

SCRCOG Board **Meeting Notice & Agenda**

DATE	September 23, 2026	LOCATION	SCRCOG Office	DIAL-IN	+1 929-346-7262 103423992#
TIME	10:00 am	MEETING URL	Teams Link	MEETING ID PASSCODE	234 598 065 221 9 Ki9fy6bS

Meeting Note: Attendees are respectfully asked to refrain from using AI-powered note-taking tools during the meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

- 1 **Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2 **Adopt Minutes of August 26, 2026 SCRCOG Board Meeting (motion)** Pages 3-9
- 3 **Treasurer's Report for month ending August 31, 2026 (motion)** Pages 10-12
- 4 **MPO Business**
- 5 **COG Business**
 - a) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with the Selected Consultant for the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (motion) Page 13
 - b) Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with the Selected Consultant for the Regional Plan of Conservation & Development Update (motion) Page 14
 - c) Regional Planning Commission August Action Table Page 15
- 6 **Guest Speakers**

Regional Fire Service Working Group Discussion - *State Comptroller Sean Scanlon*

Legislative Update on Planning & Development – *State Representative Eleni Kavros DeGraw, House Chair of Planning & Development Committee*

Legislative Update on Public Safety – *State Representative Pat Boyd, House Chair of Public Safety and Security Committee*

7 Reports

- a) Executive Director's Report Pages 16-17
- b) Transportation Staff Report Pages 18-20
- c) Regional Planning and Regional Services Report Pages 21-25
- d) State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST

8 Written Reports

- a) Greater New Haven Transit District Report
- b) CT Rides Report
- c) REX Development Report
- d) Congressional Reports
- e) DEMHS Report Page 26

9 Regional Roundtable Discussion

10 Other Business

11 Adjournment

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

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

South Central Regional Council of Governments

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TO: **SCRCOG Board Members**
 FROM: **Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Secretary**
 DATE: **August 26, 2026**
 SUBJECT: **SCRCOG Board Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2026**

Present:

Bethany	First Selectwoman Carol Goldberg
Branford	First Selectman Joshua Brooks
East Haven	Mayor Joseph Carfora, <i>Treasurer</i>
Hamden	Mayor Adam Sendroff
Madison	First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, <i>Immediate Past Chair</i>
New Haven	Shirley Kuang, Proxy
North Branford	Town Manager Scott Nichol
North Haven	First Selectman Michael Freda
Wallingford	Mayor Vincent Cervoni, <i>Secretary</i>
West Haven	Mayor Dorinda Borer, <i>Chair</i>

SCRCOG Staff: Laura Francis, Christopher Rappa, Jim Rode, Brendon Dukett, Leila Bagenstos, Paige Booth, Sabrina Davis, Angelina DeBenedet, Colette Kroop, Ian McElwee, Eric Meade, Kate Wimsatt

Guests:

Nan Birdwhistell (Murtha Cullina LLP); Rory Burke (Town of North Branford); Al Carbone, Michael Anderson, Anna Savastano (Avangrid); Elizabeth Gara (CT Council of Small Towns); Michael Harris (REX Development); Louis Mangini (Office of Representative Rosa DeLauro); Lori Martin (Haven's Harvest); Laurie McElwee (River Valley Transit); Glen McGough (Greater New Haven Transit District); Kevin Ortiz, Antonio Gomez (VN Engineers); Jennifer Pacacha (CT Department of Transportation); Nicole Velardi (Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security)

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1. **Call to order**

Chair Borer called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

2. **Adopt Minutes of July 22, 2026 SCRCOG Board Meeting (motion)**

Chair Borer referred to pages 3-7 of the agenda packet. Motion made by Mayor Carfora and seconded by Mayor Sendroff. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mayor Carfora referred to pages 8-10 of the agenda packet, noting that all expenses appear to be appropriate for a one-month period. Motion made by First Selectwoman Goldberg and seconded by Mayor Sendroff. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **Speaker – State Legislative & Fiscal Update**

Chair Borer opened discussion on potential speakers from legislative commissions and committees. Discussion followed on potential topics.

5. **MPO Business**

a) **Presentation – Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update, VN Engineers**

Kevin Ortiz and Antonio Gomez of VN Engineers provided an update on the SCRCOG Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2055 process. Discussion followed on potential events for public engagement and materials to be shared.

