

Meeting Notice & Agenda
South Central Regional MPO and COG

DATE March 25, 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

Please note: The full agenda packet and handout for this Board meeting will be included in this public link: <https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/Zp9NFrCmHACNPzex4KCcbSki/vault>.

- 1 **Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2 **Adopt Minutes of February 25, 2026 SCRCOG Meeting (motion)** Pages 2-7
- 3 **Treasurer’s Report for month ending February 28, 2026 (motion)** Pages 8-10
- 4 **MPO Business**
 - a) FY 2025 – FY 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Pages 11-14
Seventeen (motion)
- 5 **COG Business**
 - a) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract Page 15
Amendment with REX Development for the Land Bank Feasibility Study (motion)
 - b) Regional Planning Commission March Action Table Page 16
- 6 **Presentation**
Regional Shared Services Phase 1 Deliverables, *Raftelis Consultants*
- 7 **Reports**
 - a) Executive Director’s Report Pages 17-18
 - b) Transportation Staff Report Pages 19-21
 - c) Regional Planning & Municipal Services Staff Report Pages 22-25
 - d) Greater New Haven Transit District Report
 - e) CT Rides Report
 - f) REX Development Report
 - g) Congressional Reports
 - h) State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST
 - i) DEMHS Report Page 26
- 8 **Regional Roundtable Discussion**
 - a) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Implementation Framework
- 9 **Other Business**
- 10 **Adjournment**

SCRCOG | 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

TO: SCRCOG Board Members
FROM: Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Secretary
DATE: February 25, 2026
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Board Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2026

Present:

Bethany	First Selectwoman Carol Goldberg
Branford	First Selectman Joshua Brooks
East Haven	Mayor Joseph Carfora, <i>Treasurer</i>
Guilford	First Selectman Matthew Hoey
Hamden	Mayor Adam Sendroff
Madison	First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, <i>Immediate Past Chair</i>
North Branford	Acting Town Manager Rory Burke
North Haven	First Selectman Michael Freda
Orange	First Selectman James Zeoli
Wallingford	Mayor Vincent Cervoni, <i>Secretary</i>
West Haven	Mayor Dorinda Borer, <i>Chair</i>
Woodbridge	First Selectman Mica Cardozo, <i>Vice Chair</i>

SCRCOG Staff: Laura Francis, Christopher Rappa, James Rode, Brendon Dukett, Colette Kroop, Ian McElwee, Kellie Kingston, Robert Dahill, Justin Salva, Angelina DeBenedet, Sabrina Davis, Elizabeth Moy, Matthew Rothchild

Guests: Keyri Ambrocio and Louis Mangini (Office of Representative Rosa DeLauro), Michael Anderson (Avangrid), Nan Birdwhistell (Murtha Cullina LLP), Elizabeth Gara (CT Council of Small Towns), Ellen Graham (Office of Senator Richard Blumenthal), Michael Harris (REX Development), Mario Marrero (Greater New Haven Transit District), Holly Mulrenan (City of Milford), Michael Muszynski (CT Conference of Municipalities), Jennifer Pachacha (CT Department of Transportation), Farian Rabbani (Office of Senator Chris Murphy), Anna Savastano (Eversource), Frank Smith (CT State Representative), Donte Spell (CT Rides)

Note: This month's Board Meeting was changed to a virtual-only format.

1. Call to order

Chair Borer called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

2. Adopt Minutes of January 21, 2026 Board Meeting (motion)

Chair Borer referred to minutes of the January 21, 2026, Board Meeting, included in the agenda packet on pages 2-5. Motion made by Mayor Carfora and seconded by First Selectman Zeoli. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report for month ending January 31, 2026 (motion)

Mayor Carfora referred to pages 6-8 of the agenda packet, noting that all expenses appear to be appropriate for a one-month period. Motion made by First Selectman Cardozo to accept the report and seconded by First Selectwoman Lyons. The motion passed unanimously.

4. MPO Business**a. Fiscal Year 2025 – Fiscal Year 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Fifteen (motion)**

First Selectman Hoey noted that the Transportation Committee approved the amendment included on pages 9-20 of the agenda packet. Motion made by Mayor Cervoni and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into Agreement for Regional GIS Parcel Viewer (motion)

Chair Borer referred to the resolution included on page 21 of the packet, which authorizes an agreement with New England Geosystems, LLC for the development of a Regional GIS Parcel Viewer. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectman Zeoli. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Approval of Annual SCRCOG Self-Certification (motion)

Chair Borer referred to the resolution included on pages 22-23 of the agenda packet. James Rode noted that the annual self-certification is a federal requirement. Motion made by Mayor Cervoni and seconded by First Selectman Zeoli. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Transportation Staff Report

James Rode referred to pages 24-26 of the agenda packet. Additionally, it was noted that the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) has six projects, representing about \$35 million from the CT Department of Transportation (CTDOT), that will be going out to construction this year. It was also noted that a regional scenario planning study focusing on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) near train stations will begin soon.

