



Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

**Meeting Notice & Agenda
South Central Regional MPO and COG
Wednesday, August 23, 2023 – 10:00 A.M.**

This is a hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at the SCRCOG Office and remote access via Zoom.

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

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83877342935>

Call-In Number: +1-929-205-6099 / Meeting ID: 838 7734 2935

- 1 **Call to Order and Introductions**
- 2 **Adopt Minutes of 7/26/23 SCRCOG Meeting (motion)** Pages 2-6
- 3 **Treasurer's Report for month ending 7/31/23 (motion)** Pages 7-8
- 4 **MPO Business**
 - a) Resolution to Approve FY 2021-2024 TIP Amendment Twenty-Nine (motion) Pages 9-13
 - b) Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to enter into agreement for eSTIP Software Subscription (motion) Page 14
 - c) Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report
 - d) Transportation Staff Report
 - e) Greater New Haven Transit District Report
 - f) CT Rides Report Pages 15-28
- 5 **COG Business**
 - a) Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Execute Renewal of Lease with Candid Group, LLC (motion) Pages 29-35
 - b) Resolution to Approve FY 24 Budget Revision #2 (motion) Pages 36-38
 - c) Approval of FY 24 Regional Services Grant (RSG) Spending Plan Amendment #1 (motion) Pages 39-41
 - d) Solicitation of Municipal Letters of Support for Regional Waste Authority Grant Application Pages 42-54
 - e) Executive Director's Report Pages 55-71
 - f) Regional Planning Staff Report
 - g) Regional Planning Commission August Action Table Page 72
 - h) REX Development Report Page 73
 - i) Congressional Reports
 - j) State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST
 - k) DEMHS Report
- 6 **Regional Cooperation/ Other Business**
- 7 **Adjournment**



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

TO: **SCRCOG Board Members**
FROM: **First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, Secretary**
DATE: **August 16, 2023**
SUBJECT: **SCRCOG Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2023**

Present:

Bethany First Selectman Paula Cofrancesco, ***Vice Chair***
Branford First Selectman James Cosgrove
East Haven Mayor Joseph Carfora
Hamden Mayor Lauren Garrett, ***Treasurer***
Madison First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, ***Secretary***
Meriden Timothy Coon, *proxy for Mayor Kevin Scarpati*
North Branford Michael Downes, *proxy for Mayor Jeffrey Macmillen*
North Haven First Selectman Michael Freda
Orange First Selectman James Zeoli, ***Chair***
Woodbridge Karen Crosby, *proxy for First Selectman Beth Heller*

SCRCOG Staff Carl Amento, Laura Francis, James Rode, Benjamin Lovejoy, Rebecca Andreucci, Stephanie Camp, Joan Paglinco, Katie Meder (intern), Jonathan Schachter (intern)

Guests: Ginny Kozlowski and Barbara Malmberg, *REX Development*; Jennifer Pacacha, *CT Department of Transportation*; Ellen Graham, *Office of U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal*; Jameson Foulke, *Office of U.S. Senator Christopher Murphy*; Betsy Gara, *COST*; Mario Marrero and Mary Bigelow, *Greater New Haven Transit District*; Nicole Velardi, *DEMHS*; Nan Birdwhistell, *Murtha Cullina*; Pamela Roach, *SCRCOG Solid Waste & Recycling Consultant*; Steve Sullivan, Robin Kebernick, Sam Carmody and TJ Magnoli, *Eversource*; Al Carbone and Mike Anderson, *United Illuminating*; Nicoletta Blevins, *Regional Water Authority*; Keyri Ambrocio, *Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce*; Olivia Bissanti, *City of West Haven*;

NOTE: The July SCRCOG Board meeting was a hybrid meeting

1. Call to order and Introductions

Chairman Zeoli called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. All present introduced themselves.

2. Presentation: Steve Sullivan, President of CT Electric Operations, Eversource Energy

Steve Sullivan introduced himself and gave a presentation related to Eversource rates, tree trimming, and current policy initiatives.

First Selectman Freda asked what public utility companies were doing to improve natural gas infrastructure. Steve explained there have been difficulties with permitting new natural gas projects.