6. **COG Business**

a) **SCRCOG FY 2026-27 Budget Revision #2 (motion)**

Chair Borer referred to pages 11-13 of the agenda packet. Motion made by First Selectman Freda and seconded by Mayor Sendroff. The motion passed unanimously.

b) **Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with the Selected Consultant for the Regional Open Space & Recreational Trails Inventory Update (motion)**

Chair Borer referred to page 14 of the agenda packet. Brendon Dukett provided additional context on the procurement process and the purpose of a regional inventory update. Motion made by First Selectwoman Goldberg and seconded by Mayor Sendroff. The motion passed unanimously.

South Central Regional Council of Governments

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c) Regional Planning Commission July Action Table

Chair Borer referred to page 15-16 of the agenda packet, noting questions can be directed to Ian McElwee.

7. Reports

a) Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Francis referred to the report included as a handout. Updates were provided on the regional Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) grant application through the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP). Executive Director Francis noted that the SCRCOG Highway Safety program was not renewed and that staff are considering ways to integrate the work with other transportation programs. A reminder was provided for the upcoming SCRCOG Legislative Breakfast on September 10th and the ongoing development of a SCRCOG legislative agenda. It was also noted that a Lunch & Learn on disaster recovery processes for municipalities would follow the Board meeting. Executive Director Francis provided introductions to SCRCOG's interns Eric Meade and Paige Booth who will be working on regional planning and municipal services projects. Discussion followed on the Lunch & Learn and the qualification threshold for FEMA disaster recovery funding.

b) Transportation Staff Report

James Rode referred to pages 17-18 of the agenda packet, noting that the Transportation Committee did not meet in August and plans and studies are ongoing.

c) Regional Planning and Regional Services Report

Brendon Dukett referred to pages 19-24 of the agenda packet, noting that the Municipal Shared Services Study final report was included as a handout. Kate Wimsatt noted that takeaways on recent statewide waste reports are included in the packet and meetings with municipal transfer stations are ongoing. Executive Director Francis noted that the Municipal Shared Services Study project is moving into implementation, and Board members were encouraged to identify priority items based on the report.

Mayor Borer discussed bringing in brush and greenery from other cities to utilize the town's large compost site.

d) Greater New Haven Transit District Report

Glen McCough provided a verbal report for Greater New Haven Transit District. Administrative updates included that negotiations with Teamsters Local 443 are progressing for a three-year agreement. Design work for the new facility remains on schedule with completion expected by the end of 2026 followed by construction going out to bid. Completion of the facility is expected in late 2029 or early 2030. McCough noted that several technology procurements have been completed, including new paratransit software that will support the call center and automatically optimize rides. IT services were renewed and new vehicle maintenance software was procured for fuel tracking, inventory, and preventative maintenance. McCough noted that the annual audit has begun and is on schedule.

Operational updates included that ridership remains consistent at approximately 14,000-15,000 trips per month, with most trips serving New Haven, Hamden, and West Haven. Two new supervisors were hired to conduct road audits and vehicle safety checks, and a new driver training class is being planned to address normal attrition and retirements. McCough noted that six new cutaway vehicles are expected to be on the road within a month and that the agency is exploring the use of Ford Transit vans that come equipped with additional safety features, including technology to automatically lock wheelchairs in place.

e) CT Rides Report

Chair Borer referred all to the CT Rides report included as a handout. There was no one present from CT Rides.

f) REX Development Report

Michael Harris provided a verbal report and slides included as a handout. It was noted that unemployment has increased across the region with rates in some towns exceeding 7%, compared with 4.8% statewide. Harris noted that the increase appears to be driven less by large-scale layoffs and more by slower hiring, fewer job postings, and longer hiring timelines. A full unemployment report for each municipality is forthcoming.

Harris shared upcoming events including the Connecticut Legislative Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity's summit on September 9th that will focus on the economic impact of unemployment on families and basic needs and the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA)'s forums on the

state of the economy and gubernatorial candidates. Harris noted that REX will participate in CT Main Street's Economic Development Partnership Summit on September 23rd. The REX Regional Economic Development Forum (REDFO) for August was rescheduled to September 24th as a planning summit for future monthly programming.