e. **Greater New Haven Transit District Report**

Mario Marrero reported that the Greater New Haven Transit District (GNHTD) Board is currently full, with upcoming openings for Bethany and North Branford in June. The Encompass program provided around 1,500 trips in the month of January, which is the monthly maximum the program can support with current levels of funding. The GNHTD triennial review will begin in early March. It was also noted that 23 replacement bus orders have been made to CTDOT for this year.

f. **CT Rides Report**

Donte Spell reported that CT Rides will begin their “Drive Less Connecticut Challenge” during Earth Week in April with potential partnerships with municipalities. It was also noted that CT Rides is working on workforce development in public transportation. Discussion followed on bus shelter repair programs.

5. **COG Business**

a. **Adoption of 2026 Affirmative Action Policy Statement (motion)**

Chair Borer referred to the Affirmative Action Policy Statement included on pages 27-30 of the agenda packet. The statement appoints a new Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer for SCRCOG Staff. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey to adopt the statement and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Enter into Agreement for On-Call Municipal Zoning & Implementation Support (motion)**

Chair Borer referred to the resolution for On-Call Municipal Zoning and Implementation Support included as a handout. The resolution outlines five firms that can be utilized to provide these services, with Tyche Planning & Policy Group identified as the preferred vendor. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectman Cardozo. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Documents in Connection with Moving SCRCOG Section 401(a) Money Purchase Plan and SCRCOG Section 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan from Principal (motion)**

Chair Borer referred to the resolution included as a handout, noting that the Executive Committee recommended the resolution authorizing the transition of SCRCOG’s Money Purchase Plan and Deferred Compensation Plan from Principal to Empower and Daybright Financial. Motion made by Mayor Cervoni and seconded by First Selectman Hoey. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. **Resolution to Endorse CRCOG's Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) Application Grant for Shared Finance Officer for Woodbridge and Marlborough (motion)**
 Chair Borer referred to the resolution and application included on pages 31-37 of the agenda packet. Motion made by First Selectman Hoey and seconded by First Selectwoman Lyons. Executive Director Francis noted that the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) requested an endorsement for a Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant on behalf of the Town of Woodbridge and the Town of Marlborough to support the cost of a shared Finance Officer position across the two municipalities. First Selectman Cardozo provided additional context on the proposed arrangement and application. Discussion followed on the financial structure and the potential for similar opportunities through the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP). Executive Director Francis clarified the funding structure for the RPIP grant fund and the Regional Services Grant (RSG). The motion passed unanimously.
- e. **Executive Director's Report**
 Executive Director Francis provided a verbal report. It was announced that REX Development and SCRCOG are partnering to hold a "State of the Region" event for municipalities tentatively scheduled for June 2, 2026. A strategic planning meeting with other Council of Government (COG) directors will be held on March 27, 2026, to discuss potential opportunities to increase capacity and cost savings. Executive Director Francis referred to a flyer attached as a handout for the "Be The Change: Teen Safe Driving Summit" and noted that invitations had been shared with all municipal superintendents and high school principals. An update was provided on the Regional Waste Authority (RWA) study noting that additional information will be shared on recommendations and next steps. It was noted that SCRCOG recently submitted public testimony on two pieces of legislation aligned with the approved legislative agenda. It was also noted that SCRCOG is working with REX Development and Workforce Alliance on a YouthBuild application for partnership with the New Haven Housing Authority. A reminder was provided for municipalities to review cybersecurity plans and SCRCOG's current RPIP cybersecurity and planning efforts.
- f. **Regional Planning Staff Report**
 Brendon Dukett referred to pages 38-39 of the agenda packet and noted that additional flyers on upcoming working group opportunities and educational meetings were included as handouts.
- g. **Regional Planning Commission February Action Table**
 Chair Borer referred to page 40 of the agenda packet. Executive Director Francis noted that there are vacancies on the Regional Planning Commission, and municipalities are encouraged to review appointments.

h. REX Development Report

Michael Harris referred to pages 41-42 of the agenda packet, noting that some changes had been made. The February Regional Economic Development Forum (REDFO) was rescheduled to March 12, 2026, and will feature a presentation from Advanced CT on their site certification process. The March 26, 2026 REDFO meeting will feature a discussion on preparing businesses for regional tour buses. Harris also provided a summary of the hospitality report included in the packet. Report highlights include that monthly hotel occupancy rates are higher than projected from last year, two hotels with a total of about 154 rooms are under construction in North Haven and Hamden, and the current market capitalization rate is a promising indicator of the importance and resilience of the tourism market. It was also noted that REX will be in Washington, DC., for the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Leadership Summit, the National Association of Development Organizations Conference, and discussions with the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on active proposals. Harris reported that the EPA will likely not have a revolving loan fund for this upcoming funding cycle, and remaining funding for the EDA Disaster Resiliency Supplemental Grants program will likely be directed towards planning categories. Harris also noted that the IEDC has opened its Economic Development Excellence Awards nomination process, and REX can support municipal applications highlighting a project, initiative, or business.