First Selectman Lyons asked if Eversource considered the burial of power lines. Sullivan explained Eversource does have designated projects focused on burying lines between power substations to improve reliability. There are 17,000 miles of overhead lines in Eversource territory which would cost approximately \$60 billion to install underground.

Deputy Director Francis asked what the hurdles are to get the Low-Income Rate approved. Sullivan stated the OCC and PURA are advocates for it and are deciding how to get it applied.

Ben Lovejoy asked if Eversource foresees any hurdles with the currently planned offshore wind projects. Sullivan responded Eversource will eventually move forward with the project.

3. Adoption of the June 28, 2023 SCRCOG Meeting Minutes

First Selectwoman Lyons presented the minutes of the SCRCOG Meeting of June 28, 2023, which were included in the agenda packet at pages 2-6. Mayor Garrett made a motion to approve. First Selectman Cofrancesco seconded. Motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report for the month ending 6/30/23.

Mayor Garrett presented the Treasurer's Report on pages 7-8 of the agenda packet. The Balance Sheet shows that SCRCOG has total assets of \$2.1 million in which \$416,000 are in cash and investments, \$530,000 is due from CTDOT and \$131,000 is due from DEMHS. All expenses appear to be appropriate for the one-month period. Motion made by Mayor Garrett and seconded by First Selectman Cosgrove. The vote was unanimous.

5. MPO Business

a. Adopt Resolution to Approve Fiscal Year 2021-24 TIP Amendment Twenty-Eight (motion)

Deputy Director Francis presented the TIP amendment on pages 9-17 of the packet. A motion was made by First Selectman Cosgrove and seconded by First Selectman Cofrancesco. Motion approved.

b. Adopt Resolution to Approve Section 5310 Program Priorities for FY 2022 (motion)

Deputy Director Francis presented the resolution on page 18 of the agenda packet. First Selectman Cosgrove made a motion to approve, and First Selectman Cofrancesco seconded. All voted in favor.

c. Deputy Director/Director of Transportation Report

Deputy Director Francis advised that the posting for Transportation Planner-GIS/Data Manager has been open for 2 weeks now. The posting will remain open until filled. Deputy Director Francis also mentioned the solicitation for municipal transportation studies was sent out 2 weeks ago. UPWP has money to do up to four municipal studies of \$50,000 or less which will help with addressing transportation issues. She also reported SCRCOG has requested funding from the CTDOT Highway Safety Department to hire a Regional Highway Safety Specialist to address behavior issues on the region's roadways.

d. Transportation Staff Report

Jim Rode reported LOTCIP has 33 projects but only 1 application is with the DOT for review. If you have a LOTCIP project you would like to move forward, please send SCRCOG the application. Jim also advised there has been discussion about allowing changes to the LOTCIP guidelines which would allow SCRCOG to provide more support with completing municipal applications.

Rebecca Andreucci gave an update on the UPWP and mentioned the Regional Transportation Safety Plan (RTSP) is now on the SCRCOG website. All the FY23 transportation studies are completed and available on the website for review.

e. Greater New Haven Transit District Report

Mario Marrero reported last quarter there were 40,000 trips. The top 4 municipalities were New Haven with 15,700 trips, Hamden with 7,500 trips, West Haven with 3,500 trips and North Haven with 3,200 trips. GNHTD hired 8 drivers and 1 mechanic between May and June. They are still down 14 drivers but have another training class in August. GNHTD completed their triennial review with no findings in 23 review areas.

f. CT Rides Report

No report.

6. COG Business

a. Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Execute Agreement for Acceptance of 2023-24 Regional Services Grant (motion)

Executive Director reviewed the resolution on page 19 of the packet. He noted that the RSG funding for SCRCOG has increased by \$375,000 from the previous year to \$948,000. The legislature has approved the increased funding for the next four years. The motion to approve was made by First Selectman Cofrancesco. Mayor Garrett second. Motion approved.

b. Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Amento reviewed the office expansion plans which were presented to the Executive Committee. He explained the expansion is needed to accommodate the hiring of 3 additional employees and that the increased rent can be paid within the existing budget. He reviewed the SCRCOG July Newsletter on pages 20-32 of the agenda packet. There will be a new program in SCRCOG's Regional Housing Initiative which will include community conversations with Ben Fink and a training program. Executive Director Amento referred to the Pilot DEEP SMM Food Waste Diversion and Co-collection Program advising that there has been a 11.6% reduction in overall waste tonnage in the first 9 weeks of the voluntary pilot program in West Haven. SCRCOG Consultant Pam Roach noted that the West Haven pilot is ending August 7th but that West Haven is requesting that DEEP extend the program another year. The Guilford-Madison pilot program began May 1st and is ongoing. The Meriden pilot program will begin on August 2nd. The SCRCOG region's 4 pilot programs are among 15 pilot programs in the state.

c. Regional Planning Staff Report

Ben Lovejoy reported SCRCOG has been leading the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) planning program for the New Haven-Milford MSA. Lovejoy has put together a work plan for the next 4 years, and that plan has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Lovejoy noted that SCRCOG will be working closely with the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Regional Planning Program. SCRCOG staff and UMass will be producing a Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory as well as a Regional Climate Action Plan. The first deliverable is due March 1, 2024. Part of the plan includes engagement with the public to help reduce man-made greenhouse gas emissions. Lovejoy will be meeting with all municipalities to identify projects that fall into Transportation, Energy Efficiency, or Waste Reduction. The planning portion of the project is preparation for a potential application for competitive implementation funding from a pool of \$4.7 billion. SCRCOG intends to apply for this grant by April 1, 2024. Lovejoy and Ben Fink will be setting up Housing meetings with each town to plan out the next fiscal year. Land Use Commissioners are required to complete 4 hours of training. David Fink and Lovejoy will be working to offer a regionwide 4-hour training which will include 1 hour on Affordable Housing to qualify for the Land Use Commissioner training.

d. Regional Planning Commission June Action Table

Chairman Zeoli advised that the Action Table is located on page 33.

e. Sustainable CT Update

Sustainable CT Intern Katie Meder advised that the certification deadline is August 15th and that she is currently working with New Haven, Hamden, Guilford, Madison, Branford, and Meriden. SCRCOG will be recording a training on Zero Emissions Vehicles for 5 points for participating municipalities toward Sustainable CT certification.

f. REX Development Report

Ginny Kozlowski reviewed the REX report on page 34. She reminded everyone of the grant opportunity from EDA for Resiliency. The deadline for submission is September 30th. REX will also be hosting two educational sessions with the Office of Tourism.

g. Congressional Reports

Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal’s office reported that the Senate is debating the National Defense Accommodation Act (NDAA). Graham also noted that the Senator will be back in the state for all of August and ‘ if you have events or projects of interest which you would like him to visit, please let his office know. Graham sent an email regarding the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which is an authorization through the Army Corps of Engineers. If you have projects, please submit them to both Senator Blumenthal and Senator Murphy’s offices.

Jameson Foulke of Senator Murphy’s office stated the WRDA application is especially important and has a tight deadline. He encouraged mayors, first selectmen and city/town managers to reach out with any questions. Jameson also reported that Senator Murphy re-introduced a Name and Image Likeness Bill for student athletes.

h. State Legislative Reports – CCM, COST

Betsy Gara from COST reported that the governor has completed signing bills and has vetoed 5 bills which included an increase in the funding for the Pequot Mohegan Fund beginning in fiscal year 2026. The legislature is not going to override the vetoes. There is discussion to hold a special session to change the date for presidential primaries. Gara mentioned several task forces that have been created by the legislature, which includes the Majority Leader’s Affordable Housing Roundtable to address the need for Affordable Housing. In addition, OPM has been tasked by the legislature with creating a Fair Share Housing Methodology to determine each town’s allocation of affordable housing. Gara mentioned additional task forces which includes Elimination of Car Taxes, The Board of Assessments Appeals Proceedings, Building Inspections Timelines, Election Administrations, Digitizing Land Records, and the Veterans Graves Upkeep Working Group. Betsy will be sending a list of all the task forces which includes opportunities for municipal appointments. Contact Betsy, if interested. There will be a COST- sponsored conference on October 19th that will cover new issues and challenges municipalities are facing such as Climate Change and Flooding. If there are any thoughts on speakers, please let Betsy know.

