1. Call to Order and Introductions – Mayor Benjamin Blake, Chairman

2. Presentation: State Legislative Report and Discussion of Unfunded Municipal Mandates-
   Ron Thomas and Michael Muszynski, CCM
   Attached

3. Adoption of 1/27/16 SCRCOG Minutes – First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Secretary
   Pages 2-4

4. Treasurer’s Report for month ending 1/31/16 – First Selectman James Cosgrove, Treasurer
   Pages 5, 6

5. Annual SCRCOG Self-Certification
   Page 7

6. Adoption of Affirmative Action Policy Resolution (annual renewal)
   Pages 8, 9

7. Adopt Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding
   with the Office of the Secretary of the State and to Engage a Consultant to Serve as a
   Regional Election Monitor as Required by CT Public Act 15-5, Sections 442, 443 and 444
   Pages 10-17

8. Adopt Resolution in Support of West Haven’s Application to the TOD Grant Program
   Page 18

9. Congressional Revision #3 (FY 2015-2016) - Oblique GIS Imagery/ Economic Development
   Programs
   Pages 19-28

10. Congressional Reports – Louis Mangini, Aide to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro;
    Evan Johnson, Aide to Senator Christopher Murphy, Ellen Graham, Aide to Senator Blumenthal

11. SCRCOG Executive Director’s Report – Carl Amento, Executive Director
    Pages 29-40

12. Grant Opportunities and Upcoming Events – Carl Amento, Executive Director
    Pages 41-44

13. REX Development Report – Ginny Kozlowski, Executive Director, REX Development
    Pages 45, 46

14. DESPP/ DEMHS Report – John B. Field, Jr., Region 2 Coordinator
    Page 47

15. RPC Action Table for February

16. Adjournment
TO: SCRCOG Board  
FROM: First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Secretary  
DATE: February 17, 2016  
SUBJECT: SCRCOG Minutes of January 27, 2016

Present:
Bethany First Selectwoman Derrylyn Gorski  
Branford First Selectman James Cosgrove – Treasurer  
East Haven Salvatore Brancati, proxy for Mayor Joseph Maturo  
Guilford First Selectman Joseph Mazza – Secretary  
Madison First Selectman Thomas Banisch  
Meriden Larry Kendzior, proxy for Mayor Kevin Scarpati  
Milford Mayor Benjamin Blake – Chairman  
New Haven Mayor Toni Harp – Vice Chairman  
North Branford Michael Paulhus, proxy for Mayor Michael Doody  
North Haven First Selectman Michael Freda – Immediate Past Chair  
Orange First Selectman James Zeoli  
Wallingford Mayor William Dickinson  
West Haven John Lewis, proxy for Mayor Edward O’Brien  
Woodbridge First Selectwoman Ellen Scalettar  
SCRCOG Staff Carl Amento – Executive Director, Albert Ruggiero, Stephen Dudley, Eugene Livshits, Christopher Rappa

Guests: Miriam Brody, Hamden-North Haven League of Women Voters; Mary Bigelow, Greater New Haven Transit District; Lori Vitagliano, Regional Water Authority; Anthony Bialecki, United Illuminating Co.; Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg, REX Development; Joanne Cavadini, CTRides; Nan Birdwhistell, Murtha Cullina; Louis Mangini and Catherine Kannam Office of U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro; Evan Johnson, Office of U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy; Nan Birdwhistell, Murtha Cullina; Christine McGuire and Robert Carlucci, The Kennedy Center; Mark Zaretsky, New Haven Register

1. Call to order and Introductions -  
Chairman Michael Freda called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. All present introduced themselves.

2. Adoption of November 18, 2015 SCRCOG meeting minutes -  
Mayor Blake presented the Minutes of the SCRCOG meeting of November 18, 2015 which were included in the agenda packet at pages 3-6. He moved for their approval. First Selectman Cosgrove seconded the Motion, which was approved with two abstentions, First Selectman Zeoli and First Selectwoman Gorski

3. Treasurer’s Report for month ending December 31, 2015 -
Chairman Freda presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending December 31, 2015, which was included in the agenda packet at pages 7 and 8. Cash and Investments totaled $1,155,577, with $537,095 due from CTDOT. Expenses were in order for the month. First Selectman Mazza moved for acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report. First Selectwoman Gorski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. **Transportation Committee Report** —
   Mayor Dickinson presented the Transportation Committee report, which was included in the agenda packet at pages 9-13. Mayor Dickinson moved for approval of 2015-2018 TIP Amendment Twelve which is found on pages 12 and 13 of the agenda packet. First Selectman Cosgrove seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

5. **Nominating Committee for Calendar Year 2016 Officers and Committees** —
   The Nominating Committee for 2016 issued their report to Chairman Freda as found on Page 14 of the agenda packet. The SCRCOG Officers nominated for 2016 were: Chairman: Mayor Benjamin Blake; Vice-Chairman: Mayor Toni Harp; Secretary: First Selectman Joseph Mazza; and Treasurer: First Selectman James Cosgrove. In addition to the officers named, the following Board members will serve on the Executive Committee: Immediate Past Chairman: First Selectman Michael Freda; Members at Large: Mayor William Dickinson, Mayor Joseph Maturo, and First Selectwoman Ellen Scalettar. Seven Board members were nominated to the Transportation Committee. They were: Mayor William Dickinson (Chairman), First Selectman Thomas Banisch, First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Mayor Benjamin Blake, Mayor Toni Harp, Mayor Edward O’Brien and First Selectman James Cosgrove. Four Board members each were nominated to the Emergency Management/Hazard Mitigation Committee, the Land Use and Environment Committee, Municipal Services Committee, and the Administrative and Personnel Subcommittee.

6. **Election of Officers and Appointment of Committees** —
   First Selectman Zeoli moved to confirm the appointments, First Selectman Banisch seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

7. **Acceptance of Gavel by New Chairman** —
   First Selectman Freda transferred the gavel to Mayor Blake as the new Chairman. Mayor Blake presented First Selectman Freda with a plaque for his service as Chairman. Mayor Blake took over running the meeting.

8. **Adopt Resolution to Appoint SCRCOG Bank Signatories** —
   First Selectwoman Gorski moved to appoint the new SCRCOG officers as bank signatories as detailed in the resolution in the agenda packet at Page 15. First Selectwoman Scalettar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

9. **Adopt Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to sign agreements with CTDOT** —
   Executive Director Amento explained that the CTDOT requires this authorization to be voted upon annually. The resolution can be found at page 16 of the agenda packet. Mr. Kendzior moved the approval of the Resolution. First Selectwoman Gorski seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

10. **Adopt Resolution in Support of Branford’s Application to the TOD Grant Program** —

11. **Adopt Resolution in Support of Madison’s Application to the TOD Grant Program** —

12. **Adopt Resolution in Support of Meriden’s Application to the TOD Grant Program** —

13. **Adopt Resolution in Support of Milford’s Application to the TOD Grant Program** —

14. **Adopt Resolution in Support of New Haven’s Application to the TOD Grant Program** —

15. **Adopt Resolution in Support of Wallingford’s Application to the TOD Grant Program** —
    The six resolutions above, found at pages 17-22, were treated together for consideration by the Board. First Selectwoman Banisch moved for approval of the six resolutions. First Selectman Cosgrove seconded the motion. All were in favor.

16. **Budget Revision #2 (FY 2014-2015 SGIA Carryover)** —
    Budget Revision #2 found on pages 23-25 of the agenda packet, was reviewed by Business Manager Albert Ruggiero. First Selectman Banisch moved that all items in Budget Revision #2 be approved. First Selectman Mazza seconded that motion, and it was approved unanimously.

17. **Adopt Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Execute Agreement with Deltek, Inc. to upgrade SCRCOG’s Accounting/Project Management Software** —
    First Selectwoman Gorski moved to approve the Resolution found on page 26 relating to Deltek, Mayor O’Brien seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
18. **Small Business Assistance Proposal/ Budget Revision #3 (FY 2015-2016 SGIA Allocation)**
   Mayor Blake moved that Budget Revision #2 found on pages 27-37 of the agenda packet be tabled on the condition that a Working Group refine the proposal before the next meeting. First Selectman Banisch and First Selectwoman Scalettar volunteered to serve on the Working Group. Mayor Blake indicated that he would appoint the remainder of the Working Group by the end of the week. Any additional volunteers should call him. First Selectman Freda seconded. All voted in favor.

19. **Congressional Report**
   Louis Mangini from Congresswoman DeLauro’s Office reported on the passage into law of the first long-term federal transportation funding authorization in many years, the FAST Act. Mr. Mangini reported that an award has been announced that the State of Connecticut would be receiving $54 million in National Disaster Resilience Competition funds, with some of the funds earmarked for projects in New Haven and Fairfield Counties. Evan Johnson from Senator Murphy’s Office reported on the upcoming award of FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grants for equipment and infrastructure, and the SAFER grants for fire personnel that will be accepting applications soon.

20. **State Legislative Report**
   Michael Muszynski from CCM reported on the upcoming state legislative session. The current budget has a $72 million deficit. He discussed the spending cap and exemptions to it.

21. **SCRCOG Executive Director’s Report**
   Executive Director Amento reported on the MS4 Stormwater permit being finalized on January 20th, the list of applications for the OPM Responsible Growth and TOD Planning Grants from SCRCOG and CRCOG, and upcoming events. He also reported that the time for comments on the Northeast Corridor Future Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement had been extended until February 15th. SCRCOG will draft a comment letter and circulate it to SCRCOG CEOs soon before it is finalized for submission to NEC Future on February 15th.

22. **Grant Opportunities**
   Executive Director Amento reviewed the Grant Opportunities contained on Pages 40-43 of the agenda packet.

23. **REX Development Report**
   Ginny Kozlowski, Executive Director of REX Development reviewed her report which had been sent out to Board members. She indicated that REX was preparing a relocation guide to assist in the recruitment of talent for the region’s economy. The guide should be completed by the end of March.

24. **DESPP/ DEMHS Report**
   John Field was not present to present a report.

25. **CTRides Quarterly Report**
   Joanne Cavadini of CTRides reviewed the CTRides Quarterly Report which was attached to the agenda packet.

26. **RPC Action Table for November**
   The RPC Action Tables for December and January were reviewed.

27. **Regional Cooperation/ Other Business**
   None.