Harris provided an overview of on-call economic development services currently being utilized by four communities, including municipal land disposition and site development assistance, site and infrastructure assessments, developer and broker engagement, and economic development commission training. Community-specific assistance has also included business visitation programs and support for local economic development commission structures. Looking ahead, expanded services will include additional consulting capacity for industrial parks and commercial districts and a new retail data platform to support market analysis and tenant recruitment. Additional assistance will be available for façade and placemaking programs and the creation of business services districts or merchants' associations. Other supplemental services, available as needed beyond the standard on-call scope, include tax abatement and eminent domain analysis, independent reviews of development project finances and requested public subsidies, and grant project management and financial administration. Harris noted that he will continue to work with communities in September to develop municipality-specific plans and identify opportunities to utilize available service credits.

g) Congressional Reports

Louis Mangini provided an update on the federal budget, noting that two differing continuing resolutions in the House and Senate would extend federal funding through the first week of December and must be reconciled. Mangini also provided an update on food assistance programs, noting that SNAP reductions have affected approximately 63,000 Connecticut residents, including 19,000 children. Residents seeking assistance are being directed to 211 and a new \$300 state benefit available through local community action agencies. A November briefing on Community Project Funding (earmarks) will help municipalities prepare applications. Mangini noted that for previously awarded federal funding, agencies may take three to five months to issue formal instructions. Municipalities were advised to keep application contacts current and obtain written confirmation

directly from the federal agency. Discussion followed on the need for continued advocacy with federal agencies.

Mayor Carfora raised discussion on Amazon's proposed drone delivery service from its North Haven facility. Mayor Carfora, First Selectman Freda, and Shirley Kuang noted that representatives from the Amazon distribution facility had arranged meetings with East Haven, North Haven, and New Haven, respectively. Discussion followed on federal regulatory approval, privacy, and potential impacts on residents. It was suggested that additional information be obtained from Amazon and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as well as regional coordination to address community concerns.

h) State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST

Chair Borer noted that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Annual Convention and Gubernatorial Debate will be held on October 27-28th.

Elizabeth Gara discussed several issues being considered for the upcoming state legislative session, including Flock cameras, FOIA requests, solar siting, and DEEP permitting. Gara noted that the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association has highlighted Flock cameras as a public safety tool and addressed privacy protections, and the Governor has called for a pause with the issue to be addressed during legislative planning. Gara also noted concerns that commercial entities are using FOIA requests to data mine information, creating administrative and privacy burdens for municipalities. She also provided updates on DEEP permitting, including a draft water diversion general permit and the withdrawal of a proposed permit governing surface and groundwater discharges. Discussion followed on the need for more timely permitting processes. It was noted that the Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) Fall Conference will be held on October 21st.

i) DEMHS Report

Nicole Velardi provided an emergency management update, noting that Deputy Commissioner Don Boyce will begin his tenure this month and that the statewide EPI exercise is scheduled for September 1st. Municipalities were reminded to update and submit their Local Emergency Operations Plans to maintain funding eligibility. Velardi noted that training for Emergency Management Directors is scheduled for September 24th, with Chief Elected Officials (CEOs) and other

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officials involved in emergency planning invited to attend the higher-level presentation at the Lunch & Learn following the Board meeting. Velardi noted that approximately \$1.37 million in FEMA-eligible costs related to the August 13th storm have been identified and that additional information is still being collected.

Velardi also provided additional information regarding Amazon's drone delivery program following a briefing with Amazon corporate, state police, FBI, and other security partners. Discussion followed on the specificities of the drones, federal regulation, and no-delivery areas. Velardi also noted that the biannual REP team meeting was held, and the 2026 budget was approved.

8. Regional Roundtable Discussion

No additional items were discussed.

9. Other Business

Mayor Borer congratulated First Selectman Freda on the acceptance of a new position, and Board members expressed their appreciation and congratulations.

