:30 am. Once completed, you will be added to the Microsoft Outlook calendar invitation, and additional details will be provided once finalized.

5. Upcoming: Solid Waste & Recycling Working Group – Tire Stewardship Presentation

SCRCOG has scheduled a presentation on tire stewardship with the Connecticut Tire Stewardship (CTS) program. CTS is launching on March 21st, 2026, following Extender Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation mandating all tires to be recycled or reused. Municipalities and municipal transfer stations can opt-in to join the program at no cost. The presentation will be held on **Wednesday, February 4th, 2026, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am virtually on Microsoft Teams**. This presentation will include a 30 to 45-minute discussion on the program followed by Q & A. Please complete this brief [form](#) if you would like to attend: [CT Tire Stewardship Program Presentation](#).

6. Recap: Greater New Haven CAN Roundtable

On December 19, SCRCOG staff, state representatives, and community groups held a legislative breakfast to discuss priorities for addressing homelessness in the Greater New Haven region. Legislators heard directly from those working with people experiencing homelessness, who emphasized the need for immediate and sustained state funding for service providers and nonprofits. Participants also highlighted the importance of municipal support to ensure adequate warming shelters and improvements to the state’s cold-weather protocol procedures. For more information on the meeting or to discuss how you can support these groups, please contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@scrcog.org.

7. Sustainable CT Certification

Municipalities interested in Sustainable CT certification, recertification, or advancing to a higher certification level for the April or August 2025 submission cycles are encouraged to contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@scrcog.org. As in previous years, a Sustainable CT summer fellow will be based in our office from late May through mid-August to assist municipalities planning to submit in August. Early notice of interest will help us better plan and allocate the fellow’s workload.

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
Regional Planning Commission**

December 2025 RPC Action Table

Ref. #	Received	Description	Adjacent RPC Towns	RPC Action
2.1	10/28/2025	Town of Woodbridge. Proposed zoning text amendment reducing density and allowed pervious surfaces for opportunity housing.	Bethany, Hamden, New Haven, Orange	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning text amendment does not appear to have any negative impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound nor will it cause negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region.

South Central Regional Council of Governments

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

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

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
Regional Planning Commission**

January 2026 RPC Action Table

Ref. #	Received	Description	Adjacent RPC Towns	RPC Action
2.1	12/10/2025	Town of Wallingford. Proposed Zoning text amendment redefining the term “front yard.”	Hamden, Meriden, North Branford, North Haven	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning text amendment does not appear to have any negative impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound nor will it cause negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region.
2.2	12/19/2025	City of West Haven. Proposed zoning text amendment adding bulk density allowances for multi-family housing in RB districts.	Milford, New Haven, Orange	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning text amendment does not appear to have any negative impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound nor will it cause negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region.

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FINAL 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.

Timeline for SCRCOG Board Adoption

Date	Objective
September 24 th , 2025	SCRCOG Executive Committee presented draft agenda.
October 23 rd , 2025	SCRCOG Executive Committee presented draft agenda with changes. Draft presented to regular SCRCOG Board with Executive Committee Recommendations.
November 19 th , 2025	SCRCOG Board discusses draft agenda as a roundtable item.
November 20 th , 2025 – January 12 th , 2026	Open comment period for municipal leaders to provide comments on the agenda
January 15 th , 2026	Final Draft Legislative Agenda is provided as a handout at the 2026 Legislative Breakfast
January 21 st , 2026	Final Draft Adopted by SCRCOG Board
February 4 th , 2026	Start of 2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Priority Items and Policy Areas

Education

- Update Education Cost Sharing Formula

On October 9th, 2024, the 119K Commission with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) published their report titled “Young People First.” Within this report is action item 7a: “Review and revise the Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula.” This proposed ECS formula has added factors to the calculation which include an inflation adjustment, increased Economically Disadvantaged weight, increased Concentrated Poverty weight, increased Multilingual Learner weight, and a new Students with Disabilities weight. This adjusted formula would ensure equitable outcomes and access to modern facilities for Connecticut’s Kindergarten through Grade 12 student population of roughly 513,000.