28. **Adjournment**
   First Selectman Banisch moved to adjourn, First Selectwoman Zeoli seconded. Mayor Blake adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
   First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Secretary
### ASSETS

#### Cash and Investments
- First Niagara Bank 792,495
- Connecticut Short-Term Investment Fund - SCRCOG 155,920
- Start Bank 101,224
**Total Cash and Investments** 1,049,639

#### Accounts Receivable
- Connecticut Department of Transportation 602,221
- CTDOT - New Freedoms 46,418
- Connecticut Office of Policy & Management 205,000
- National Fish & Wildlife 56,467
- Amount for Accrued Leave 10,579
- Pre-Paid Expense & Other Receivables 27,035
**Total Accounts Receivable** 947,720

#### Property and Equipment
- COG Equipment 39,880
**Total Property & Equipment** 39,880

**TOTAL ASSETS** 2,037,239

### LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

#### Liabilities
- Accounts Payable 8,250
- Deferred Revenue - Municipal 64,250
- Deferred Revenue - GIA 531,798
- LOTCIP - Administrative Funds 225,230
- RPI Grant - GIS Project 31,818
**Total Current Liabilities** 861,346

#### Fund Balance
- Fund Balance - July 1, 2015 766,651
- Amount for Accrued Leave 10,579
- Investment in Equipment 39,880
- Change in Fund Balance 358,783
**Fund Balance - January, 2016** 1,175,893

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE** 2,037,239
### Statement of Resources and Expenditures - January, 2016

#### Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 16 Budget</th>
<th>Month of Jan, 2016</th>
<th>To Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Municipal Contribution</td>
<td>154,200</td>
<td>12,850</td>
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<td>ConnDOT - Transportation Planning</td>
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<td>U.S. Dept of Transportation - FY15/16</td>
<td>935,538</td>
<td>57,890</td>
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<td>U.S. Dept of Transportation - Mobility Manager</td>
<td>87,006</td>
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<td>Connecticut Dept of Transportation - FY15/16</td>
<td>116,943</td>
<td>7,236</td>
<td>35,412</td>
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<td>21,751</td>
<td>1,439</td>
<td>9,261</td>
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<td>Connecticut Dept of Transp - LOTCIP</td>
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<td>Connecticut Office of Policy &amp; Management</td>
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<td>Regional Planning</td>
<td>621,547</td>
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<td>RPI Grant - GIS Project</td>
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<td>Coastal Resilience Planning Grant</td>
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<td>NFWF - Coastal Resilience Planning Grant</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>210</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2,840,752</td>
<td>85,222</td>
<td>697,887</td>
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#### Expenses

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<th>FY 16 Budget</th>
<th>Month of Jan, 2016</th>
<th>To Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Labor - Salaries &amp; Benefits</td>
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<td>378,795</td>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Data Process</td>
<td>59,750</td>
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<td>General Operations</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
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<td>Postage &amp; Telephone</td>
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<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>118</td>
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<td>Equipment Maintenance</td>
<td>1,516</td>
<td>5,276</td>
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<td>Publications</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>1,634</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance &amp; Professional Services</td>
<td>8,515</td>
<td>18,043</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting Expenses &amp; Advertising</td>
<td>2,310</td>
<td>5,404</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous &amp; Equipment Use</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>959</td>
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<td>Transportation Consultants</td>
<td>525,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<td>Mobility Management - Kennedy Center</td>
<td>89,422</td>
<td>6,618</td>
<td>32,234</td>
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<td>Other Consultants</td>
<td>553,092</td>
<td>942</td>
<td>102,158</td>
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<td>Capital</td>
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<td>Contingencies</td>
<td>439,367</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve for Future Operations</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve for Coastal Resilience Planning Grant - FY 17</td>
<td>207,980</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2,840,752</td>
<td>91,904</td>
<td>617,701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Resolution
Annual Planning Certification

Whereas: 23 CFR 450.334 describing the metropolitan transportation planning process requires states and metropolitan planning organizations to annually certify to the U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that the planning process is addressing the major issues facing the area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

1) Section 134 of Title 23, U.S.C., Section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607) and CFR Part 450 as amended by SAFETEA-LU (PL 109-59);
2) Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d));
3) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI assurance executed by each state under 23 U.S.C. 324, as amended by SAFETEA-LU (PL 109-59) and 29 U.S.C. 794;
4) Section 1003(b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (Pub. L. 102-240) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in the FHWA and the FTA funded planning projects (Sec. 105(f), Pub. L. 97-424, 96 Stat. 2100; 49 CFR Part 23) and

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

That South Central Connecticut’s transportation planning process is being conducted in accordance with the above requirements.

Certificate

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Council of Governments on February 24, 2016

Date:  February 24, 2016  By:     _____________________________ _______
First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy and practice of SCRCOG to assure that no person will be discriminated against or denied the benefits of any activity, program or employment process receiving public funds, in or in part, in the areas of employment, recruitment, advertising, hiring, upgrading, promoting, transferring, demoting, layoffs, terminations, rehiring, employment and/or rates of pay and other compensations.

SCRCOG is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer and is strongly committed to all policies which will afford equal opportunity employment to all qualified persons without regard to an individual’s race, color, religious creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin or ancestry, sexual orientation, the request or requirement for genetic background information, present or past history of mental disorder, mental retardation, learning disability or physical disability, including but not limited to, blindness, conviction of a crime unless provisions of Conn. Gen Statutes 46a-60(b), 45a-80(b), or 46a-81(b) are controlling or there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding individuals in any of the protected groups. Such action shall include: Employment, upgrading, demotion or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection of training, including apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship and/or on-the-job training. This policy and practice applies to all persons, particularly those who are members of the protected classes identified as being African American, Hispanic, Asian, American Indian, Women, and persons with disabilities.

SCRCOG will implement, monitor, enforce and achieve full compliance with this Affirmative Action Policy Statement in conjunction with the applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders, and the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) contract provisions listed below:

2. Presidential Executive Order 11246 as amended
3. Title 23 U.S.C. 140
4. Title 49 C.F.R. Part 26
5. Governor’s Executive Orders #3 and #17
6. Connecticut Fair Employment Practices Act
7. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
8. Public Act No. 91-58
9. Specific Equal Employment Opportunity Responsibilities
11. A (76) Affirmative Action Requirements
12. Training Special Provision
13. Minority Business Enterprises as Subcontractors
15. Nondiscrimination Act
16. Connecticut General Statutes § 4a-60(a)(1) and § 4a-60(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142.

In implementing this policy and ensuring that equal opportunity is being provided to protected class members, each time a hiring opportunity occurs SCRCOG will contact and request referrals from minority
and female organizations, referral sources, and media sources. All advertising will emphasize that the agency is “An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.”

In addition to the normal procedures for filling a job (i.e., placing ads in major newspapers, employee referrals), SCRCOG will also contact minority and female referral sources to place job openings. These sources are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name / Referral Source</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
<th>Telephone #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.  Northeast Minority News</td>
<td>3580 Main Street</td>
<td>Gloria Draper</td>
<td>(860) 249-6065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hartford, CT 06120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.  La Voz Hispana</td>
<td>51 Elm St., Suite 307</td>
<td>Norma Rodriguez</td>
<td>(203) 865-2272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Haven, CT 06510</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.  Unemployment Office,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of CT (online)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: SCRCOG will periodically update our referral sources listing if it is determined that it is not meeting the needs of the hiring of protected-class employees.

In order to substantiate SCRCOG’s efforts and affirmative actions to provide equal opportunity, the agency will maintain and submit, as requested, documentation such as referral request correspondence, copies of advertisements utilized and follow-up documentation to substantiate that efforts were made in good faith. SCRCOG will maintain internal affirmative action/EEO audit procedures and reporting, as well as record keeping systems.

It is understood by SCRCOG, including the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Officer and supervisory and managerial personnel that failure to effectively implement, monitor, and enforce SCRCOG’s affirmative action program and failure to adequately document the affirmative actions taken and efforts made to recruit and hire minority and female applicants, in accordance with our affirmative action program in each instance of hire, will result in SCRCOG having to recommit itself to a modified and more stringent affirmative action program prior to receiving approval. SCRCOG employees are being advised of their responsibilities to ensure the success of the program. The ultimate responsibility for the Affirmative Action Program rests with the Executive Director. However, the day-to-day duties will be coordinated by Albert Ruggiero, Jr., who has been designated the Equal Opportunity Officer for this agency.

This Affirmative Action Plan has my whole-hearted support. In addition, each manager and supervisor, as well as all employees, are directed to aid in the development and implementation of the program and will be responsible for compliance to its objectives.

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

SCRCOG shall designate a responsible official to monitor all employment related activity to ensure that SCRCOG’s EEO policy is being implemented.

SCRCOG hereby appoints Albert Ruggiero, Jr. the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Officer of SCRCOG.

In addition to the above named individual’s duties, the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer shall:

1. Develop, implement and monitor progress on this agency’s Affirmative Action Plan.
2. Acquaint workers with their specific responsibilities under the Plan.
3. Initiate and maintain contact with recruitment sources and organizations servicing members of protected groups concerning the achievement of affirmative action requirements.
4. Conduct meetings and orientation sessions, as necessary, to advise workers and management of the goals of the Plan.

Date: February 24, 2016

Carl Amento, Executive Director
Resolution

South Central Regional Council of Governments
Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Secretary of the State and to Engage a Consultant to Serve as a Regional Election Monitor as Required by Connecticut Public Act 15-5, Sections 442, 443 and 444

Resolved, that the Executive Director, Carl J. Amento, is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the South Central Regional Council of Governments in signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Secretary of the State and engaging a consultant to serve as a Regional Election Monitor as required by Connecticut Public Act 15-5, Sections 442, 443 and 444, which requires a regional monitor in each planning region.

Certificate:
The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the SCRCOG on: February 24, 2016.

Date: February 24, 2016  By: ________________________________

First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments
JOB DESCRIPTION
REGIONAL ELECTION MONITOR

PURPOSE OF POSITION:
Connecticut Public Act 15-5 of the June Special Session, “An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017, Concerning General Government, Education, Health and Human Services and Bonds of the State” requires a regional monitor within each planning region, as defined in section 4-124i of the general statutes who shall represent, consult with and act on behalf of the Secretary of the State in preparations for and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f of the general statutes;

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:
Coordinate regional instructional sessions for the certification of moderators and alternate moderators;

Coordinate the number of such regional instructional sessions to be held, provided at least one such regional instructional session shall be held within the COG at the facilities of the COG prior to each regular election;

Communicate with registrars of voters to assist, to the extent permitted under law, in preparations for and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to CGS §9-320f; and

Transmit any order issued by the Secretary of the State, pursuant to CGS §9-3.

Keeping the COG informed of their activities and drafting periodic reports of these activities and the progress of services as requested.

Additional duties, to the extent permitted under law may include:

Assist in the preparation and editing of ballots, forms and instructions related to elections, furnish information and educational materials for election officials, candidates, and political committees concerning elections; may conduct training for election officials.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ABILITY:
Considerable knowledge of Connecticut election laws; interpersonal skills; oral and written communication skills; considerable ability to interpret and clearly explain election laws; ability to interpret complex legislation; ability to utilize computer software.
General Experience and Qualifications:

The regional election monitor shall (1) be an elector of this state, (2) perform the duties of the position in a nonpartisan manner, (3) have prior field experience in the conduct of elections, and (4) be certified by the Secretary of the State or become certified by the Secretary of the State as soon after execution of such contract as practicable.

Specific Qualifications:

The regional monitor shall be certified by the Secretary of the State or become certified by the Secretary of the State as soon after execution of such contract as practicable. The Secretary shall certify the regional election monitor if such individual successfully completes the training required. Such certification training shall include successful completion of Moderator Certification Training pursuant to CGS §9-229; successful completion of the Secretary of the State’s On-Line Poll Worker Training Program; and successful completion of modules four (4) and seven (7) of the Registrar of Voters Certification Program pursuant to CGS §9-192a. (Approximately 12 hours of training total)

The Secretary shall not so certify any individual who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, in a court of competent jurisdiction, any (i) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement or bribery, or (ii) criminal offense under Title 9 of the general statutes.

Any such initial certification granted shall expire two years after the date of its granting. Prior to expiration of the initial or any subsequent certification, the regional election monitor may undergo an abridged recertification process prescribed by the Secretary, and upon successful completion thereof, such certification shall be renewed for two years after the date of such completion. The Secretary may revoke such certification, with or without cause, at any time.

Supervision:

The regional election monitor shall not be considered a state employee and shall be compensated for the performance of any duty agreed upon by the COG and reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of such duties by the COG. The COG may terminate such contract for any reason.

Such regional election monitor is subject to the control and direction of the Secretary of the State.