10. Adjournment

Motion made by Mayor Cervoni and seconded by Mayor Carfora. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Balance Sheet

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 8/31/2026

Assets

Cash and Investments

Key Bank - Checking Account	100,262.42
State of CT - Short-Term Investment Fund	1,158,282.47

Accounts Receivable

CT Department of Transportation	294,740.91
CT Office of Policy and Management	315,190.68
US EPA - CPRG	1,743.56
CT DEEP – SMM Grant	(131.64)
CT DEEP – RWA Grant	2,272.91
Retiree Health Insurance	4,178.52

Other Assets

Prepaid Expense – UConn MPA Interns	(935.90)
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	4,180,954.07
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable	13,000.00
Payroll Taxes Payable & Accrued Interest	9,049.64
Deferred Revenue - Municipal	130,922.00
Deferred Revenue - OPM	138,808.85
Deferred Revenue - LOTCIP	252,408.44
Deferred Rev. - Other (Election Monitor)	3,690.77
Deferred Revenue - Special Assessment	44,084.00

Total Liabilities	591,963.70
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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	119,122.87

Total Fund Balance	3,588,990.37
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	4,180,954.07

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 8/31/2026

Resources	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Municipal - Revenue	22,788.00	38,795.20	310,402.00
Municipal - Special Assessment	156,013.60	156,013.60	375,000.00
CT OPM - Regional Planning	72,322.36	147,657.08	1,348,502.00
CT OPM - RPIP (Cybersecurity)	156,013.60	156,013.60	1,805,066.00
CT OPM - Parcel and CAMA Data Grant	11,520.00	11,520.00	80,000.00
CTDOT - Transportation Planning	149,447.68	280,084.54	2,379,770.00
CTDOT - Highway Safety Grant	11,291.56	22,836.16	169,718.00
CTDOT - LOTCIP		1,118.11	250,000.00
CTDOT - Active Transportation Microgrants Program	19,930.41	19,930.41	19930.00
US EPA - CPRG	1,743.56	3,574.30	168,368.00
CT SotS - Regional Election Monitor			3,691.00
CT DEEP - RWA Grant			51,000.00
Interest - Revenue	4,185.48	8,757.96	30,000.00
Retiree Health Insurance	2,081.46	6,244.38	25,500.00
Total Resources	607,337.71	852,545.34	7,016,947.00

Direct Expenses	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Retiree Health Insurance	2,081.46	6,244.38	25,500.00
Transportation Planning Consultants	92,428.05	152,998.05	1,741,863.00
Land-Use Planning Consultants	3,350.00	3,350.00	381,000.00
Other Consultants	331,983.10	331,983.10	1,164,180.00
Subrecipients	19,930.41	19,930.41	39,930.00
Travel	948.42	3,648.58	22,100.00
Data Processing		5,965.00	18,000.00
Office Supplies	349.07	349.07	1,238.00
Subscriptions and Books	693.20	797.20	9,400.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising	1,833.91	2,669.16	36,800.00
Miscellaneous			788.00
Transportation - Reserved			51,589.00
LOTICIP - Reserved			164,079.00
Highway Safety Grant - Reserved			11,146.00
CT OPM (RPIP Grant) - Reserved			1,430,066.00
US EPA (CPRG) - Reserved			61,485.00
Total Direct Expenses	453,597.62	527,934.95	5,159,164.00

Direct Labor	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Direct Labor - Employees	66,235.03	139,492.01	845,559.00

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 8/31/2026

Overhead	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Indirect Labor - Employees	17,850.37	41,291.60	251,778.00
Employee Benefits	32,074.13	89,063.45	432,496.00
Travel	17.40	17.40	100.00
Data Processing	4,096.00	9,636.00	35,200.00
Rent	15,818.81	47,599.68	193,800.00
Telephone and Internet	221.76	443.52	9,000.00
Office Supplies	93.54	149.52	3,600.00
Equipment Maintenance	456.83	664.71	30,500.00
Subscriptions and Books	45.45	90.90	500.00
Insurance and Professional Services	23.00	12,096.00	53,600.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising			1,150.00
Miscellaneous	54.00	156.00	500.00
Total Overhead	70,751.29	201,208.78	1,012,224.00
Total Operating Expenses	590,583.94	868,635.74	7,016,947.00



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***Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with _____
for the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update***

Whereas: The FY2026-27 Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan, which included the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, was adopted by the SCRCOG Board on May 27, 2026;

Whereas: SCRCOG conducted and facilitated a Request for Proposals process to procure consulting services to conduct the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update; and

Whereas: Following a review and interview process, the Selection Committee recommends the selection of _____ to conduct the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

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 consulting services agreement with _____ for the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

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 the resolution adopted at a legally convening meeting of the Council of Governments on Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026.