i. Congressional Reports

Louis Mangini reported that Representative Rosa DeLauro's Annual Mayor's Meeting will be held on March 9, 2026, and additional information will be shared. It was noted that earmarks for Emergency Operations Centers in Hamden, West Haven, and Woodbridge are expected to be included in the Department of Homeland Security's appropriations bill. Guidance had been shared with municipalities on applications for the House Fiscal Year 2027 community funded earmarks, including projects focused on children, food, and municipal buildings.

Ellen Graham noted that the Senate Fiscal Year 2027 earmarks will open in March, and a webinar will be available for more information on qualifying projects. Farian Rabbani added that the Senate earmarks also include nonprofit organizations.

j. State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST

Elizabeth Gara from CT Council of Small Towns (COST) reported that the State Senate is discussing an Emergency Certification Bill which includes several items and mandates. Items highlighted include 1) the acceleration of the fee collection to support the Firefighter Cancer Relief Fund; 2) a workers compensation bill that would prohibit towns

from reducing pension benefits for retirees who also receive permanent partial disability payments; 3) a study of transitioning police and fire services to traditional pension plans; 4) a new training mandate for law enforcement interactions with individuals with disabilities; and 5) new licensing and enforcement laws relative to bottle redemption issues. Gara also noted that regular Committee proceedings and public hearings are in progress. Relevant bills under discussion in Committees include 1) the prohibition of towns enacting ordinances to limit a homeless person's ability to use public spaces; 2) requirement of Councils of Governments (COGs) to establish fair rent commissions if any of their municipal members have a mobile manufactured home park; 3) options for local zoning overrides to support the development of tiny or starter homes; 4) the development of solar permitting online platforms; 5) local representation on the CT Siting Council relative to renewable energy projects; and 6) requirement of mandated reporters for sexual harassment or other conduct at youth camps; and legal notice requirements for municipalities. Discussion followed.

Michael Muszynski from the CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM) provided additional context on the Emergency Certification bill pension offset provision. Muszynski also noted that CCM will hold their annual meeting with all municipal associations on March 27, 2026, to discuss legislative items. It was also announced that an invitation was shared with municipalities for the Emergency Management Symposium in April.

k. **DEMHS Report**

There was no one present from DEMHS, and a report was not provided. Discussion followed on DEMHS tracking of municipal expenses related to winter storms and thresholds for public assistance and individual assistance from FEMA.

l. **Discussion Item: Proposed FY 2026-27 RSG Projects**

Brendon Dukett presented on SCRCOG's proposed Regional Services Grant (RSG) spending plan projects for the next fiscal year. A brief discussion followed on next steps ahead of Board budget approval in April and May.

6. **Regional Cooperation/Other Business**

Discussion followed on road salt shortages and potential opportunities for regional purchasing consortium coordination.

7. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Chair Borer to adjourn, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:18am.

Balance Sheet

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 2/28/2026

Assets

Cash and Investments

Key Bank - Checking Account	145,939.93
State of CT - Short-Term Investment Fund	1,678,920.35

Accounts Receivable

CT Department of Transportation	100,653.12
CT Office of Policy and Management	14,090.00
US EPA - CPRG	23,682.53
CT DEEP – SMM Grant	8,507.70
CT DEEP – RWA Grant	52,673.05
Retiree Health Insurance	3,121.80

Other Assets

Prepaid Expense - UConn MPA Interns	11,230.70
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	4,344,169.32
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable	(500.00)
Payroll Taxes Payable & Accrued Interest	9,049.64
Deferred Revenue - Municipal	111,019.79
Deferred Revenue - OPM	456,938.80
Deferred Revenue - LOTCIP	256,766.84
Deferred Rev. - Other (Election Monitor)	3,690.77
Deferred Revenue – Special Assessment	22,830.00

Total Liabilities	859,795.844
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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	14,505.98

Total Fund Balance	3,484,373.48
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	4,344,169.32

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 2/28/2026

Resources	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Municipal - Revenue	9,288.98	127,215.66	393,870.00
Municipal - Special Assessment		142,040.10	375,000.00
CT OPM - Regional Planning	110,546.69	505,563.25	1,240,517.00
CT OPM - RPIP (Cybersecurity)	8,445.00	150,485.10	1,805,066.00
CT OPM - Parcel and CAMA Data Grant	5,645.00	55,630.00	181,500.00
CTDOT - Transportation Planning	137,884.62	815,029.51	2,300,925.00
CTDOT - Highway Safety Grant	12,831.17	100,317.73	169,718.00
CTDOT - LOTCIP	1,485.13	11,679.01	250,000.00
CTDOT - Active Trans. Microgrants Program		19,599.00	19,599.00
US EPA - CPRG	23,682.53	141,642.99	320,895.00
CT SotS - Regional Election Monitor			3,691.00
CT DEEP - SMM Grant		9,344.88	20,706.00
CT DEEP - RWA Grant		120,018.46	112,500.00
Interest - Revenue	4,806.49	38,174.50	20,000.00
Retiree Health Insurance	2,076.00	15,872.04	20,000.00
Total Resources	316,691.61	2,252,612.23	7,233,987.00