Revocation by the Secretary of the State of such regional election monitor's certification constitutes breach of such contract and results in immediate termination of such contract.

Such regional election monitor will be retained, absent termination of such contract by the COG, until at least thirty days after such regular election.
Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Office of the Secretary of the State
And
South Central Regional Council of Governments
Regional Election Monitor

WHEREAS, Section 3-77 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that the Secretary of the State may enter into such contractual agreements as may be necessary for the discharge of her duties; and

WHEREAS, Sections 442, 443 and 444 of Public Act 15-5 of the June 2015 Special Session of the Connecticut General Assembly, “An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017, Concerning General Government, Education, Health and Human Services and Bonds of the State,” (the Public Act) requires a regional election monitor within each planning region, as defined in section 4-124i of the General Statutes who shall represent, consult with and act on behalf of the Secretary of the State in preparations for and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to section 9-320f of the Connecticut General Statutes;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Public Act, the South Central Regional Council of Governments (“COG”), is required to enter into a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with the Office of the Secretary of the State (“SOTS”), concerning the regional election monitor.

Therefore, SOTS and the COG agree to the following terms:

1. SOTS will pay $11,111 to the COG to support the scope of services as listed in Schedule A.
2. The COG will designate staff to receive communications from the Secretary of the State to the regional election monitor and receive information regarding activities in Schedule A from the regional election monitor.
3. SOTS and the COG acknowledge that the staff designated pursuant to paragraph 2 above will coordinate all aspects of the COG responsibilities of the proposal set forth herein.
4. The COG will provide periodic reports to SOTS regarding the progress of services rendered.
5. For the purposes of this MOU, the “complete project” is defined as completion of and delivery of all work outlined in Schedule A.
6. Project Period: 7/1/15 to 6/30/16.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused the Memorandum of Understanding to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

___________________________

South Central Regional Council of Governments

___________________________

Printed Name

___________________________

Title

___________________________

Date
South Central Regional Council of Governments

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused the Memorandum of Understanding to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

__________________________

Denise Merrill
Secretary of the State

__________________________

Date
SCHEDULE A – SCOPE OF SERVICES

I. Regional election monitor qualifications and payment for services

1. Not later than March first of the year of each regular election, the COG shall contract with an individual, in accordance with section 4-124p of the general statutes, to serve as the regional election monitor for such planning region.

2. The regional election monitor shall (1) be an elector of this state, (2) perform the duties of the position in a nonpartisan manner, (3) have prior field experience in the conduct of elections, and (4) be certified by the Secretary of the State or become certified by the Secretary of the State as soon after execution of such contract as practicable.

3. The regional election monitor shall not be considered a state employee and shall, in accordance with the contract set forth in (1) above, be compensated for the performance of any duty agreed upon by the COG and reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of such duties by the COG.

4. The COG shall, in accordance with such contract, provide the regional election monitor with any space, supplies, equipment and services necessary to properly carry out the duties of the position.

5. The COG may terminate such contract at any time for any reason.

II. Regional council of government’s confirmation

The COG confirms that:

1. Each requirement described in Section I of Schedule A is satisfied and the contract between the COG and the individual who shall serve as regional election monitor specifies minimum expectations of performance under such contract;

2. Such regional election monitor is subject to the control and direction of the Secretary of the State;

3. Revocation by the Secretary of the State of such regional election monitor's certification constitutes breach of such contract and results in immediate termination of such contract; and

4. Such regional election monitor will be retained, absent termination of such contract by the COG, until at least thirty days after such regular election.

III. Coordination of regional instructional sessions and training

The Secretary of the State shall:

1. Coordinate with the regional election monitor under contract with the COG as described in Section I of this Schedule A to hold regional instructional sessions for moderators and alternate moderators;

2. Establish the number of such regional instructional sessions to be held, provided at least one such regional instructional session shall be held within the planning region
at the facilities of the COG or any facility designated by the COG within the planning region prior to each regular election; and

3. Train and certify the regional election monitor for purposes of performing the duties of the position. The Secretary shall certify the regional election monitor if such individual successfully completes training required pursuant to Section I of this document, except the Secretary shall not so certify any individual who has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, in a court of competent jurisdiction, any (i) felony involving fraud, forgery, larceny, embezzlement or bribery, or (ii) criminal offense under Title 9 of the General Statutes. Any such initial certification granted shall expire two years after its effective date. Prior to expiration of the initial or any subsequent certification, the regional election monitor may undergo an abridged recertification process prescribed by the Secretary, and upon successful completion thereof, such certification shall be renewed for two years after the date of such completion. The Secretary may revoke such certification, with or without cause, at any time.

**IV. Duties of the regional election monitor**

The duties of the regional election monitor that shall be in the contract between the COG and the regional election monitor referenced in Section 1 of this Schedule A shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Holding the regional instructional sessions described in Section III of this document;
2. Communicating with registrars of voters to assist, to the extent permitted under law, in preparations for and operations of any election, primary or recanvass, or any audit conducted pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-320f; and
3. Transmitting any order or instruction issued by the Secretary of the State, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 9-3.
4. Keeping the COG informed of their regional election monitor activities and drafting periodic reports of these activities and the progress of services as needed.
Resolution in Support of the City of West Haven’s Application to the Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Program

Whereas: The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has issued a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Program;

Whereas: The City of West Haven intends to submit an application in response to the RFA issued by OPM for the Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Program for the development of a connection between the Yale West Campus and the businesses along the roadway to the City of West Haven Train Station consistent with TOD as defined in Section 13b-79o of the Connecticut General Statutes;

Whereas: The application from the City of West Haven is consistent with the policies in both the State and Regional Plan of Conservation and Development of revitalizing existing centers, expanding economic opportunities, and increasing the sustainability of the transit system;

Whereas: The application from the City of West Haven seeks to implement a need prioritized in the City of West Haven TOD Master Plan and increase transit ridership, economic opportunities, infrastructure improvements, improvements to the pedestrian environment and connectivity and access around its train station; and

Whereas: The application from the City of West Haven will leverage the SCRCOG Regional TOD Feasibility Study and municipal studies previously completed.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) that:

SCRCOG supports the City of West Haven’s application to apply for funding under the Responsible Growth and Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Grant Program as it meets the region’s goals of increasing transit ridership, increasing economic opportunities and improving connectivity and access around transit.

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 February 24, 2016.

Date: February 24, 2016

By:
First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments
The SCRCOG Working Group appointed by Chairman Blake met on February 4 and 17, 2016 and recommends the following allocation of SCRCOG SGIA funds:

**2014-2015 SGIA Funding--- $17,500 remaining**

Expenditure deadline: March 31, 2016

- **Regional Oblique GIS Imagery**
  - $17,500 (partial) toward $174,000 cost of obtaining Regional Oblique GIS Imagery

  **TOTAL: $17,500**

**2015-2016 SGIA Funding--- $227,600 remaining**

Expenditure deadline: September 30, 2016 (may be extended to March 31, 2017)

- **Regional Oblique GIS Imagery**
  - $156,500 (remainder) toward $174,000 cost of obtaining Regional Oblique GIS Imagery
  - **Alternative**: $92,500 if OPM authorizes use of $64,000 from contingency line item of SCRCOG’s Regional Performance Incentive (RPIP) grant

- **Internship Program***
  - $20,000 for Internship program (pilot program for paid summer 2016 program and unpaid school year program until September 30, 2016)

- **IEDC Data Standards***
  - $25,000 for development of IEDC Data Standards for the region

- **Site Feasibility Studies***
  - $26,100 for Site Feasibility Studies
  - **Alternative**: $90,100 if OPM authorizes use of $64,000 from contingency line item of SCRCOG’s Regional Performance Incentive (RPIP) grant

  **TOTAL: $227,600**

* The implementation of these projects will require the hiring of a staff member, who will be paid from the SGIA grant.
REGIONAL OBLIQUE GIS IMAGERY

Background - 2016 Statewide Flight

Sanborn was the successful respondent to the Capitol Region Council of Governments RFP for “Spring 2016 Statewide GIS Data Acquisition and Services”. This project is made possible primarily through a state Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant and is a result of coordination among state agencies and eight regional councils of governments. The primary deliverables of the project are: (1) 3” resolution orthoimagery, (2) elevation data captured using LIDAR, and (3) derivative LIDAR and topographic products (ex. contours). Additionally, Sanborn has provided a list of buy-up options, one of which is oblique imagery.

What is Oblique Imagery?

Oblique Imagery provides aerial views of a location from the four cardinal directions (north, south, east, and west), as opposed to the “straight-down” view of traditional aerial imagery (“orthoimagery”).

Who uses Oblique Imagery?

Oblique Imagery is used by Assessors, Emergency Responders, Public Works, and other Municipal Departments that benefit from seeing multiple aerial views of a location.

Table 1: Cost of Purchasing Oblique Imagery for the SCRCOG Region (per Sanborn buy-up options list)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Size of Area</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3” Resolution Oblique Imagery</td>
<td>$400/square mile</td>
<td>375 square miles</td>
<td>$150,000.00</td>
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<td>Mobilization Cost</td>
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<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanborn Oblique Imagery Viewer</td>
<td>$14,000.00</td>
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<td>$14,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Maintenance; beginning in Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Upfront Cost</td>
<td>$174,000.00</td>
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</table>
SCRCOG Economic Development Internship Proposal

The South Central Regional Council of Governments proposes coordinating an internship program to benefit the economic development departments of its 15 member municipalities. SCRCOG will be responsible for administering the program, including providing an introductory orientation, and follow-up training for the interns, hosting regularly-scheduled meetings with the interns to ensure that they are all having a positive and rewarding experience.

Interns provide a wide range of benefits for the organizations they work with. First, they allow professional staff to focus on more advanced tasks. Additionally, they create a strong working relationship between colleges and the organizations. They also give back to the community by training the prospective work force. Simultaneously, the students benefit from these programs by having the opportunity to begin creating a professional network and gathering valuable work experience.

This internship program will begin with a pilot paid program in the Summer of 2016 in certain municipalities who have had little to no experience with interns. SCRCOG will pay the interns directly relying upon time sheets signed by their site supervisors. The program will continue as unpaid “for credit” internships during both the fall 2016 and spring semesters. As work during the school year will be unpaid, the interns will be eligible to receive academic credit for their time. The program will be designed to line up with the internship requirements set forth by the colleges and universities in our region. Depending on the university, these requirements may include:

- Paid summer internship- 30hr. minimum per week
- Unpaid school year internship- 120 - 200 hours per semester
- Weekly evaluations
- A final paper or presentation
- A final evaluation

These interns will be recruited from the business, public administration or hospitality programs or schools of Yale University, Quinnipiac University, University of New Haven, Southern CT State University, Albertus Magnus College, and Gateway Community College. Municipal economic development officials will meet with SCRCOG staff to establish criteria for selection, work programs, and to convey the specific needs of each municipality. Interested students can then send their applications and resumes to the staff of SCRCOG to initiate the review and hiring process. The SCRCOG Board will designate a Selection Committee made up of representatives from SCRCOG member municipalities to assist the SCRCOG staff in matching the abilities and interests of the interns to the needs of the municipalities. Eventually, each of the 15 towns will be allocated at least 1 intern, with larger towns like New Haven, Hamden, and Meriden receiving up to 3.