Date: September 23, 2026

By:

Mayor Vincent Cervoni, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of
Governments

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Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute a Contract with _____ for the Regional Plan of Conservation & Development Update

Whereas: The FY2026-27 Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan, which included the Regional Plan of Conservation & Development Update, was adopted by the SCRCOG Board on May 27, 2026;

Whereas: SCRCOG conducted and facilitated a Request for Proposals process to procure consulting services to conduct the Regional Plan of Conservation & Development Update; and

Whereas: Following a review and interview process, the Selection Committee recommends the selection of _____ to conduct the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

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 consulting services agreement with _____ for the Regional Plan of Conservation & Development Update.

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Date: September 23, 2026

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**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
Regional Planning Commission**

September 2026 RPC Action Table

Ref. #	Received	Description	Adjacent RPC Towns	RPC Action
2.1	8/5/2026	Town of Bethany. Proposed zoning text amendment allowing primary and secondary solar equipment in certain districts.	Hamden, Woodbridge	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	8/5/2026	Town of Woodbridge. Proposed zoning text amendment removing after-school programs as a barrier to allowing wine bars in the business district.	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.
2.3	8/11/2026	Town of Orange. Proposed Subdivision at 180 Boston Post Road.	Milford, New Haven, West Haven, Woodbridge	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed subdivision 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	8/14/2026	Town of Guilford. Proposed zoning text amendment regarding PA 25-1 compliance.	Branford, Madison, North Branford	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.
2.5	7/23/2026	City of Milford. Proposed zoning text amendment regarding new residential properties abutting the Long Island Sound.	Orange, West 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.

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@scrcog.org

Executive Director's Report

September 2026

1) **SCRCOG Strategic Planning**

An Request For Quotes (RFQ) was posted on September 1st to create SCRCOG Forward – An Organizational Strategic Plan (2027-2032). View the RFQ on our website: <https://scrcog.org/rfp-02704/>. I am looking for three volunteers from the Executive Committee to serve on the RFQ review committee. Interviews are scheduled for October 13th. Please let me know if you can serve.

2) **Regional PSAP Consolidation Feasibility Study**

The application for the Regional Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Consolidation Feasibility Study was submitted to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and [can be viewed here](#). OPM will transfer this grant to DESPP to administer. I will notify you when we receive the contract to begin work. Please note that the application narrative leaves open the opportunity for the remaining six towns to join prior to the start of the study.

3) **OPM Wastewater Capacity Survey**

[Public Act 25-1](#) directed OPM to conduct a statewide wastewater capacity study to better understand how capacity concerns limit the potential for housing growth and other development, and to assess the types and extent of sewage infrastructure needs to support local, regional, and state growth goals. The survey linked below is a first step in that effort. The results are expected to help guide future wastewater investments related to development under new grant and loan programs enabled by Public Act 25-1 (note that these programs are independent from the Clean Water Fund program). Results are also expected to assist Councils of Governments and municipalities in the process of developing required Housing Growth Plans.

[The survey](#) is directed at municipalities with treatment facilities and those with collection systems that discharge to other municipalities' treatment facilities. It should take about 20-30 minutes to complete and is open through October 16th. If this applies to your municipality, please forward this message to the right person.

4) Work for America Toolkit Aims to Help Local Governments Improve Hiring Processes

This resource was provided by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). The nonprofit organization Work for America recently released a [toolkit](#) to help state and local governments address hiring challenges and improve workforce capacity. The toolkit guides governments through developing a "process map," which identifies barriers and friction points in a government's existing hiring process. Work for America recommends using this process map to present an action plan to leadership that addresses the previously identified bottlenecks. Sophie McGrath, a communications manager at Work for America, linked the toolkit to recent federal employee layoffs, pointing to an "opportunity for state and local governments to kind of uptake that talent."