- Fully Phase-In ECS Weighted Funding for Public Schools of Choice

To ensure equitable access to education funding across all school types, Connecticut should fully implement the weighted Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula for public schools of choice. These include magnet schools, Agriscience programs, and charter schools. While the General Assembly partially enacted this change under HB 5523 (2024), students currently receive 42% of their full weighted allocation. The State should complete the phase-in, so these students receive full ECS funding, aligning resources with student need and promoting educational opportunity.

- Complete Phase-In of the Special Education Expansion & Development (SEED) Grant

Connecticut should continue advancing the four-year phase-in of the SEED Grant to fully support districts in meeting special education needs statewide. Full funding is estimated at \$191 million. However, with only \$30 million appropriated for FY26 and FY27, districts are currently receiving approximately 15.7% of their anticipated grant. Completing the funding phase-in will ensure districts can provide appropriate services, mitigate local budget pressures, and support equitable access to specialized instruction for students with disabilities.

Energy and Technology

- Streamline the Permitting Process for Trash-to-Energy Projects and other Solid Waste Projects

To promote a more investment-friendly environment and advance the State's waste management goals, Connecticut should streamline the permitting process for trash-to-energy facilities and related solid waste projects. Current regulatory procedures are often delayed by overlapping agency reviews and lengthy approval timelines, as is the case with anaerobic digestors for example. Allowing Licensed Environmental Professionals (LEPs) to serve as qualified third-party intermediaries would help expedite approvals, reduce costs, and encourage innovation in sustainable waste and energy infrastructure.

- Add Local Representation on the Siting Council

To strengthen transparency and ensure local perspectives are represented in state decision-making, the Connecticut Siting Council should include a permanent member with previous municipal experience, such as a former mayor, first selectperson, or chief elected official. Consistent local representation would provide valuable insight into community impacts, improve coordination with municipalities, and enhance public trust in the siting process.

Environment

- Enhance Statewide Organic Recycling Infrastructure

To reduce solid waste and advance the State's environmental sustainability goals, Connecticut should support and expand organic recycling programs across municipalities. Encouraging voluntary participation while developing regional collection sites will improve efficiency and reduce transportation costs. The State should also look to improve financing options that will enable local or regional trash-to energy facilities to expand capacity. By investing in organic recycling infrastructure, the State can lessen financial burdens, cut emissions, and promote cleaner, more resilient waste management systems.

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.
- Increase Funding for Early Voting
The implementation of Early Voting in Connecticut has placed a significant burden on municipalities due to lack of corresponding state funding. While municipalities are responsible for ensuring secure, accessible, and well-administered early voting, they must do so with limited resources. It is requested that the State increase funding to fully or substantially offset the costs associated with Early voting implementation, thereby alleviating the fiscal burden on local governments.
 - Increase State Aid to Municipalities and Promote Local Property
Municipalities continue to face rising costs while relying heavily on property taxes to fund essential services. The State should increase overall municipal aid by expanding programs such as the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Fund and PILOT, modifying the Motor Vehicle reimbursement grant, and dedicating a portion of state sales and meal taxes to local governments. Enhancing these revenue streams and local funding options will strengthen municipal finances and provide meaningful property tax relief to residents.

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.

- Reform Water and Sewer Connection Requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units

To reduce financial barriers to housing creation, the State should prohibit water authorities from requiring separate sewer line connections for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) when connection through an existing residential line is feasible. Homeowners face costs for these unnecessary hookups, creating a major deterrent to ADU development. Allowing shared connection rights will enable more affordable housing options, expand gentle-density housing production, and support state and municipal housing goals.

- Technical Cleanup and Review of HB 8002

To ensure effective and timely implementation of HB 8002, the State should advance targeted technical amendments that clarify statutory intent and address practical challenges identified by regions and municipalities. Clarifying provisions will improve consistency, reduce administrative burden, and support successful housing production across the state

Judiciary

- Amend Paid Sick Days Statute

The State should amend the Paid Sick Leave provisions in Public Act 24-8 to allow employers to request reasonable documentation for qualifying absences. This change would promote fairness, reduce misuse, and ensure consistent application of leave policies across workplaces.