Direct Expenses	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Retiree Health Insurance	2,076.00	15,872.04	20,000.00
Transportation Planning Consultants	68,592.88	307,537.68	1,807,539.00
Land-Use Planning Consultants	6,650.00	29,250.00	137,500.00
Other Consultants	89,401.77	733,627.95	1,539,200.00
Subrecipients	21,283.54	82,675.74	89,599.00
Travel	547.18	5,505.05	17,000.00
Data Processing	7,343.00	12,608.00	9,500.00
Office Supplies	619.00	1,502.32	5,846.00
Subscriptions and Books		1,101.11	5,800.00
Insurance and Professional Services		1,350.00	54,800.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising	2,236.72	15,378.16	25,300.00
Miscellaneous		163.00	590.00
Transportation - Reserved			49,554.00
LOTCIP - Reserved			163,846.00
Highway Safety Grant - Reserved			14,012.00
CT OPM (RPIP Grant) - Reserved			1,430,066.00
CT DEEP (SMM Grant) - Reserved			8,009.00
CT DEEP (RWA Grant) - Reserved			5,460.00
US EPA (CPRG) - Reserved			114,041.00
Total Direct Expenses	198,750.09	1,206,571.05	5,497,664.00

Direct Labor	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Direct Labor - Employees	52,420.50	437,563.14	733,001.00

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 2/28/2026

Overhead	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Indirect Labor - Employees	16,098.30	135,090.96	227,634.00
Employee Benefits	27,758.38	232,277.64	448,638.00
Travel			100.00
Data Processing	1,858.87	25,576.07	34,600.00
Rent	15,818.81	140,495.34	188,100.00
Telephone and Internet	598.05	3,368.49	10,600.00
Office Supplies	301.62	1,918.27	3,200.00
Equipment Maintenance	356.00	23,543.22	40,500.00
Subscriptions and Books		149.90	500.00
Insurance and Professional Services	3,582.45	31,420.30	47,800.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising	89.87	89.87	1,150.00
Total Overhead	66,462.35	593,972.06	1,003,322.00
Total Operating Expenses	317,632.94	2,238,106.25	7,233,987.00

2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - Amendment Number 17**Project: 0036-0208 COMPUTERIZED TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM UPGRADE****Cost:** \$2,784,000**Action:** New project added

Summary: This project replaces the Computerized Traffic Signal System (CTSS) along Route 34 in Derby and Orange, supplementing related improvements initiated under Project 0036-0184. The work focuses on modernizing outdated signal infrastructure to improve system reliability and operational performance.

Purpose: The project upgrades aging traffic signal equipment to maintain a state of good repair and introduces Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) capabilities. Improvements include installation of new fiber-optic communications and technologies that support Adaptive Signal Control Technologies (ASCT), Connected Vehicle (CV) applications, and Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures (ATSPM). These systems will enable CTDOT to monitor performance, proactively adjust operations, and improve traffic flow. The PE phase includes a PD/FD split.

Project: 0083-0280: UPGRADE COMPUTERIZED TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM**Cost:** \$2,310,000**Action:** New project added

Summary: This project replaces and upgrades the aging Computerized Traffic Signal System (CTSS) along U.S. Route 1 (Boston Post Road) in Milford and Orange, extending from Cedarhurst Lane/CT Post Mall Drive to Peck Lane. The upgrades modernize the corridor's signal infrastructure and transition it to an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).

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Purpose: The improvements enhance safety, mobility, and system reliability by replacing obsolete signal components with modern, technology-enabled traffic management systems. Enhancements include new signal hardware, fiber-optic communication upgrades, and the ability to support Adaptive Signal Control Technologies (ASCT), Connected Vehicle (CV) applications, and Automated Traffic Signal Performance Measures (ATSPM). These capabilities will allow CTDOT to actively monitor conditions, respond adaptively, and improve travel times along this key corridor.

Project: 0092-0706 CONSTRUCT MILL RIVER TRAIL

Cost: \$4,500,000

Action: New project added

Summary: This project will construct a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail along the Mill River in New Haven. The trail will extend approximately 5,100 feet from Orange Street beside Wilbur Cross High School, through a new tunnel under Willow Street to Blake Field, and from Humphrey Street to the rear of 370 James Street.