The program will begin with an orientation of all the students together, providing them with a background on local government and local economic development programs. In subsequent weeks during each semester, SCRCOG will host in-person and/or virtual meetings of the interns
that will include learning sessions (GIS and data, business recruitment, tourism marketing, business retention, etc.) featuring guest speakers and time for the interns to share their experiences. These sessions will also give SCRCOG an opportunity to evaluate how the program is functioning, and adjust as needed. The hours that the interns spend at these meetings will be included as part of their regular work week. This project must be educationally beneficial to the intern, balancing the intern’s learning goals with the organization’s needs. These internships will provide both industry related and soft skills that will prepare the students for their future careers.

SCRCOG will be responsible for hiring an internship coordinator, who will be directly involved in coordinating the internship meetings, and assisting the Executive Director with the development and implementation of the program. Both individuals will also take part in the initial interview and hiring process. Additionally, both will work with the local economic development officials to create learning goals for the interns, and will make site visits to view the interns at work.

During the final week of the program, all of the interns will gather to give a final presentation of the work completed at their government office. This provides the intern an opportunity to work on oral presentation skills and learn about other opportunities in the field of economic development from their peers.

At the conclusion of the internship, the intern will fill out an evaluation form to assess the time they spent in the program. Interns will be asked to report on their project’s status, indicate whether they thought their work was beneficial to their education, describe what they learned from the experience, and list any changes or improvements they would suggest for future internships. The internship supervisor and mentor will also fill out a final evaluation of the student, to be provided to their academic advisor.
PROPOSAL FOR IEDC SITE SELECTION DATA STANDARDS

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) has developed data standards for site selection. The data standards contain over 1,200 data variables and have been organized into 25 spreadsheets. The majority of the data is available from public sources including the U.S Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data not available from public sources must be gathered from paid subscription databases and from local sources and including available sites and buildings.

The spreadsheets are templates to guide municipalities in collecting and organizing data that is most useful for site selectors. The compiled data once organized into the IEDC Data Standards Templates can be used to market the community strengths and allow communities to be able to provide site selectors the necessary information quickly and efficiently. The data points have been standardized to allow site selectors to meaningfully to make side-by-side comparisons of alternative sites for development. Having these data standards developed for the region and for each municipality in the region will be an important asset for business recruitment. The databases to be utilized by SCRCOG will allow it to inexpensively generate these data standards, as well as produce a list of all businesses in the region and in each town, and develop business intelligence data and reports to assist local economic development officials in assisting businesses to grow.

The data itself is organized into the following categories:

1. Demographic Characteristics
2. Labor Force Characteristics
3. Leading Employers
4. New/Expanding Companies
5. Military Base and Installations
6. Research Base
7. Four Year Institutions
8. Community Colleges
9. Vocational/Training Center Resources
10. Available Payroll Costs by Industry
11. Average Salary by Selected Occupation
12. Workers Compensation and Unemployment Insurance
13. Labor Management Relations
14. Transportation
15. Taxation
16. Occupancy/Supply
17. Utilities
18. Environmental
19. Government
20. International Resources
21. Quality of Life
An article on the IEDC website recognizes that the facility siting process has been reduced from six months to approximately 3 months or even less. This has resulted in an increase in the information requests communities receive from location professionals. The requests vary in the information desired and lack a consistent format. The IEDC recognized the need and formed a Site Selection Data Task Force to address the situation. The task force included representatives from IEDC Members along with location consultants and community representatives. The task force decided against developing common information gathering questionnaire because each case may differ depending on the needs of client, the industry and facility type. It was determined that a comprehensive standard dataset should be developed that provides information common across what site selectors use in their decision making process.

The development of the data standards for this region and for each of our towns will consume about 6 months of time. The only expense will be the partial salary of a SCRCOG employee and the supervision of the Executive Director for about $25,000 from March 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

PROPOSAL FOR SITE FEASIBILITY STUDIES

SCRCOG will develop and oversee a pool of funds derived from the State Grant-in-Aid received by SCRCOG to be used to fund competitively-selected, consultant-developed site feasibility studies requested by municipalities or municipal economic development corporations in the SCRCOG region. The SCRCOG Board will appoint a Selection Committee of representatives from the SCRCOG municipalities to work with SCRCOG staff to develop criteria for the prioritization for selection, and to make selection from, the submitted applications. Applications will be judged based on criteria determined by the Selection Committee and SCRCOG staff and shall be subject to final approval by the SCRCOG Board.

Eligible activities for selection of studies to be conducted may include, subject to the determination of the Selection Committee, studies, surveys or reports and feasibility studies and preliminary planning studies to assess a particular site/sites or improvements for economic development purposes, excluding entirely residential development, though mixed-use development with a residential component may be allowed. Funding limits for individual studies may be set by the Selection Committee in order to ensure the widest reach of the funds available. It is anticipated that further funding will be added to the pool in the FY 2016-2017 SGIA cycle beginning on October 1, 2016.
FY 2015-16 Budget Revision # 3

Budget revision # 3 programs the balance of SCRCOG’s FY 2015-16 State Grant-In-Aid ($227,600) and re-programs $17,500 of SCRCOG’s carryover FY 2014-15 State Grant-in-Aid over the next seven months in accordance with the recommendations of the SCRCOG Working Group, appointed and chaired by Mayor Bake. The carryover FY 2014-15 State Grant-in-Aid will expire on March 31, 2016, while the FY 2015-16 State Grant-in-Aid will expire on September 30, 2016. This budget revision programs $130,000 of the $227,600 within the current SCRCOG fiscal year (before June 30, 2016), with the balance ($97,600) to be spent in the FY17 SCRCOG budget year (after July 1, 2016).

The SCRCOG Working Group established four areas of priority:

1. Regional Oblique Imagery
2. Internship Program
3. International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Program
4. Site Feasibility Studies

Additionally, this budget revision anticipates advancing $64,000 of the Regional GIS Program project funds to this fiscal year. These funds would be drawn from the contingency of this five-year Regional Performance Incentive Program grant project and would not increase the total project cost. Approval from the Office of Policy and Management is necessary before programming these funds (SCRCOG is awaiting a response to the budget amendment request). In the event the Office of Policy and Management decline’s SCRCOG’s request, the Site Feasibility Studies program would be decreased by $64,000 in order for the Regional Oblique Imagery (top priority) project to be completed.

Actual line item revisions are below, followed by a resolution authorizing Budget Revision #3. The line item revisions are divided into two alternatives. The first alternative includes the Regional GIS Program project funds and the second alternative excludes the Regional GIS Program project funds.
## Alternative 1 (Regional GIS Program Project Funds)

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<td>Regional Human Services Coordination</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Housing Data Analysis</td>
<td>34,047</td>
<td>-17,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>16,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Oblique Imagery</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>174,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>174,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Services - Economic Development</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total - Other Consultants</strong></td>
<td>642,514</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>799,014</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Capital</strong></td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Contingency</strong></td>
<td>460,755</td>
<td>-227,600</td>
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<td>233,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserved for Future Operations</strong></td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserved for Coastal Resilience Planning Grant (future FYs)</strong></td>
<td>207,981</td>
<td></td>
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<td>207,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reserved for Shared Services - Economic Development FY 16-17</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>97,600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>2,840,752</td>
<td>64,000</td>
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<td>2,904,752</td>
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## Alternative 2 (No Regional GIS Program Project Funds)

### Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Contribution</td>
<td>154,200</td>
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### Transportation Planning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Current Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. DOT - FY 2015-2016</td>
<td>935,538</td>
<td>935,538</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. DOT - Mobility Management</td>
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<td>87,006</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDOT - FY 2015-2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDOT - Mobility Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDOT - LOTCIP</td>
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### Regional Planning

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<th>Current Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CT OPM - State Grant-in-Aid (SGIA) - FY16</td>
<td>410,000</td>
<td>410,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>CT OPM - State Grant-in-Aid (SGIA) - FY15 (carryover)</td>
<td>211,547</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional GIS Program</td>
<td>62,000</td>
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### Coastal Resilience Planning Grant

<table>
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<th>Current Budget</th>
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<th>Revised Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NFWF - Coastal Resilience Planning Grant</td>
<td>608,447</td>
<td>608,447</td>
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### Investment Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
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### TOTAL

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,840,752</td>
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<td>2,840,752</td>
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### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Revised Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
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<td>14,600</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Supplies &amp; Software</td>
<td>59,750</td>
<td>59,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Office Expenses</td>
<td>77,250</td>
<td>77,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation Consultants</td>
<td>525,000</td>
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### Other Consultants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Revised Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GIS Consultant</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capitol Region Purchasing Council</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>7,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Resilience - Nature Conservancy</td>
<td>179,045</td>
<td>179,045</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Resilience - GBRC</td>
<td>58,923</td>
<td>58,923</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal Resilience - Environmental Eng. Firm</td>
<td>131,077</td>
<td>131,077</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mobility Management</td>
<td>89,422</td>
<td>89,422</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Trails Mapping Consultant</td>
<td>103,000</td>
<td>103,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Human Services Coordination</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td>9,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Housing Data Analysis</td>
<td>34,047</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>174,000</td>
<td>174,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Services - Economic Development</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total - Other Consultants:** 642,514 | 829,014

### Capital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Revised Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>35,000</td>
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<td>35,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Contingency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Revised Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contingency</td>
<td>460,755</td>
<td>-227,600</td>
<td>233,155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reserved for Future Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Revised Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserved for Future Operations</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3,500</td>
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</table>

### Reserved for Coastal Resilience Planning Grant (future FYs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Revised Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserved for Coastal Resilience Planning Grant (future FYs)</td>
<td>207,981</td>
<td>207,981</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reserved for Shared Services - Economic Development FY 16-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
<th>Proposed Change</th>
<th>Revised Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reserved for Shared Services - Economic Development FY 16-17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>33,600</td>
<td>33,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 2,840,752 | - | 2,840,752
Resolution

South Central Regional Council of Governments
Fiscal Year 2015-16 - Budget Revision # 3

Whereas: South Central Regional Council of Governments on May 27, 2015 adopted an operating budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016;

Whereas: SCRCOG approved Budget Revision #1 on November 18, 2015;

Whereas: SCRCOG approved Budget Revision #2 on January 27, 2016; and

Whereas: $227,600 of FY 2015-16 State Grant-in-Aid remained unallocated and is eligible to be expended through September 30, 2016.

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

That Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget Revision # 3, which programs the balance of SCRCOG’s FY 2015-16 State Grant-In-Aid ($227,600) and re-programs $17,500 of SCRCOG’s carryover FY 2014-15 State Grant-in-Aid, is adopted.

Certificate:

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the South Central Regional Council of Governments on February 24, 2016.

Date: February 24, 2016

By:

First Selectman Joseph Mazza, Secretary
South Central Regional Council of Governments
Grant Opportunities
CTDOT Community Connectivity Program

**Deadline:** March 1, 2016

**Background**
The Community Connectivity Program is a new program that is intended to improve conditions for walking and bicycling to and within Connecticut’s community centers. Community Centers are defined as places where people from a particular town/city can meet for social, educational, employment or recreational activities. This program is one of the outputs from Governor Malloy’s newly authorized Let’sGoCT! transportation program which addresses short-term and long-term transportation needs across the State.

Under Let’sGoCT!, the Community Connectivity Program is intended to improve accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians (bike/ped) in urban, suburban and rural community centers. The first step in this program will be for Towns and Cities to complete and submit an application for a Road Safety Audit (RSA). An RSA is a process that identifies safety issues and counter-measures to help improve safety and reduce vehicle crashes. An RSA is an innovative tool that documents factors that can help or hinder safe bike/ped travel. Some of these factors include, but are not limited to: shoulder width; sidewalk width/condition; pavement markings; traffic volume; on-road parking locations; presence of bicycle lanes; traffic signalization; topography; drainage; and sightlines.