i. DEMHS Report

Nicole Velardi advised of updates regarding damages from weather events. DEMHS collected information regarding damage assessments between 7/9-7/16. Information was distributed to the CEO’s and Emergency Management Directors to submit for a Public Assistance Declaration. Velardi reiterated the need for emergency authorization from DEEP for Debris Management prior to the use of a Debris Site. She also mentioned that, because of high heat, the Governor has activated the severe weather protocol which will end on Sunday. Any municipality planning on opening a cooling center should be sure to update the EOC so it can be sent to 211. Nicole mentioned the School Emergency Drill Logs should have been submitted by July 1st.

7. Regional Cooperation/Other Business

First Selectman Michael Freda reported that the town is having difficulty with seniors getting bus transportation. There is a shortage of vehicles and a long delay in delivery. Private bus companies do not have any rentals available. First Selectman Freda also mentioned there is a 3 to 4 year delay for obtaining fire trucks.

Al Carbone from United Illuminating reported that UI received a draft decision from PURA on July 21 which approved a distribution rate increase that was a small fraction of the 8% increase the company had sought..

Infrastructure investment is one of the major issues. Once final decision is received from PURA, UI's president, Frank Reynolds, will come and speak at the next Board meeting on the impacts of the decision. Carbone also spoke about an event which towns will be invited to regarding the upcoming Hurricane Season. He also advised UI will be sending a survey to school superintendents regarding changing to electric school buses.

8. Adjournment

First Selectman Cofrancesco made a motion to adjourn. Chairman Zeoli seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*

Balance Sheet

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 7/31/2023

Assets

Cash and Investments

Key Bank - Checking Account	166,297.19
State of CT - Short-Term Investment Fund	31,495.41
New Haven Bank	108,498.77

Accounts Receivable

CT Department of Transportation	626,617.65
CT Office of Policy and Management	25,736.28
CT DESPP – FEMA Grant	131,321.03
CT DECD – EDA Grant	54,667.71
US EPA – CPRG	6,556.21
CT DEEP – SMM Grant	50,773.46
CIRCA	(534.80)
Retiree Health Insurance Contribution	889.24

Other Assets

Accrued Leave & Security Deposit	23,867.11
Furniture & Equipment	10,574.46
Right to Use Asset - Real Property	1,193,827.26
Right to Use Asset - Equipment	34,813.69
Amortization	(243,376.32)

Total Assets	2,222,024.35
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable	14,900.00
Payroll Taxes Payable & Accrued Interest	775.10
Deferred Revenue - Municipal	25,946.97
Deferred Revenue - OPM	21,862.86
Deferred Revenue - LOTCIP	174,929.53
Deferred Rev. - Other (Election Monitor)	3,690.77

Total Liabilities	242,105.23
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Fund Balance

Fund Balance	730,272.15
Designated Fund Balance	300,000.00
Amount for Accrued Leave	12,204.19
Investment in Equipment	10,574.46
Lease Obligation	984,489.53
Change in Fund Balance	(57,621.21)

Total Fund Balance	1,979,919.12
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	2,222,024.35

Statement of Resources and Expenditures

South Central Regional Council of Governments

As of period 7/31/2023

Resources	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Municipal - Revenue	9,773.24	9,773.24	273,186.00
CT OPM - Regional Planning	25,736.28	25,736.28	948,502.00
CTDOT - Transportation Planning	51,758.31	51,758.31	2,139,298.00
CTDOT - LOTCIP	1,152.77	1,152.77	171,611.00
CT DECD (EDA Grant)	225.92	225.92	203,490.00
US EPA - CPRG	6,556.21	6,556.21	999,479.00
CT SotS - Regional Election Monitor			3,691.00
CT DEEP - SMM Grant	357.00	357.00	112,800.00
Interest - Revenue	700.92	700.92	20,000.00
Retiree Health Insurance Contribution	889.24	889.24	6,500.00
Total Resources	97,149.89	97,149.89	4,878,557.00