Purpose: The project expands New Haven's pedestrian and bicycle network by providing a continuous off-road trail connection that improves multimodal mobility and recreational access. Work includes trail construction, a tunnel under Willow Street, and associated landscaping. The project is being initiated for the Right-of-Way (RW) and Construction (CN) phases only, as the City is funding the PE phase without federal participation.

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Resolution

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

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

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Resolution

Fiscal Year 2025-Fiscal Year 2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Seventeen (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 *Seventeen* 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 **March 25, 2026**

Date March 25, 2026

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

Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Negotiate and Execute a Contract Amendment with REX Development, Inc. for the Land Bank Feasibility Study

Whereas: The FY 2025-26 Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan, which included On-Call Economic Development Services, was adopted by the SCRCOG Board on May 28, 2025;

Whereas: The SCRCOG Board approved the selection of REX Development for On-Call Economic Development Services on June 25, 2025; and

Whereas: The SCRCOG Board approved Amendment No. 2 to the FY 2025-26 RSG Spending Plan to include a Land Bank Feasibility Study on January 21, 2026.

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

That Laura Francis, as Executive Director of SCRCOG, is authorized to negotiate and sign a contract amendment with REX Development for services related to the Land Bank Feasibility Study.

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 convening meeting of the Council of Governments on Wednesday, March 25th, 2026.

Date: _____

By: _____

Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
Regional Planning Commission**

March 2026 RPC Action Table

Ref. #	Received	Description	Adjacent RPC Towns	RPC Action
2.1	1/27/2026	City of West Haven. Proposed zoning text amendments related to SS PA 25-1 and intended to support and bolster housing and businesses development.	Milford, New Haven, Orange	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning text amendments do 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	2/11/2026	Town of Wallingford. Proposed Zoning Text Amendment to allow cannabis establishments in a select area of Town.	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.
2.3	2/11/2026	Town of North Branford. Proposed zoning text amendment intended to streamline and clarify regulations around restaurants.	Branford, East Haven, Guilford, North Haven, Wallingford	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.
2.4	2/13/2026	Town of Guilford. Proposed zoning text amendments to partially clean up the regulations as well to make necessary changes to align with recent legislation	Branford, Madison, North Branford	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning text amendments do 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.sccog.org T (203) 234-7555 F (203) 234-9850 rpc@sccog.org

Executive Director's Report March 2026

1. Staff Updates

- Congratulations to Sabrina Davis, Municipal Services Coordinator, on successfully completing her probationary period and officially joining SCRCOG as a permanent member of the team. Sabrina has already made a strong impact across the region, organizing valuable working group sessions and building meaningful connections with municipal and regional partners.
- We are pleased to welcome Kate Wimsatt to SCRCOG, who will join us on April 6th as our first Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Specialist. Kate brings more than 15 years of experience designing and implementing large-scale municipal waste reduction, composting, and recycling programs, and most recently in collaboration with the New York City Department of Sanitation and NYC Public Schools. She looks forward to supporting our member municipalities in addressing their evolving waste management needs.

2. CT PSAP Consolidation Working Group

Although the proposed legislation to establish a formal working group did not pass last year, a voluntary group for Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) consolidation has since been formed. I was not formally appointed to the group but have been allowed to participate. Discussions with working group members have included case studies of successful consolidations and strategies to encourage more interest. Through this participation, I have had conversations with legislative staff on potential funding opportunities for a feasibility study within the SCRCOG region. Updates to follow.

3. Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Area (CT RC&D)

I am pleased to report that I have accepted an invitation to join the Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area (CT RC&D) Council. Founded in 1968, CT RC&D is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to advancing a more diverse, equitable, and resilient Connecticut through collaborative efforts that strengthen natural resource conservation, agriculture, and rural economies.

4. SCRCOG Recognition

SCRCOG was recognized during the Annual Green Bank Awards Breakfast for supporting municipal leaders in accessing Green Bank programs in the region. All are encouraged to

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participate in and share the workshop series outlined in the Regional Planning & Municipal Services Staff Report. Workshops will be offered from April through December.

5. Be The Change Teen Leader Transportation Summit Date Change

The Teen Safe Driving Summit date has been changed to Wednesday, May 6th to allow more time for school districts to enroll students. Invitations and outreach materials have been shared with all high school principals in the region. We encourage CEOs to discuss this unique opportunity with their schools. An updated flyer is included in the agenda packet for distribution.