The RSA will provide consultant assistance to cities and towns to conduct road safety audits for important bike and pedestrian corridors/intersections. RSA’s will identify bike/ped needs, and develop recommendations to improve conditions. Typically, there are low-cost recommendations that can be implemented in the short term, and higher-cost recommendations that can be done over the longer term.

All state and local roads are eligible for this Program. An RSA performed within a community will take one business day. The RSA consists of three parts:

1. **Pre-Audit Meeting:** The initial part of the day lays the ground work and expectations for the field portion of the audit and should take about an hour. Normally this meeting is held indoors, as close as possible to the area being reviewed. The audit team leader will explain and distribute all relevant information to the participants such as the objectives of the RSA, a location map, crash data, and traffic volumes, along with an overview of the process that will be undertaken in the field, including the methods used to qualitatively evaluate the extent of the safety concerns within the area.

2. **Field Audit:** This is the physical inspection of the area. It is the formal portion of the audit where an experienced team of safety specialists walk the area to conduct an independent safety performance review, with assistance from the local community. The participation of local/public safety professionals is critical to the outcome of the audit. Local officials know their Towns the best and need to be involved in any discussions on how to improve safety in the area. For example, Public Works Directors, Town Engineers, Town Planners, Traffic Engineers, Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, School
Administrators, and Mail Carriers all have important input to this process. This portion should take about two hours.

3. **Post-Audit Meeting:** This is the last portion of the day where the preliminary results are discussed and documented. Any and all safety improvements would be identified, and would range from short-term low cost measures to some long-range higher-cost projects.

A draft report (at no cost to the Municipality) will be produced within approximately one month and will be provided to the Town or City for their review, before being finalized.

For more information, and to obtain an application form, contact Patrick Zapatka, Program Manager, CTDOT at (860) 594-2047 or Patrick.Zapatka@ct.gov.

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**CIRCA Matching Funds Program**

**Deadline:** March 15, 2016

**Background**
The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) Executive Steering Committee has announced that funding up to $100,000 is available under the Matching Funds Program. CIRCA will consider requests from Connecticut municipalities, institutions, universities, foundations, and other non-governmental organizations for matching funds for projects that address the mission of the Institute. To be funded, a successful Matching Funds request must have a commitment of primary funding within 6 months of the CIRCA award announcement, or have received a waiver from the CIRCA Executive Steering Committee. CIRCA Matching Funds will provide up to 25% of the primary funder’s contribution other than municipal or State of Connecticut funds to enhance the likely success of project proposals that advance CIRCA research and implementation priorities. In evaluating proposals, preference will be given to those that leverage independent funding awarded through a competitive process.

Project proposals should develop knowledge and/or experience that is transferable to multiple locations in Connecticut and have well-defined and measurable goals. Preference will be given to those that involve collaboration with CIRCA to address at least one of the following priority areas:

- Improve scientific understanding of the changing climate system and its local and regional impacts on coastal and inland floodplain communities;
- Develop and deploy natural science, engineering, legal, financial, and policy best practices for climate resilience;
- Undertake or oversee pilot projects designed to improve resilience and sustainability of the natural and built environment along Connecticut’s coast and inland waterways;
- Create a climate-literate public that understands its vulnerabilities to a changing climate and which uses that knowledge to make scientifically informed, environmentally sound decisions;
• Foster resilient actions and sustainable communities – particularly along the Connecticut coastline and inland waterways – that can adapt to the impacts and hazards of climate change; and
• Reduce the loss of life and property, natural system and ecological damage, and social disruption from high-impact events.

More information is available at the CIRCA website: [http://circa.uconn.edu/funds.htm](http://circa.uconn.edu/funds.htm).

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**CIRCA Municipal Resilience Grant Program**

**Deadline:** April 15, 2016

**Background**

The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) is requesting grant proposals from municipal governments and councils of government for initiatives that advance resilience, including the creation of conceptual design, construction (demonstration projects or other) of structures, or the design of practices and policies that increase their resilience to climate change and severe weather. This program is focused on implementation. The CIRCA Executive Steering Committee has made up to $100,000 in funds available to municipal governments and councils of government for the execution of resilience initiatives.

Project proposals should develop knowledge or experience that is transferable to multiple locations in Connecticut and have well-defined and measurable goals. Preferable projects will be implemented in no more than an 18-month time frame. Preference will also be given to those projects that leverage multiple funding sources and that involve collaboration with CIRCA to address at least one of the following priority areas:

1. Develop and deploy natural science, engineering, legal, financial, and policy best practices for climate resilience;
2. Undertake or oversee pilot projects designed to improve resilience and sustainability of the natural and built environment along Connecticut's coast and inland waterways;
3. Foster resilient actions and sustainable communities - particularly along the Connecticut coastline and inland waterways - that can adapt to the impacts and hazards of climate change; and
4. Reduce the loss of life and property, natural system and ecological damage, and social disruption from high-impact events.

All Connecticut municipalities and councils of government are eligible to apply. Partnerships are encouraged.

Application materials can be found on the CIRCA website: [http://circa.uconn.edu](http://circa.uconn.edu).

CIRCA will host an informational webinar on March 17, 2016 at 11:00 AM. Please see the Municipal Resilience Grant Program webpage for registration details.
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

**Deadline:** June 1, 2016

**Background**
The Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (LB21) supports professional development, graduate education and continuing education to help libraries and archives develop the human capital capacity they need to meet the changing learning and information needs of the American public.


FY 2016-FY 2019 EDA Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program

**Deadline:** Rolling

**Background**
Under the Planning Program, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) assists eligible recipients in creating regional economic development plans designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region. As part of this program, EDA supports Partnership Planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of recipients’ respective regions. In general, EDA provides Partnership Planning grants to the designated planning organization (e.g., District Organization) serving EDA designated Economic Development Districts to enable these organizations to develop and implement relevant CEDS. The Planning program also helps support organizations, including District Organizations, Indian Tribes, and other eligible recipients, with Short Term and State Planning investments designed to guide the eventual creation and retention of high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the Nation’s most economically distressed regions.

The Local Technical Assistance program strengthens the capacity of local or State organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible recipients to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility analyses and impact studies.

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)  
Opens 2/22/2016 - Closes 3/25/2016

Authority

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Assistance To Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program Office

Summary

The SAFER Grant Program provides funding directly to fire departments and national, state, local, or tribal organizations representing the interests of volunteer firefighters to assist them in increasing the number of firefighters to help fire departments meet industry minimum standards and attain 24-hour staffing to protect communities from fire and fire related hazards, and to fulfill traditional missions of fire departments.

The SAFER Grant Program is comprised of two categories:

- Hiring of Firefighters
  - Including subcategories for rehiring, retention, attrition, and new hires
  - Career, combination, and volunteer fire departments are eligible to apply
- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters
  - Combination fire departments, volunteer fire departments, and national, state, local, or tribal organizations that represent the interests of volunteer firefighters are eligible to apply

This program has the following priorities:

- Hiring of Firefighters Category
  - First priority: Rehiring laid off firefighters
  - Second priority: Retention of firefighters who face imminent layoff or filling positions vacated through attrition but not filled due to economic circumstances
  - Third priority: Hiring new firefighters
- Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Category
  - The highest priority is to assist departments experiencing a high rate of turnover and with staffing levels significantly below the ideal staffing level required to comply with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards 1710 or 1720.

The goal of the SAFER Grant Program is to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities in order to respond to emergencies, and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. SAFER intends to improve or restore local fire departments’ staffing and deployment capabilities so they may more effectively and safely respond to emergencies. With enhanced or restored staffing levels, grantees should see a reduction in response times and an increase in the number of trained personnel assembled at the incident scene.
Additional Information

Ineligible expenses under the Hiring of Firefighters Activity include:

- The salaries and benefits of firefighters who are current employees or were hired prior to the award date (except under the retention activity);
- Funding promotions (e.g., pay a current member a higher salary by placing them in a new SAFER-funded position). If a department chooses to promote a current member, SAFER Grant funding may be used to fund the vacated firefighter position;
- Pre-application costs, such as grant writer fees, administrative costs, and indirect costs associated with hiring or rehiring firefighters;
- Costs to train and equip firefighters are ineligible (this does not include the salaries and benefits of firefighters hired under SAFER Funding while they are engaged in training);
- Uniforms and physicals; or
- Overtime costs (except as noted in “eligible costs”)

Ineligible expenses under the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters Activity include:

- Salary and benefits for firefighters;
- Costs incurred prior to award except for grant writer fees;
- Vehicles;
- Fire suppression equipment or vehicles;
- Fire simulators, fire evolution, or fire training props (e.g., burn trailers, forcible entry, rescue/smoke maze, flashover simulators, etc.);
- Sirens or other outdoor warning devices;
- Communication equipment including cell phones, pagers, portable radios, or Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems;
- Cash payments for non-operational activities;
- Payments for travel to or participation in leisure activities such as theatre tickets, entertainment tickets, and trips (professional sporting events, etc.);
- Costs associated with award banquets, such as food, refreshments, entertainment, or rental facilities;
- Reimbursement for actual awards (e.g., plaques and trophies) is eligible;
- Costs for food or refreshments;
- Costs for training currently covered under the department’s operating budget, such as tuition or instructor fees for department-mandated, basic-level training, etc;
- Services at a member’s personal residence (e.g., internet access, plowing of driveways);
- Furniture (except for newly converted bunkrooms), televisions, fixtures, appliances (e.g., refrigerators), and entertainment equipment;
- “Giveaways,” such as pencils, pens, t-shirts, cups, mugs, or balloons, for recruitment events;
- Fees for courses and training that are available free of charge on the internet or at a state/local training facilities (e.g., NIMS 100, 700, 800);
- Costs for fuel; or
- Annual medical exams (not including NFPA 1582 physicals for new recruits)
Upcoming Events
Annual Legislative Breakfast
Featuring Keynote Speaker DOT
Commissioner James Redeker
February 23, 2016
8:30 AM - Breakfast
9 AM to 10 AM - Information Session

Location: State Capitol Building, Hartford

Join WTS and CACT for a discussion of Connecticut's public transportation challenges and their impact on providing people with an affordable mobility choice that aids employment, reduces congestion and pollution, strengthens the economy and sustains livable communities.

Registration and additional information.
Regional Economic Development Forum

Presented by:

Connecticut Economic Resource Center

State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
Please Join Us

Learn how the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, Inc. are working together to help businesses grow in Connecticut.

Commissioner Catherine Smith will introduce the regional point of contact from DECD and discuss the state's new initiatives to fuel job growth- while CERC will present an overview of new business and municipal resources for economic growth.

The event will also provide an opportunity for Q&A and a discussion on how we can further work together to foster economic development success.

Who should attend: companies, developers, chamber associates and economic development professionals
Event Description

This event is an opportunity for people to learn the benefits of collaboration which will save money and leverage the purchases and agreements with their town. The event will highlight people who are already implementing positive changes. Panel discussions, workshops, and Q and A with key leaders and a distinguished panel of experts on the many ways that municipalities can collaborate to gain efficiency and control costs and pass on the benefits to the taxpayers.

Admission

General Admission is $40.00.

Municipality/Town/City Elected Officials may attend for free.

Who should attend?

Town Managers • Town Financial Services • Superintendents • Town Engineers • Mayors • Town Attorneys • Economic Development • Service Providers for Towns and Municipalities

For questions about this event please contact Kristine Donahue at 860-236-9998 x137 or email KDonahue@HartfordBusiness.com.
Business Recruitment, Retention

Business Assistance

On-going work with businesses in region.