- Statutory Caps on Damages for Municipal Liability

The South Central Regional Council of Governments asks that the state enact statutory caps on damages for municipal liability. The Connecticut Conference of

Municipalities (CCM) has outlined areas of focus within their legislative agenda. The following structure was outlined by CCM and the South Central Regional Council of Governments echo these changes:

1. Capping any municipal negligence claim to \$250,000
2. Amending the highway defect statute for municipalities (CGS 13a-149) to cap damages that are both economic and non-economic at \$20,000 per occurrence.
3. Amending the CGS 46a-60 (CT Fair Employment Practices Act) to cap damages based on employer size, model here:
 - a. For employers with 15-100 employees - \$25,000.
 - b. For employers with 101-200 employees - \$50,000
 - c. For employers with 201-500 employees - \$100,000
 - d. For employers with more than 500 employees - \$150,000

Labor

- Increased CT Department of Labor Wage & Hour Investigative Capacity

The Connecticut Department of Labor currently faces a backlog of approximately 800 wage theft cases affecting workers across multiple sectors. To strengthen enforcement and support both workers and municipalities, many of which experience enforcement gaps that impact local economies, the State should increase staffing over a two-year period for wage and hour investigations. Additional capacity will reduce delays, improve compliance, and enhance labor fairness and accountability statewide.

- Enable Use of Published CTDOL Wage Rates for Local Projects

Engineering and municipal departments should be permitted to rely on published wage rates rather than submitting individual wage rate requests for each project. Allowing existing published rates would reduce administrative inefficiency, accelerate timelines, and improve coordination between state and local entities. Municipalities report delays arising from this requirement, and streamlined usage would support timely project delivery across the region.

- Expand Youth Employment Funding and Flexibility

To support youth workforce development and expand access to employment pathways, the State should increase funding for youth employment programs and allow stipends rather than minimum wage payments for approved work-based learning placements. This reform would enable municipalities and partner

organizations to serve more youth, stretch limited funds further, and provide meaningful early career experiences that strengthen long-term economic mobility.

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.

- Strengthen Local Tools to Address Commercial Blight

Current state statutes and enforcement tools focus largely on residential conditions and provide limited means to address chronic neglect of commercial properties. Addressing issues such as long-term vacancies, structural deterioration, and unsafe or unsightly commercial sites require clearer definitions and stronger enforcement mechanisms. The State should strengthen statutory language to better define commercial blight, expand authority for fines, liens, and remediation, and support efforts to revitalize commercial corridors and prevent prolonged deterioration.

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.

- Strengthen Oversight and Support for Local Enforcement of Problem Establishments
Municipalities often struggle to address problem establishments due to limited state resources and fragmented enforcement authority across agencies. Local police and health departments should have greater authority to inspect and, when warranted, temporarily close businesses that are in violation of local ordinances or state law. The State should enhance interagency coordination and provide the resources and authority necessary to support effective local enforcement and protect public health and safety.

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.
- Continue to Support Transportation Projects
With ongoing uncertainty surrounding federal infrastructure funding, it is essential that the State maintain its commitment to supporting local and regional transportation projects. Sustained state investment will ensure communities can continue improving mobility, safety, and economic connectivity regardless of future federal funding levels.



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
**DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT &
HOMELAND SECURITY**

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DEMHS Region 2 Update

As of January 14, 2026

- Deputy Commissioner Brenda Bergeron is retiring effective February 1, 2026
- Courts have ruled that the 3-year period of performance for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) and the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) is to be reinstated. The state has until January 31, 2026, to accept awards and are awaiting revised awards.
- Courts have also ruled that the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant is to be reinstated. We are awaiting next steps and further guidance from FEMA.
- The FEMA Review Council abruptly canceled their December meeting; no rescheduled date has been announced. The executive order which created the council expires this month but may be extended.
- The REPT-Steering Committee is meeting Friday, January 16, 2026.
- The next REPT meeting is Friday, February 20, 2026. REPT Chairperson and Vice Chairperson elections will be held at the meeting.
- DESPP/DEMHS will be releasing a Municipal Targeted Violence Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Strategy Template to provide guidance to municipalities in developing their TVTP plans, a requirement of Connecticut General Statute Section 28-7(a), as amended by Public Act 23-24
- The 2026 CCM Emergency Management and Public Health Symposium will be Thursday, April 23, 2026 at Camp Nett in Niantic