6. Testimony Submitted 2026 Legislative Session

To date, SCRCOG has submitted written testimony for the following legislative items:

- 1) [In Support of HB 5046 – An Act Supporting Firefighter and Police Officer Recruitment and Retention](#)
- 2) [Joint Testimony with the City of New Haven, and the Towns of Madison and Guilford In Support of Dedicated, Ongoing Funding for the CTDOT Microtransit Program \(SB-009\)](#)
- 3) [In Support of S.B. 7 – An Act Concerning Educational Equity Joint Committee on Education](#)
- 4) [In Support of HB 5390 – In Support of An Act Concerning the Regional Planning Incentive Account](#)
- 5) [In Support of HB 5527 - An Act Concerning the Publication of Certain Legal Notices](#)

7. Events Attended by Executive Director

CCM Legislative Committee Meeting	March 10, 2026
CT COG Meeting	March 11, 2026
2026 Green Bank Awards Meeting	March 17, 2026
Annual Meeting & Awards - Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce	March 25, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
 Laura Francis

Transportation Planning Staff Report March 2026

1. Active Transportation Microgrant Program Update

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) Active Transportation Microgrant Program continues to support small, non-infrastructure projects that expand safe and equitable walking, biking, and rolling opportunities. Municipalities, school districts, and nonprofit or community organizations may apply for up to \$5,000 in state-funded assistance. As of 2025, more than \$110,000 has been awarded within our region, supporting a range of community-based active transportation initiatives. Funded projects include bike rodeos and community cycling events teaching safe riding skills, school and community bicycle safety education programs, distribution of bikes, helmets, and safety gear for youth, installation of racks and repair kits to support local maintenance, and hands-on school-based bicycle maintenance and riding programs. For the 2026 grant cycle,

- Eight applications have been received for Round 1 of the 2026 program.
- Round 2 opens in April, with applications accepted through June 17, 2026.
- Awarded funds will be available beginning July 2026.

2. Section 5310 Applications Open

SCRCOG, in conjunction with RiverCOG, is responsible for reviewing Section 5310 applications in the New Haven Transportation Management Area (TMA) and identifying a prioritized list of projects for CTDOT. Section 5310 provides funding to purchase mobility vehicles and support to programs that address the transportation challenges of individuals with disabilities and seniors. For more information, contact James Rode at jrode@scrcog.org. The application deadline is March 31st.

3. 2027–2030 TIP Draft Public Comment Period

The Draft 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been completed. The draft will be posted on website for public comment from April 1st through May 1st. Additional materials will be shared for public distribution. For more information, contact James Rode at jrode@scrcog.org.

4. Transportation Study Updates

SCRCOG continues to make progress on nine consultant-supported transportation studies across the region. Updates are provided below.

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- **Wallingford Intersection Study:** Staff attended the final public meeting for the Wallingford Intersection Study on safety improvements at the intersection of Parker Farms Road, Hope Hill Road, and Highland Avenue. The study was conducted with AKRF in coordination with Town of Wallingford staff. The final report is expected to be available for review later this month.
- **North Haven Valley Service Road Study:** This study has been completed, and copies will soon be made available on the SCRCOG website.
- **Northford Center Study:** This study is nearing completion. Preliminary engineering plans for the recommended improvements have been drafted and are currently under review by CTDOT. Once the plans are finalized, a final public meeting will be scheduled to present the study's findings.
- **Wallingford Route 5 Intersection Study:** The kickoff meeting for this study was held with BL Companies consultants, CTDOT staff from the Concept Unit and Traffic Operations, municipal staff, and SCRCOG. This study will evaluate transportation system needs and deficiencies associated with the Route 5 and Yale Avenue intersection as well as the Route 15 interchanges in Wallingford.
- **Guilford Route 1 Corridor Study:** The study's kickoff meeting was held with FHI Studio consultants and Town of Guilford staff. The study will develop a comprehensive set of conceptual improvement recommendations and land use strategies along the Route 1 corridor in Guilford.
- **Multitown Pavement Management Study:** The study's kickoff meeting was held with representatives from BETA Group and staff from the towns of Orange and Woodbridge. The study will conduct a comprehensive road condition survey in Orange, Woodbridge, and Bethany using automated scanning technologies.

5. Upcoming Studies

Agreements and scopes have been drafted for the following three studies. Following CTDOT review and approval, these studies are expected to begin next month.

- **Congestion Management Process (CMP):** This effort will include additional data collection and implementation of recommendations from previous CMP studies. SCRCOG will also continue to coordinate with the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments to align CMP efforts across the two primary areas of the New Haven Transportation Management Area (TMA).
- **Scenario Planning for Regional Multimodal Transportation:** This study will help SCRCOG communities plan future development by modeling and comparing transit-oriented development (TOD) scenarios around rail stations.

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- **North Haven Ridge Road Safety Study:** This study will develop and evaluate alternative roadway improvement concepts for Ridge Road between Route 22 and the Hamden town line. A probable construction cost estimate will also be prepared for the recommended alternative.
- **Solicitation for Transportation Studies for FY27:** SCRCOG member municipalities may request additional consultant-supported studies. A solicitation for new studies was issued last month. Municipalities interested in submitting a request should contact Jim Rode at jrode@scrcog.org.

6. Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Update

Projects continue to progress through the program. The Town of Madison received authorization for construction on the Copse Road and Warpus Road Pavement Rehabilitation Project. The town also received approval to continue the design phase for the Scotland Avenue Sidewalk Project. The City of New Haven received a Commitment to Fund for the Ferry Street Roadway and Corridor Improvements Project.

7. SCRCOG Corridor Safety Planning Index

We have launched a new GIS-based planning tool on SCRCOG's website: [The Corridor Safety Planning Index](#). The tool leverages crash data from the [CT Crash Data Repository by UConn](#) to analyze six crash categories: teen driver, speeding, non-motorists, individuals aged 65+, DUI, and fatal. Contact Justin Salva at jsalva@scrcog.org with any questions.

8. MS4/Bridge/Culvert GIS Updates and Coordination with OPM

Staff are coordinating with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to fulfill the geospatial data collection efforts outlined under PA 25-33. Most recently, the CT GIS Office has requested existing municipal data on local culverts to develop a preliminary dataset. Staff continue to attend the monthly CT GIS Office Water Working Group for updates on municipal data collection. For more information, contact Justin Salva at jsalva@scrcog.org.

9. Parking Lot Counts

Data collection on commuter parking lot utilization across the region has been completed, and the compiled results have been distributed.

10. Website Launch Update

The new SCRCOG website is in the final stages of development and will receive internal review prior to the full launch. An announcement of the launch will be shared via email and social media.

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Regional Planning & Municipal Services Staff Report March 2026

1. SCRCOG Municipal Shared Services Study Update

Raftelis has finalized the Core Services Matrix and Legal Readiness Matrix as part of the SCRCOG Shared Services Study. The project team is now working with SCRCOG to prepare for a two-day Shared Services Workshop to identify and explore potential models for shared services across the region.

Date: Wednesday, May 20th - Thursday, May 21st

Location: Avangrid Networks HQ in Orange

If you have any questions, please contact Brendon Dukett at bdukett@scrcog.org.

2. Opportunities with the CRCOG Regional Waste Authority

SCRCOG will host a hybrid meeting with the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) to discuss the opportunity for municipalities to join the Central CT Solid Waste Authority (CCSWA). Established in 2010, the CCSWA is a regional waste authority serving 14 municipalities across two COGs. This opportunity aligns with SCRCOG's recent regional waste authority feasibility study recommendation to join an existing authority. CRCOG staff will discuss CCSWA's structure, services, membership benefits, and answer questions. We strongly encourage representation from each municipality, including CEOs and/or staff familiar with local solid waste procedures. Contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@scrcog.org or Laura Francis at lfrancis@scrcog.org with any questions. [Register here.](#)

Date: Thursday, April 9th

Time: 12-1:30pm

Location: Hybrid. Lunch provided for those in-person at the SCRCOG office.

3. 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 the COG begins the Regional Plans of Conservation and Development (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, and West Haven. It is imperative for the commission to be fully staffed for true regional representation on important issues and discussions. Any questions on the commission or to report of a recent appointment, please contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@scrcog.org.

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4. SCRCOG Regional Climate Resilience Working Group

SCRCOG is forming a new quarterly multi-stakeholder working group for municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and community members to implement climate resilience goals in the region. The group will focus on education, partnership-building, and collaboration to implement resilience initiatives and plans across the region. Topics will include strategies to address coastal and inland flooding, drought, severe storms, extreme temperatures, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and renewable energy. This group is being formed in part to help implement our Comprehensive Climate Action Plan while looking at other impacts of climate change and long-term resiliency. The inaugural meeting will provide focus on shaping working group priorities and next steps.

Date: Thursday, April 16th

Time: 1-2:30pm

Location: Virtual

For more information or to express interest, either for yourself, a staff member, or a member of the public, please contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@scrcog.org.

5. CT Green Bank Monthly Webinar Series

Starting in April for Earth Month, we are conducting monthly, one-hour workshops on green energy solutions, programs, and financing opportunities for your municipalities. These workshops are primarily virtual, apart from June in-person. Please see the full list of topics below and registration links. Upon registration, you will be manually added to the calendar invite. Please email Sabrina Davis at sdavis@scrcog.org with any questions.

Spring 2026 Workshops	
Tuesday, April 7 th 11am-12pm Virtual REGISTER	Solar MAP+: This workshop will focus on how the Solar Marketplace Assistance Program Plus (Solar MAP+) can support municipalities in navigating the solar marketplace to access solar and storage and achieve energy savings.
Tuesday, April 14 th 10-11am Virtual REGISTER	School Bus Fleet Electrification: Rescheduled from March, the second workshop will focus on the Fleet Electrification Accelerator Program. This program provides free fleet electrification planning and deployment assistance to school bus fleets.
Wednesday, May 6 th 10-11am Virtual REGISTER	Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE): The C-PACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) program enables all types of commercial properties to make green upgrades to new and existing buildings through an experienced contractor network and access to financing with repayment options.