Business Recruitment

Collaborating with the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven on exploring a Bioscience Conference in Spring 2017

Business Development

Follow up on prospects from the ICSC show

Follow up on American Bus Association show

Entrepreneurs & Startups

Sponsored Startup Grind event

Expand Global Opportunities

Site visit scheduled for February 25 to Montréal, Canada to explore opportunities with:

- Notman House, Montréal’s Technology Hub and home of the web (notman.org)

(continued)
• Meet with Global Cultural Districts Network (GCDN), a federation of global centers of arts and culture that fosters cooperation and knowledge-sharing among those responsible for conceiving, funding, building, and operating cultural districts and/or clusters with a significant cultural element.

• Meeting with the Mayor of Montréal

• Presentation of the City of Montréal Economic Development Strategic Plan (major projects)

• Meeting with The Life and Health Technology Cluster (Montréal-invivo.com)

• Meeting with Montréal Urban Development Director and Work Live and Play (discussion about cities new urban development projects)

• Visit of the Environmental Complex of Saint-Michel (formerly a quarry and is now the home of an indoor soccer complex and trails)

Integrate Arts, Culture & Preservation with Economic Development

Tourism

Tradeshows:

• **ABA Marketplace:** January 9-12, 2016. Visit New Haven attended and held meetings in partnership with the Central Regional Tourism District and CT Office of Tourism.

  • 35 meetings were held by the Central Regional Tourism District/Visit New Haven and over 65 held in CT state meetings.

  • Direct booking: 290 room nights in Milford, CT, bus over night with over 11 dates.

  • Leads: Working on 2 new operators to the region with intent for 2017 groups.

• **Discover New England Summit,** 4/3-4/6, 2016, Newport RI

• **Getaway Day at Grand Central Station,** June 2016

  Will be looking for partners to join us in NYC. Promotion for getaways by train from NYC. Previously partnered with Milford, Guilford, Branford, PEZ, Yale, Clinton Crossings, Powder Ridge, Shoreline Trolley, Renaissance Faire, Madison Beach Hotel, Clarion Hamden, The Study, Fairfield Inn Milford, and Fairfield Inn Wallingford.

Booked Meetings:

**HPH Conference,** 6/7 - 6/11, 2016 at Yale University—International Hospital Conference, first time in the U.S. with over 700 prospected room nights in Greater New Haven. (continued)
Regional Collaboration

GNHCC Annual Legislative Breakfast on January 20

CERC Quarterly Statewide Marketing Meeting scheduled for February 10

The Governor’s Economic Development Forum February 16

Infrastructure

Rail Service

Collaborated with regional stakeholder to comment on the proposed NEC Future route, requesting the dismissal of the proposed inland route in favor of routes that would include the existing rail service along the shoreline.

Brownfield Program

Approved a Brownfield Assessment Grant for a Phase III study for expansion of NeighborWorks New Horizons

Education & Training

Align Education to Business Growth

2/26 BioPath Advisory Committee Meeting at Southern Connecticut State University

Retain & Attract Young Professionals

Developing and Implementing a regional intern program

Advocacy

NEC Future comments submitted.

Testimony submitted in support of continued statewide marketing funding on behalf of Visit New Haven and the Connecticut Lodging Association.

Provided testimony supporting in support of the Regional Tourism District Funding and CT Tourism Marketing Funding to the Appropriations Committee on February 8, 2016.

Met with Representative Jeff Berger, Chair of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee to discuss lodging hotel tax issues.

Grant Submissions

Submitted additional information for a Regional Performance Incentive Grant regarding the Market Study related to the Food-Based Business Incubator Project.
Marketing & Communications
Submitted content for the 2016-2017 Greater New Haven Cultural & Visitors Guide

Municipal CEDS Update Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>New Haven</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>North Branford</td>
<td>Completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
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<td>West Haven</td>
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<td>Meriden</td>
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<td>Woodbridge</td>
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<td>Wallingford</td>
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<td>Hamden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guilford</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>Madison</td>
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Unemployment Data
The Connecticut Department of Labor’s Office of Research website has been down for over one month. We have reported the outage and the main website states they are working on restoring the functionality.
DEMHS Region 2
John B. Field Jr., Emergency Management Area Coordinator

Re: February 2016 COG Report

CT DEMHS Region 2
The Region 2 Office staff is working to identify all changes in their community leadership, specifically the chief elected officials and emergency management directors. It is imperative the DEMHS Region 2 staff maintain a connection with the community through the chief elected official and emergency management director, we therefore look to connect with any new chief elected officials and emergency management directors. If we have not connected already please have your emergency management director contact the Region 2 Office so that we can meet and brief on emergency management opportunities.

DEMHS Region 2 is working with Region 2 Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 as they look to meet all deliverables set forth by CT DPH. Region 2 ESF 8 held an Infectious Disease Table-Top Exercise at the Yale West Campus on February 18th. State and local public health officials participated in the event. ESF 8 is also working to develop a family assistance plan to assure families receive the appropriate recognition during catastrophic events. Region 2 ESF 8 continues monthly meetings as they address their deliverables.

DEMHS Region 2 Office staff continue to collect and work with communities on their Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG). FY 2015 EMPG applications have recently been submitted and grant awards are currently being executed. FY 2013 and FY 2014 EMPG reimbursements continue to be processed and issued. It is anticipated the strict deadlines will soon be identified to finalize and close out the pending grants. Please feel free to contact the DEMHS Region 2 Office with any questions and/or issues related to EMPG.

The Region 2 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) continues to work on updating its Tactical Interoperable Communications Plan (TICP). Region 2 ESF 2 is responsible for the update and is currently 90% complete. This Plan will provide Region 2 communities guidance in establishing communications within and outside the Region. Upon completion the Plan will be made available to each community for reference when needed.

School All-Hazards Emergency Planning
DEMHS Regions continue to collect required School Emergency Plans. Grammar/High schools, higher education and private schools are all required to submit plans in accordance with State Statute. CT DEMHS Training Unit continues to provide school officials as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 10 and 11</td>
<td>Weston</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2 and 3</td>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>Class is full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16 and 17</td>
<td>Canton</td>
<td>1/3 full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6 and 7</td>
<td>Ledyard</td>
<td>1/3 full</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25 Sigourney Street, 6th floor, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860.256.0800 / Fax: 860.256.0815
An Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer
Please feel free to notify any emergency management or school officials of the training opportunities. To register they can go to the CT DESPP-DEMHS website.

**Hazard Mitigation**
CT DEMHS continues to work with FEMA on finalizing hazard mitigation projects. The collection, review and approving of hazard mitigation plans is ongoing. Regional planners are currently assisting communities with assuring their hazard mitigation plans are current. The developing and updating of hazard mitigation plans is a lengthy process and requires constant evaluation. Please be sure to monitor the expiration date of your plans and contact the Region 2 Office for assistance if needed.

**Evacuation Planning**
FEMA Region 1 has completed a Southern New England Hurricane Evacuation Study and provided CT DEMHS and shoreline communities with an overview of its content on February 3rd. The information contained within the document will prove helpful to all communities as we prepare for evacuations. The entire document will be released very soon for review by all communities. Once available for distribution the CT DEMHS Region 2 Office will be certain to send all Region 2 Communities a copy.

**CT Incident Management Teams**
CT DEMHS has scheduled a meeting of the CT Incident Management Team leadership for the end of February. It is hopeful they will finalize all of the necessary administration documentation. Once finalized the team leadership will continue to work together on how best to jointly serve the State of CT. It is anticipated the leadership will continue to meet on a regular basis.

**Emergency Management Symposium**
DEMHS has scheduled the Annual Emergency Management Symposium for April 28th. Agenda development is being finalized and registration will be made available shortly.

Region 2 personnel continue to provide assistance as needed. Please do not hesitate to contact the Region 2 Office at any time.

Respectfully submitted:

**John B. Field Jr.**

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Emergency Management Area Coordinator
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### February 2016 Action Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref. #</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Adjacent RPC Towns</th>
<th>Abridged RPC Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1/13/16</td>
<td>Town of East Haven: Proposed Zoning Regulation Amendments pertaining to Section 48: Storm Water Management</td>
<td>Branford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven</td>
<td>By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed Zoning Regulation Amendments do not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor do there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1/25/16</td>
<td>Town of Clinton: Proposed Zoning Regulation Amendments pertaining to Section 21: Floating Zones</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed Zoning Regulation Amendments do not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor do there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>2/11/16</td>
<td>Town of Clinton: Proposed Zoning Regulation Amendments pertaining to Section 28: Signs</td>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed Zoning Regulation Amendments do not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor do there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2/11/16</td>
<td>Town of Wallingford: 2016 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application (Letter of Support)</td>
<td>Hamden, North Branford, North Haven, Meriden</td>
<td>By resolution, the RPC finds that the Town of Wallingford grant application to complete the roof replacement, gutters and leader replacement, fire alarm upgrade and necessary re-pointing to exterior brickwork at McGuire Court, a 50-unit elderly complex is consistent with and meets important housing goals identified in the South Central Regional Plan of Conservation and Development of providing a diverse and affordable housing stock for all incomes and age groups.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CCM’s 2016 State Legislative Program

RE-INVIGORATING THE STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP: WORKING TOGETHER FOR CONNECTICUT’S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FUTURE

Connecticut’s challenging times present opportunities for significant changes that will improve the quality-of-life of our state. This is the time to reinvigorate the State-Local partnership – because our hometowns and the State now need each other more than ever. Municipalities and state leaders can work together to make government more efficient at all levels and ensure the continuity of local public services. CCM stands at the ready to work with the Governor and General Assembly to address our state’s pressing issues.

Increase Fiscal Sustainability

(a) Enact a statutory prohibition against new unfunded mandates.
(b) Amend the Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS) to establish an additional retirement plan within MERS, for new hires, that would: (i) maintain a defined benefit plan modeled after the State Employee Retirement System’s Tier III; and (ii) change the plan for new employees hired after a certain time period to be part of a town plan instead of the existing plan.

Improve the Quality of Life in Communities Through Anti-Blight Efforts

(a) Allow a municipality to place blight liens on any interest in a one-to-six family residential property for unpaid blight fines. Liens may be assessed on any property of such owner outside of the municipality, as long as impacted municipalities enter into an inter-local agreement regarding the lien.
(b) Establish additional requirements for banks to maintain foreclosed properties.
(c) Expand mental health programs to address hoarding.
(d) Eliminate the requirement for towns to store the possessions of evicted tenants.
(e) Establish a revolving loan fund for property owners for the remediation of blighted properties.
(f) Dedicate a “Blight Court” or docket within Housing Court to expedite municipal actions to combat blight.
Add Reason and Clarity to the Municipal Spending Cap

CCM opposes the municipal spending cap imposed by the 2015 General Assembly, as it unnecessarily and unfairly ties the hands of local government. However, if the cap is not outright repealed, CCM seeks the following modifications in order to add reason and clarity:

(a) **Delay implementation of the municipal spending cap** enacted in PA 15-5, until FY 20.

(b) **Amend the list of exemptions to the municipal spending cap** to include (i) increased fees for state services, regulations and permits, (ii) state aid reductions from the previous year (in case the State cuts non-education aid or ECS, or a reduction in sales tax revenue, etc.), (iii) costs associated with new unfunded state mandates, and (iv) municipalities with town meeting forms of government.

(c) Allow municipalities the option to request a **waiver from OPM for exceeding the spending cap in the event that unforeseen circumstances require an increase in municipal spending**.