5) Local Farmers and Agricultural Producer Opportunity

CT Resource Conservation & Development (CT RC&D) is accepting applications for a new composting program! The CT Agricultural Composting Program is available to help farmers and agricultural producers gain knowledge and tools to develop a successful on-farm composting system. Program opportunities include educational resources and training, technical assistance, and grant opportunities. Whether you're considering agricultural composting for the first time or looking to strengthen an existing operation, they are there to help. Learn more about this new program, available resources, and how to get involved at <https://ctrctd.org/connecticut-agricultural-composting-program>.

6) Staff Capacity for October

The month of October will be a particularly busy month for SCRCOG staff, with several multi-day training sessions, out-of-town conferences, and scheduled vacations. We appreciate your patience and understanding if you are unable to reach a staff member immediately. We will do our best to monitor emails and voicemails while we are out of the office.

Transportation Planning Staff Report

September 2026

1) Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update

Public engagement for the SCRCOG 2055 MTP Update is ongoing. The public input survey is available at bit.ly/scrcogmtp2055 and additional information about the plan update can be found on our website at scrcog.org/mtp2055. Reach out to Colette Kroop for outreach materials to share widely.

Community engagement events have been finalized and are listed below:

Community Event #1	North Haven Festival and Business Expo	September 19 th
Community Event #2	West Haven Apple Festival	September 25 th
Community Event #3	Madison Artisan & Antique Festival	September 26 th
Community Event #4	Hamden Pride Festival	October 3 rd
Community Event #5	Wallingford Festival	October 4 th
Community Event #6	Meriden Farmers Market	October 10 th

2) UPWP Studies Updates

- **Guilford Route 1 Corridor Study TAC**

The Guilford Route 1 Corridor Study TAC convened on Thursday, September 3rd to discuss project status and review existing conditions and potential alternatives.

- **Scenario Planning TAC**

The Scenario Planning TAC met on Thursday September 17th to review project status, potential scenarios, and existing conditions data.

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- **North Haven Ridge Road**

The town of North Haven along with BL and SCRCOG held a stakeholder meeting Wednesday September 9th and a public meeting on September 21st for the Ridge Road Safety Study.

- **Wallingford Route 5 Intersection Study**

The town of Wallingford along with BL and SCRCOG hosted it's first public information meeting for our Route 5 Intersection Study on Thursday August 27th at the Wallingford Public Library.

3) **Connecticut Strategic Highway Safety Plan: 2026 Safety Workshop**

Staff attended the Connecticut Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2026 Safety Workshop on Wednesday August 26th. The purpose of the workshop was to review progress towards reducing fatalities and serious injuries on Connecticut's roadways and discuss priority safety topics and approaches to the 2027 Plan.

4) **South Central Regional (SCR) Mobility Manager Steering Committee Meeting**

Staff presented at the September SCR Mobility Manager Steering Committee meeting on the SCRCOG Senior Mobility forum and ongoing efforts to engage and collaborate with senior serving organizations.

5) **COG / MPO Monthly Meeting - September 2026**

Representatives from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) provided updates at the September COG/MPO meeting on statewide transportation initiatives, funding programs, and planning efforts. Among these was the development of Connecticut's 2055 Long-Range Transportation Plan, which is being guided by extensive public outreach and focuses on improving safety, maintaining infrastructure, enhancing public transportation, expanding active transportation opportunities, strengthening system resilience, and supporting economic growth. CTDOT also reported that statewide air quality performance targets will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administrative (FHWA) by October 1, 2026. MPOs will have 180 days to either support the state targets or establish their own.

CTDOT also highlighted several grant opportunities for municipalities. The Community Connectivity Grant Program (CCGP) has awarded more than \$84 million since 2018 and recently awarded \$10.8 million to 17 municipal projects. The Transportation Rural

Improvement Program (TRIP) has awarded approximately \$30 million since 2022, with \$10 million awarded to nine projects in its most recent funding round. CTDOT also discussed the federal PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program, which provides funding for transportation resilience and hazard-mitigation projects, and encouraged municipalities to pursue funding through several grant categories before the October 9, 2026 application deadline. Information was also provided about the State Matching Grant Program (MGP) for elderly and disabled transportation services, including upcoming funding cycle requirements and annual recertification procedures.