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6. Urban Tree Forestry Learning Exchange

SCRCOG will be co-hosting a half day Urban & Community Forestry Learning Exchange with The Nature Conservancy, CT DEEP, Sustainable CT, and the CT Urban Forest Council. This event will provide municipalities with an opportunity to share urban and community forestry success and challenges, advance transformative project ideas, connect with municipal staff, regional partners, and organizations working in the field, and learn more about emerging opportunities and innovate approaches to advancing urban and community forestry initiatives. This event is open to all, and [registration is available here](#). Please contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@scrcog.org with any questions.

Date: Wednesday, April 15th

Time: 9am-1pm

Location: ML Keefe Community Center in Hamden

7. Planner Zoning Webinar

SCRCOG is hosting a webinar for regional planners and planning staff on the new Zoning Code Library available through Basecamp. The webinar will discuss how to use the library and request information regarding relevant zoning codes. Contact Elizabeth Moy (emoy@scrcog.org) or Matthew Rothchild (mrothchild@scrcog.org) with any questions.

Date: Thursday, April 2nd, 12-1pm

Location: Virtual

8. SCRCOG On-Call Municipal Zoning Implementation Assistance

SCRCOG has launched an On-Call Municipal Zoning & Implementation Support program to assist member municipalities with zoning and regulatory updates per Special Session Public Act 25-1 that are due July 1, 2026. Through this program, municipalities may request consultant assistance for zoning regulation and map review, drafting zoning text amendments or overlay districts, preparing technical memoranda, and supporting municipal needs. SCRCOG has contracted with Tyche Planning & Policy Group. If you have interest, please send a request to Brendon Dukett at bdukett@scrcog.org.

9. Housing Update

SCRCOG staff continue to collaborate with other COGs and member municipalities to analyze SS PA 25-1 requirements and support opportunities. As part of the CT COG Housing Working Group, staff meet regularly with COG planners to discuss technical assistance, support, and analysis of housing legislation. Staff also participate in an Office of Policy and Management working group to develop guidance and methodology for the housing growth plans and housing growth targets. The Community Conversations on Housing available through consultant Ben Fink have been a successful forum for CEOs to discuss questions and

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concerns around the legislation. As we continue to work through evolving guidance, assessments, plans, and inventories, we will continue to engage with municipal staff, commissions, and stakeholder groups. Contact Ian McElwee at imcelwee@scrcog.org to discuss additional opportunities and updates on housing.

10. Solid Waste & Recycling Working Group: The Cylinder Collective

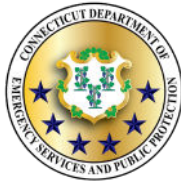
Thank you to those who attended SCRCOG’s Solid Waste & Recycling Working Group session on Wednesday, March 18th hosted in partnership with [The Cylinder Collective](#) on gas cylinder recycling. If you missed the session and/or are interested in learning more about this free program for municipalities, reach out to Sabrina Davis at sdavis@scrcog.org.

11. UConn IPP Intern Projects Update

Intern “on-loan” projects with Woodbridge and Madison have begun. Elizabeth Moy has been supporting Woodbridge with their Sustainable CT Spring Certification and assisting the Sustainability Committee with Woodbridge Earth Day programming. Additionally, she is working to establish a Friends of the Country Club of Woodbridge group to launch volunteer stewardship efforts. Matthew Rothchild has created a zoning ordinance comparison on historic buildings, districts, and demolition delays across the region and select cities nationally. He has also been working with Madison on historic preservation and energy-efficient retrofitting educational brochures for homeowners and preparatory SHPO grant writing assistance for the Historic Resources Inventories grant.

12. Events Attended by SCRCOG Staff

Event	Staff Member(s)	Date
2026 CT Green Bank Awards Ceremony	Laura Francis Sabrina Davis	Tuesday, March 17 th
Long Island Sound Learning Exchange	Ian McElwee	Tuesday, March 17 th
2026 CT Compost Conference	Sabrina Davis	Thursday, March 19 th



DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES & PUBLIC PROTECTION
**DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT &
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DEMHS Region 2 Update

As of March 16, 2026

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program application is available. The application is due June 30, 2026.
- At the Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) meeting on Friday, February 20, 2026, First Selectman Matt Hoey was elected as the REPT's Chairperson, and First Selectman Michael J. Freda was elected as the REPT Vice Chairperson.
- The 2026 Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Emergency Management and Public Health Symposium will be Thursday, April 23, 2026, at Camp Nett in Niantic. Registration is available on the CCM website.
- Fiscal Year 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending requests to the offices of U.S. Senators Blumenthal and Murphy are now being accepted. Applications are being accepted until April 6, 2026.
- Next REPT-SC meeting will be Friday, April 17, 2026.