(d) Allow municipalities to **override the spending cap with a 2/3 vote of local legislative bodies** -- without a reduction of funds.

(e) **Exclude arbitration awards from the list of exemptions to the cap**.
ADDITIONAL 2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM ITEMS
(Listed by likely General Assembly committee of cognizance.)

APPROPRIATIONS

1. Assist local law enforcement in addressing mental health issues by earmarking specific state funding for local police departments to expand and improve crisis intervention training to deal with individuals suffering with mental health illness.

2. Provide law enforcement with advanced resources to combat illegal drug activity by:
   a) Repealing the law that will require 100% of asset forfeitures funds go to the state general fund, effective FY16. Towns and cities would lose this funding that help supplement law enforcement efforts.
   b) Amending state funding stream for the Statewide Narcotics Task Force from a grant to a direct line item in the budget.

3. Enhance local public safety efforts by:
   a) Amending current state statute (CGS Section 29-5) regarding the Resident State Trooper Program cost allocation by reducing and capping the municipal contribution rate to 75% for regular, overtime and fringe benefit costs.
   b) Developing a sustainable funding stream to support the annual operational expenses of Connecticut Regional Fire Schools.
   c) Maintaining funding for the School Security Grant program, and permitting other municipal buildings to be eligible for the funding.
   d) Providing additional funding for the Statewide Narcotics Task Force by expanding the percentage of asset forfeitures funds allocated to the Task Force.

CHILDREN

1. Protect needed services for vulnerable, at-risk and/or underprivileged young people by maintaining funding to youth service bureaus and juvenile diversion programs.

2. Promote healthy alternatives and nutritional education for children and families by providing incentives for local Farmer’s Markets, which stimulate local economies, and increase the use of Connecticut-grown food.

EDUCATION

1. Provide needed relief to municipalities by the State adopting the federal standards pertaining to the “burden of proof” for special education services, as is current procedure in almost all other states.

2. Provide a substantive early childhood education investments to help close the Achievement Gap. In addition, provide merit-based incentives for municipalities that have already made efforts and investments to do so.
3. Require the Department of Education to conduct a statewide assessment of the number of students within the State in comparison to the number of available classrooms.

4. Provide dependability of state funding of local special education services by (i) contributing a guaranteed level of funding that does not change during the course of the fiscal year; (ii) decreasing the Excess Cost reimbursement threshold to at most 2.0 times the district’s average per pupil expenditure or $25,000, whichever is less; and (iii) fully funding the state’s portion.

ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Reclassify electricity generated by trash-to-energy facilities in the state as either a Class I renewable energy source, or create a new Class 1-A standard, in order to preserve the current municipal trash-to-energy market until new solid waste management treatment programs are developed and become economically viable.

2. Encourage the development and siting of municipally-owned net metering facilities by increasing the current 10MW limit, easing restrictions on the siting of new facilities, and provide additional consideration for applications of net metering projects that would be located on identified and remediated brownfield sites.

3. Foster greater participation in sustainability efforts in communities by:
   a) Encouraging DEEP to expand use of combined sewer overflow funding for green infrastructure.
   b) Providing incentives for municipalities to create Energy Improvement Districts with bonding authority, and allow customers to opt out of the program rather than opting in.

ENVIRONMENT

1. Re-establish the Pesticide Advisory Council under CGS 22a-65 within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to develop a science-based approach to regulation and use of synthetic and organic pesticides on municipal lands.

2. Require the State to develop stringent regulations on mattress stewardship centers to ensure compliance with local zoning and fire code standards.

3. Support efforts to increase funding for the identification and remediation of municipal brownfields.

4. Develop a process to expedite the remediation of decommissioned or abandoned electric generating facilities, and require any remediation costs to be paid when applicable by the owner of the electrical generating facility.
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

1. Provide a local option to increase the municipal portion of the real estate conveyance tax, to up to 1% of the sale price. Currently, with exception of 17 municipalities, the municipal tax rate is .25% of the sale price. [The state conveyance tax is .75% of the sales price up to $800,000, and 1.25% of the sales price above $800,000.]

2. Require the Program Review and Investigations Committee to examine the impact of nonprofits on the municipal tax base, and whether such entities should be assessed and at what level.

3. Support the findings of the State Tax Panel to ensure recommendations related to local-state taxing structures are directly linked to public policy objectives, specifically regarding tax-exempt property, revenue diversification, and intergovernmental transfers.

4. Provide local tax relief and reduce municipal dependency on the property tax by (a) examining opportunities for municipal revenue diversification, and (b) maintaining LoCIP, TAR and STEAP funding at current levels.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS

1. Provide relief to municipalities from unfunded mandates by requiring that the State fund the Registrar of Voters training that was developed as a result of PA 15-224, or provide that such training be available in an online format.

2. Provide towns and cities the authority to collect fees from for-profit companies filing requests for local information that they will then sell (commonly referred to as “data mining”).

HOUSING

1. Amend CGS 8-30g (the affordable housing land use appeals law) to allow for senior and supportive housing to be eligible in meeting municipal affordable housing goals.

HUMAN SERVICES

1. Combat recidivism by expanding treatment and re-entry programs for individuals treated for substance abuse.

2. Assist local law enforcement in addressing mental health issues by modifying and strengthening the evaluation process for individuals suspected of mental illness.

JUDICIARY

1. Allow municipalities that are self-insured the right of subrogation against a tortfeasor, consistent with the Workers’ Compensation Act. (Currently, self-insured municipalities do not have such opportunity, thereby making it a punitive statute on these municipalities.)
LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

1. Amend State statutes to adjust the thresholds that trigger the prevailing wage mandate for public construction projects for (a) renovation construction projects, from $100,000 to $400,000; and (b) new construction projects, from $400,000 to $1 million. Both thresholds should then be indexed for inflation thereafter. (State prevailing wage mandate thresholds have not been amended since 1991.)

2. Modify state-mandated compulsory binding arbitration laws to require that grievance arbitration and unfair labor practice awards be issued no later than 60 days following the date post-hearing briefs are filed. This would establish timelines for the issuance of decisions in cases before both the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration, and the State Board of Labor Relations.

3. Amend the Municipal Employee Retirement System (MERS) to establish an additional retirement plan within MERS, for new hires, that would:
   a) Maintain a defined benefit plan. Such new tier would be modeled after the State’s tier III, which currently exists within the State Employee Retirement System. There has only been one tier within MERS since the system was established in 1947.
   b) Change the plan for new employees hired after a certain time period to be part of a town plan, instead of the existing plan.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

1. Provide relief to municipalities from unfunded mandates by:
   a) Modifying the requirements for posting legal notices in newspapers to allow municipalities to publish a summary of the notice in the newspaper, with reference to the availability of the full notice on the town website and the town offices, instead of having to publish the entire notice in the newspaper;
   b) Allowing operating costs, including rent and office supplies, of Probate Courts to come out of State Probate fees; and
   c) Enacting a Constitutional amendment or statutory prohibition to prohibit the passage of unfunded or underfunded state mandates without a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the General Assembly.

2. Increase municipal authority to require a developer to post a maintenance or performance bond by:
   a) Increasing the cap on the bond a zoning commission may require for site plan modifications; and
   b) Allowing towns and cities to require a bond or other surety to secure the maintenance of roads, streets, or other matters associated with project maintenance, after a municipality has accepted improvements.

3. Require the State to adhere to the Program Review & Investigation study requiring an assessment of group homes throughout Connecticut to examine, among other things, criteria used to determine location of facilities.
4. Ensure public safety and adherence to zoning, housing and building codes requiring all sober homes to:
   a) Register with the municipality; and
   b) Designate an on-site manager.

5. Modify Public Act 4-90 (490 program) by:
   a) Allowing towns and cities the right to refusal to purchase properties being removed from the program.
   b) Expanding from the time period which land must be maintained as open space, from 10 to 15 years.
   c) Allowing towns to remove land from the program if it has been zoned for subdivision.
   d) Increasing the penalties for early withdrawal of 490 land.
   e) Providing financial incentives to towns to examine local zoning based on soil conditions, and promote building on soil that isn’t suitable for farming.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Enhance public health and spur economic growth by requiring the Department of Public Health to streamline the process for the permitting of public drinking water systems.

2. Ensure proper functioning of public health districts by maintaining state aid for local public health initiatives.

3. Require the State to establish a one-stop clearinghouse for information on opioid abuse prevention strategies. (Currently, there are various opioid prevention task forces across the state, but the information they are compiling is not accessible in one place.)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

1. Provide municipalities with state resources and incentives to consolidate Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) with neighboring communities, rather than forced regionalism, whereas sanctions can be imposed on municipalities that do not comply.

TRANSPORTATION

1. Develop a procedure to increase the authority of municipalities and COGs to plan, approve and implement local infrastructure improvement projects that meet Department of Transportation (DOT) design standards, allowing DOT to focus staff and resources on large-scale state and regional transportation improvement projects.

2. Ensure adherence to state motor vehicle laws by requiring mopeds be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV).

3. Ensure that revenue and funding designated for transportation and infrastructure improvements (i.e., Special transportation Fund and TAR) are expressly used for those purposes.
4. **Develop a state plan to ensure that state and local roads and bridges are brought up to standards by a specific date.** The State must also develop an enhanced process to avoid bureaucratic red tape and redundancies between state and local efforts.

5. **Make needed improvements to Connecticut’s infrastructure by:**
   a) Increasing state funding to **maintain and improve local roads**.
   b) Encouraging the **consolidation and enhancement of existing public transit networks**. Provide grant funding to COGs to study and develop recommendations for enhanced regional coordination.
   c) Finalizing consolidation of **Metropolitan Planning Organizations** (MPOs).
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MERS): Amend MERS to establish an additional retirement plan within the system, for new hires, that would:

- **Maintain a defined benefit plan.** Such new tier would be modeled after the State’s tier III, which currently exists within the state employee retirement system. *There has only been one tier within MERS since the system was established in 1947.*
- **Change the plan for new employees hired after a certain time period to be part of a town plan, instead of the existing plan.**

*WHY?*

CMERS was created in 1947 and is authorized under chapter 113, part II of the Connecticut General Statutes. It is the public pension plan provided by the State of Connecticut for participating municipalities' employees, and is supported solely by the contributions of municipal governments, their employees, and fund earnings. There are currently 112 governmental entities in CMERS, with almost 8,500 active employees in the plan, another 6,500 retirees, plus 1,000 more that are retired and eligible to collect but have not yet begun to do so. **CMERS receives no state funding** and is administered through the State Comptroller’s office. Plan benefit levels, contribution rates, and enrollment eligibility in municipal pension plans are typically negotiated by the parties however, this is not the case in CMERS, as changes to CMERS are not subject to the collective bargaining process.

The **State Legislature is the only permissible authority to amend the CMERS system.** State lawmakers have made adjustments to the State’s defined benefit retirement plan to keep it financially viable (notably 1984, 1997, 2011), but have not made adjustments to the municipal system. Towns and cities are technically permitted to withdraw from CMERS, but are restricted from realizing any financial benefit by doing so. This has handcuffed towns that seek efficiencies, and is antithetical to the CMERS’s core mission of providing sound and efficient retirement benefits. As a result, the costs borne by CMERS participating entities have increased significantly, as employer (municipal) contribution rates have quadrupled since 2002, and the cost to CMERS participating entities now exceeds those which the State deemed unsustainable for itself under the State’s old Tier I plan thirty years ago.