Representatives from the CT Training and Technical Assistance Center (T2 Center) at the University of Connecticut highlighted upcoming training opportunities, technical assistance resources, and roadway safety programs available to municipalities. These include Local Traffic Authority certification training, Safety Academy courses, ADA and traffic sign management workshops, and continued support through the Speed Feedback Sign Program, which provides equipment and speed management training to municipalities at no cost.

6) Commuter Lot Surveys

Commuter parking lot surveys were conducted on September 16th, and the 5-year comparison report was sent out on September 21st.

7) Other Public Engagement

Staff attended public meetings that impact transportation including the CTRail Plan Public Input meeting in New Haven, the Route 15 Interchange Public Input meeting in Hamden, and the triennial Tweed Safety Exercise.

8) GIS Bi-Annual Meeting

Staff will be hosting the second GIS Bi-Annual Meeting at the North Haven Public Library with a tentative meeting date of October 20th. The meeting will include discussion on GIS topics of regional interest and state-level GIS statutes. Interested municipal staff can register here: <https://arcg.is/0XTv1q0>.

Regional Planning & Regional Services Report

September 2026

**Please note: this report has been renamed and now includes reports from Regional Planning, Municipal Services, and Solid Waste & Recycling.*

Regional Planning & Municipal Services

1) Regional Planning Commission Vacancies

The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) currently has four vacancies representing Bethany, East Haven, North Branford, and North Haven. The Commission is important not only for reviewing municipal land use changes for potential inter-municipal impacts, but it will also serve as the Steering Committee for the 2028–2038 Regional Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) update. Full membership on the Commission will be particularly important during this time to ensure that all municipalities are represented in the development of the plan. To register your appointment to the commission or to alert staff of changes to an appointment, please email Ian McElwee.

2) Municipal Services Office Hours: Shared Services Implementation

SCRCOG's next Municipal Services Office Hours on the Shared Services Study Implementation Plan is scheduled for Tuesday, October 6th from 10:00-11:00 a.m. The session will include a presentation from Ben Kittelson, Manager at Raftelis. Register [here](#). Please contact Sabrina Davis with any questions.

3) Request for Projects: 2026-27 Municipal Services Intern On-Loan

SCRCOG is soliciting On-Loan Project proposals for consideration. On-Loan Projects are three-to-four-week, specialized municipal projects to add capacity, provide support, and advance municipal service programming. Up to five (5) projects will be completed by Municipal Services Intern Eric Meade from September to December 2026. Complete the interest survey [here](#) and email Sabrina Davis with any questions.

4) Regional Housing TAC – Developable Land Inventory Work

SCRCOG held its first Regional Housing Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on August 27th. SCRCOG staff and representatives from 11 municipalities met to discuss the housing growth planning framework and timeline established by Special Session PA 25-1. Since then, Leila Bagenstos and Justin Salva have held one-on-one meetings with planning and land use staff to discuss the municipal data needed to complete

developable land inventories and regional housing needs assessments. If you have not yet done so, please email Leila Bagenstos to schedule a follow-up meeting. The next Regional Housing TAC meeting will be held on October 22nd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

5) Urban Forestry Grant and Capacity-Building Support

The Connecticut Urban Forest Network has hired a Grants Specialist to help municipalities and nonprofits secure funding for urban forestry initiatives. The Specialist will offer monthly virtual office hours for project development, peer collaboration, and grant-writing support, while providing direct assistance to at least five communities each year with identifying funding opportunities, developing project concepts and budgets, preparing and reviewing applications, and navigating post-award reporting requirements. The first virtual office hours will be held September 25th from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Additional information, including registration for office hours and applications for direct support, is available through the Connecticut Urban Forest Networks webpage, linked [here](#).