**Defined benefit plans require prudent adjustments in order to remain financially sustainable.** As stated, only the Legislature has the authority to adjust CMERS. The General Assembly should enact law that adjusts CMERS and enables participating municipalities to financially sustain a defined benefit retirement plan for their employees.

**MUNICIPAL SET-ASIDE:** Amend the municipal set-aside program to (a) increase the threshold when the program is triggered from $50,000 it to $500,000 or $1,000,000, and (b) restrict the program to include particular types of projects.
WHY?

CCM empathizes with the policy goals of this proposal. However, the administrative costs may be substantial and the increased contract costs equally significant. Smaller towns which don’t have a robust purchasing infrastructure, compliance with these requirements could be virtually impossible as a practical matter.

LEGAL NOTICES: Modify the requirement for posting legal notices in newspapers to allow municipalities to publish a summary of the notice in the newspaper, with reference to the availability of the full notice on the town and newspaper website, along with being available within town offices. This would be lie of publishing the full document in the newspaper.

WHY?

It is estimated that this 20th century law costs small towns several thousands of dollars annually in advertisement fees, while the costs to larger cities can be as much as hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. This proposal is a reasonable compromise, agreed to by the newspaper association.

In the 21st century, the quickest, most transparent and cost-effective way to get information to the largest amount of residents is via the internet. It is no secret that the internet is where people shop, communicate, bank, and share general information. Town and city halls are clearinghouses of information for all things local -- from recreation schedules, to town meetings, to lost and found items. Residents of all ages rely on their most accountable level of government, their hometowns, to stay informed. As a result, municipal websites have become the lifeline that links our living rooms with our local governments’ goings-on.

Modifying this mandate would not only save municipalities money -- it would be a common sense and logical improvement to the operations of local government.

LOCAL HEALTH INSURANCE: Eliminate the health insurance premium tax on municipalities is 1.75% tax on fully insured municipal premiums. In addition, many self-insured municipalities pay for stop loss insurance – and as a result, also pay this onerous tax.

WHY?

Many municipalities, particularly small towns, cannot reasonably consider self-insurance as an option, because just one catastrophic illness could have a severe negative impact on a local budget.

STORAGE OF TENANTS’ POSSESSIONS: Eliminate the requirement for towns to store the possession of evicted tenants.

WHY?

The existing mandate for municipalities to store the possession of evicted tenants continues to drain local finances and resources. While municipalities are allowed to try to recoup some of the costs by auctioning off the items, municipalities must incur costs associated with conducting an auction (including publicizing the auction, etc.). And, usually the possessions are not sellable –
ultimately, the municipality receives little or no reimbursement. **Town and city halls should not be in the middle of an essentially landlord-tenant issue.**

According to the Office of Legislative Research report #2006-R-0164 "State Laws on Landlord's Treatment of Abandoned Property", of the 37 states researched, **Connecticut is the only state that mandates that municipalities store the possessions of evicted tenants.** In other states, landlords or marshals have the responsibility. The tenant evictions mandate is still costly to municipalities. It is estimated that there are about 2,500 residential evictions per year – this is a conservative estimate. And, storage costs average $10 per day, per eviction, for 15 days. The costs – excluding staff, vehicles and other administrative costs – can range from approximately $9,000 to $147,900.

**PREVAILING WAGE: Adjust the Thresholds**

Local officials do not seek repeal of Connecticut’s prevailing wage rate law, nor demand radical changes to this mandate. They simply ask their state partners in government make reasonable adjustments to the thresholds that trigger the mandate and allow towns and cities to manage limited resources.

Given today’s political reality, **there is a reasonable starting point for getting this state mandate into the 21st century** – by allowing local officials the option to submit the required notices, information, and records electronically.

**WHY?**

Amending the state’s prevailing wage mandate has precedent. Although the mandate has not been updated since 1991 - prior to 1991, legislators had updated the law by adjusting the thresholds on a six-year schedule.

Attempts to compare Connecticut to the myriad of state prevailing wage laws across the country can be misleading and not reflective of the totality of the mandate’s impact specific to our state. While it is true that some states have lower mandated-thresholds than Connecticut – it is also true that some states have higher mandated-thresholds than Connecticut. For example, Maryland has a higher threshold for new construction while Indiana, Kentucky, and Maryland have higher thresholds for remodeling projects.1 It is also true that over one-third of the states do not have any prevailing wage laws at all – including New Hampshire (eight states have never had such laws – while ten have either repealed their prevailing wage laws or were deemed invalid by court order).2

A measure of relief, which would adjust the threshold from $400,000 to $2 million for new construction projects; and from $100,000 to $1 million for renovation and remodeling projects - would free-up municipal finances and jumpstart smaller-scale local projects.

**CCM is not advocating to repeal the prevailing wage mandate in Connecticut – simply update it by adjusting the thresholds as recommended above.** This recommendation is a sensible compromise, and the right thing to do.

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2 Ibid.
MANDATE RELIEF

1. **ELIMINATE THE MUNICIPAL SPENDING CAP**
   Beginning in FY 18, the Municipal Spending Cap requires municipalities to limit "general budget expenditures" to 2.5% above the previous year or the rate of inflation, whichever is greater. Municipalities that exceed the cap are penalized through a reduction in the Municipal Revenue Sharing Account (MRSA) grant of 50 cents for every dollar the municipality spends over the cap. According to data compiled by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR), in FY 2014-2015, more than 49% of municipalities had a budget increase of more than 2.5% or more; 59 municipalities had a budget increase of more than 3%; and 111 municipalities had a budget increase of more than 2%. In small towns where budgets are approved at town meetings or in budget referendums, the Municipal Spending Cap undermines the ability of residents to approve local budgets that reflect the priorities of their community. It also penalizes communities that are investing in local infrastructure projects or growing their grand lists because such initiatives are likely to result in expenditures above the Municipal Spending Cap.

   **Recommendation:** Eliminate the Municipal Spending Cap.

   **Status:** COST testified in support of eliminating the cap before the Appropriations Committee public hearing on OPM portion of the budget. COST is continuing to meet with legislative leaders and other lawmakers regarding concerns with the cap.

2. **ENACT A MORATORIUM ON ANY NEW UNFUNDED MANDATES**
   Despite widespread recognition that unfunded mandates drive up local budgets and property taxes, each year dozens of new or expanded unfunded mandates are considered and some are adopted.

   **Recommendation:** COST continues to support legislation requiring any new or expanded unfunded mandate to be approved by a 2/3 majority of the legislature.

   **Status:** Planning & Development Committee is raising a bill at its meeting on 2/19.

3. **INCREASE THE PROJECT THRESHOLD UNDER THE MUNICIPAL SET ASIDE MANDATE TO EXCLUDE SMALLER PROJECTS**
   Although the goal of the state’s new municipal set aside program for small and minority contractors is laudable, the state does not have sufficient staff to ensure that contractors are in compliance with the program, shifting the burden to the towns and cities. Moreover, agency staff has not had sufficient time to determine how to administer the law and respond to various questions from contractors and municipalities.
Recommendation:
- Excluding smaller projects from the scope of the mandate by increasing the project threshold to $1 million; and
- Delaying implementation of the Municipal Set Aside Program to ensure that state agencies have sufficient time and staff to properly administer the program.

Status: Governor’s bill (HB-5049) includes provisions postponing the implementation of the program until July 2019. Public hearing scheduled for Feb. 22 before the GAE Committee.

4. REDUCE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE POSTING OF LEGAL NOTICES
Requiring municipalities to publish legal notices in the newspapers is outdated and increasingly expensive. Many newspapers serving small towns and cities are no longer in business, forcing towns to publish notices in the more expensive metropolitan newspapers. Taxpayers are accustomed to visiting municipal websites to find up-to-date information on issues affecting towns, including legal notices.

Recommendation: As a compromise measure, COST supports legislation allowing towns to post complete legal notices on their websites with a summary published in the newspaper.

Status: Planning & Development Chairs do not want to raise a bill on this issue. The GAE Committee has raised a bill (HB-5228), however, allowing state contract bid notices to be posted on the state website rather than in newspapers. COST will use this as a vehicle to testify on this issue at the public hearing on 2/22.

5. ADDRESS INEQUITIES IN THE MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
Towns need financial relief from state-mandated municipal contributions to the Municipal Employees Retirement System. The percentage of employee contributions, which is set by statute, has not been modified since 1947, rendering the system unsustainable.

Recommendation: As a compromise measure put forward by the MORE Commission Retirement Work Group, COST supports legislation allowing the employee contribution rate to be collectively bargained. In addition, we support the creation of an additional defined benefit plan tier for new hires, consistent with the state’s tier III.

Status: The issue is expected to be discussed as part of MORE Commission legislation.

6. REPEAL THE EVICTED TENANTS PROPERTY STORAGE MANDATE
COST supports legislation relieving municipalities of the burden of paying for the storage of an evicted tenant’s possessions inasmuch as municipalities are not parties to these private transactions. There are an estimated 2,500 residential evictions per year. Storage costs average between $10 and $15 per day, per eviction, for an average of 15 days. This can range from approximately $12,000 to $165,000 per municipality.

**Recommendation:** COST recommends eliminating the property storage mandate on towns.

**Status:** Planning & Development Committee Chairs do not want to raise a bill on this issue this session.

7. **UPDATE PREVAILING WAGE THRESHOLDS**

The prevailing wage mandate is often cited as one of the most costly and burdensome unfunded mandate, particularly for some of our smaller communities.

**Recommendation:** COST has long supported efforts to update the project thresholds under the prevailing wage law by increasing the threshold for municipal public works projects to $1 million for new construction and renovations. This will help reduce the cost of local building projects and assist towns in moving forward with construction projects that support job creation for our residents.

**Status:** The Labor Committee has raised a prevailing wage bill and there is expected to be considerable discussion about this issue as part of budget negotiations.

8. **REDUCE MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS**

The insurance premium tax, which is a 1.75% tax on fully insured municipal premiums, is particularly onerous for Connecticut’s small towns because they cannot afford to self-insure to avoid the premium tax and other mandated health insurance costs.

**Recommendation:** Phase out the insurance premium tax on municipal health insurance policies.

**Status:** There is no traction on this issue due to the fiscal impact.
UNFUNDED MANDATES

There have been numerous new unfunded mandates proposed, including:

- **An Act Concerning Workers' Compensation Coverage For Current And Former Uniformed Members Of Paid Municipal Or Volunteer Fire Departments** - Status: Awaiting a public hearing before the Labor Committee. There are ongoing discussions regarding this issue to develop a compromise bill that uses a disability policy rather than WC as basis for coverage.

- **An Act Concerning Severe Mental and Emotional Impairment and Workers' Compensation Coverage** - Status: Awaiting a public hearing before the Labor Committee.

OTHER ISSUES

**DMV Registration/Delinquent Property Taxes** – The Governor has proposed legislation (HB-5055) eliminating the ban on processing vehicle and vessel registrations and renewals if property taxes/tickets are delinquent, undermining a very effective tool in collecting unpaid taxes and fines. Status: Awaiting a public hearing before the Transportation Committee.

**Sales Tax on Seasonal Non-Metered Municipal Parking Lots** – Finance Committee has raised a bill to address. Awaiting language.

**Motor Vehicle Tax Cap – Revaluation Issue** – We have requested a bill to address inequities in legislation affecting municipalities that have recently undertaken revaluation. Language provided to Finance Committee chairs and other lawmakers.

**Phosphorus Abatement** – Planning & Development is raising a bill to increase the amount of funding available to municipalities undertaking wastewater plant upgrades for phosphorus removal. Awaiting language.