6) Events Attended – August & September

Event	Who Attended	Date
CTCOG Housing Working Group	Brendon Dukett Leila Bagenstos Ian McElwee	Friday, September 11th
Partnership for Strong Communities - Homes that Heal: The Impact of Supportive Housing Report Presentation	Laura Francis Leila Bagenstos	Monday, September 14th
Resilience Cities Catalyst – Resilience District Incubator Network Session	Brendon Dukett Ian McElwee	Tuesday, September 15th
Sustainable CT – Manresa Island Tour	Laura Francis Ian McElwee	Tuesday, September 22nd

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

7) SCRCOG Workshops & Forums – October Preview

Meeting	Topic	Date	Registration Link
CTCOG Housing Planner Meeting	Housing	Monday, October 5 th	Not Applicable
Regional Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Scenario Planning Workshop – Branford, Guilford, & Madison	Regional Planning & Transportation	Tuesday, October 6 th	Not Applicable
Regional TOC Scenario Planning Workshop – West Haven, Meriden, & New Haven	Regional Planning & Transportation	Wednesday, October 7 th	Not Applicable
Regional TOC Scenario Planning Workshop – Wallingford & Milford	Regional Planning & Transportation	Wednesday, October 7 th	Not Applicable
SCRCOG & CT Green Bank: Energy Storage Solutions	Energy	Thursday, October 8 th	HERE
Regional Housing Technical Advisory Committee	Housing	Thursday, October 22 nd	Not Applicable

Solid Waste & Recycling Report

1) Municipal Waste Reporting Requirements

The 2026 Annual Municipal Recycling Report (AMRR) is due November 30, 2026. State law requires all municipalities to submit the report, which includes information on recycling destinations and tonnages, as well as a survey on local recycling, source reduction, and enforcement efforts. Nine of SCRCOG's 15 municipalities did not submit an AMRR in 2025, and those reports can still be submitted to CT DEEP. Kate will be scheduling meetings with each municipality to assist with completing and submitting the 2026 report and addressing outstanding reports from prior years. [The report form can be found here](#) and [additional instructions can be found here](#).

2) NLR Kickoff Meeting

Our work with the National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR) launched with a kickoff meeting on September 15th attended by the Town of Hamden's Recycling Coordinator Joe DeRisi and Kate Wimsatt. The meeting established the regional context for waste disposal in Connecticut and across SCRCOG municipalities, discussed the need to develop local food waste processing capacity, and explored stakeholder engagement strategies. The team also outlined the goals, scope, and expected final deliverables for the technical assistance project.

3) Food Waste Prevention Campaign

Food Waste Prevention Week, held September 28th through October 4th, is a national campaign encouraging individuals, businesses, schools, municipalities, and community organizations to take action to prevent food from being wasted. This year's message, "From Farm to Fork to Future...Make Every Bite Count," highlights the many ways we can value food, save money, support our communities and reduce environmental impacts.

To support local participation, SCRCOG has developed a Food Waste Prevention Week media kit featuring practical actions and regional solutions available throughout South Central Connecticut. The materials highlight ways residents can plan meals, use leftovers, freeze food and make the most of food already in the home, while also showcasing community solutions including food rescue through Haven's Harvest, [West Haven's new food donation ordinance](#) (congratulations Mayor Borer!), school food waste diversion and food-scrap collection at municipal transfer stations. The media kit is designed to make it easy for municipalities and community partners to share consistent messaging

throughout the week and demonstrate that food waste prevention is a growing, regional effort. Digital files are available in Basecamp.

4) Solid Waste Operator Training

On September 11th, Kate Wimsatt completed the required training modules and certification exam to become a Connecticut Solid Waste Facility Operator. The training provided a stronger understanding of Connecticut's solid waste facility requirements and operational practices. Kate will apply this knowledge to developing materials and tools to support municipal transfer station site assessments, data collection and reporting, and the required annual self-audit process. This will help municipalities identify compliance issues, document facility conditions, and prioritize facility upgrades and additional materials for collection.



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

OB1 #103 12 WINTERGREEN AVE, NEW HAVEN, CT 06515 • (860) 250-3453 • DEMHS.REGION2@CT.GOV

DEMHS Region 2 Update

As of September 15, 2026

- The DEMHS Region 2 Office and Public Assistance Unit are working with the municipalities impacted by the severe weather on September 13, 2026.
- DEMHS Region 2 ESF 5 will be holding an emergency management director training on September 24, 2026. Chief Elected Officials are invited to attend.
- FY 2025 Emergency Management Performance Grant Program (EMPG) deliverables are due **September 30, 2026**.
- 2026-2027 All Hazards School Safety and Security Plans are due to the DEMHS Region 2 Office by November 1, 2026.