Direct Expenses	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Retiree Health Insurance	889.24	889.24	6,500.00
Transportation Planning Consultants			1,309,658.00
Land-Use Planning Consultants			3,000.00
Other Consultants			782,376.00
Passthrough Grants			155,105.00
Travel			9,400.00
Data Processing	2,150.00	2,150.00	34,500.00
Commercial Printing			500.00
Subscriptions and Books			8,250.00
Insurance and Professional Services			5,000.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising	512.55	512.55	22,350.00
Miscellaneous			452.00
Transportation - Reserved			120,828.00
LOTCIP - Reserved			128,737.00
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved			36,714.00
CT DEEP (SMM Grant) - Reserved			17,168.00
US EPA (CPRG) - Reserved			749,119.00
Total Direct Expenses	3,551.79	3,551.79	3,389,657.00

Direct Labor	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Direct Labor - Employees	39,406.68	39,406.68	632,232.00

Overhead	Current	Year-to-Date	Budget
Indirect Labor - Employees	12,321.32	12,321.32	218,574.00
Employee Benefits	43,648.38	43,648.38	432,244.00
Travel			100.00
Data Processing	2,772.00	2,772.00	19,300.00
Rent	19,289.83	19,289.83	116,900.00
Telephone and Internet	205.92	205.92	8,100.00
Office Supplies	51.96	51.96	3,600.00
Equipment Maintenance			26,900.00
Insurance and Professional Services			29,600.00
Meeting Expenses and Advertising			650.00
Miscellaneous	295.76	295.76	700.00
Total Overhead	78,585.17	78,585.17	856,668.00
Total Operating Expenses	121,543.64	121,543.64	4,878,557.00

South Central Regional Council of Governments
2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
Amendment Number 29

Project **0092-0681 2016-A18-1 Intersection Improvement @ SR 745 and Kimberly Ave**

Changes Amendment 29 moves CON phase from FY24 to FYI

Reason Action is necessary based on a revised schedule.

Project **0106-0108 1999-044 US 1: Milford City Line to Lambert Road**

Changes Amendment 29 increases funding and changes project limit.

Reason The limits of Project were reduced as the proposed work on U.S. Route 1 from Lambert Road to Route 114 is nearing completion under breakout Project 106-122. Costs have increased to provide improved and safer accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders with sidewalks, wider shoulders, and bus shelters.

South Central Regional Council of Governments
 FFY2021-FFY2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment 29

State Project #0092-0681
Municipality New Haven

SCRCOG # 2016-A18-1
AQ Code X7

Proposed

Project Name Intersection Improvement @ SR 745 and Kimberly Ave

Description Intersection improvements at CT 10 and SR 745 and Kimberly Ave, includes adding dedicated turn lanes on CT 10 approaches, drainage, traffic signal replacement, reconstruction of sidewalks, landscaping, and relocation of utilities.

Current TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
STPNH	CON	Federal				3,520	
		State				880	
Total Cost	\$4,400		0	0	0	4,400	0

Proposed TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
STPNH	CON	Federal					3,520
		State					880
TIP Funds	\$4,400		0	0	0	0	4,400

Amendment Notes

FY15 Amendment 18 adds a new project FY 18 TIP Amend 10 moves CON to 2020.
 FY18 TIP Amend 14 moves CON to FY21. FY21 TIP Amend 4 Moves CON to FY24.
 FY21 TIP Amend 29 moves schedule out 1 yr

South Central Regional Council of Governments
 FFY2021-FFY2024 Transportation Improvement Program
 Amendment 29

State Project #0106-0108
Municipality Orange

SCRCOG # 1999-044
AQ Code CC

Proposed

Project Name US 1: Milford City Line to Lambert Road

Description intersection improvements in Orange from Milford Town line to Lambert Rd

Current TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
STPNH	CON AC-Entry				0		
	Federal				12,000	4,000	
	State				3,000	1,000	
Total Cost	\$20,000	0	0	0	15,000	5,000	0

Proposed TIP Funding (In Thousands)

<i>Funding</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Prior</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>FYI</i>
STPNH	CON AC-Entry						0
	Federal						20,000
	State						5,000
TIP Funds	\$25,000	0	0	0	0	0	25,000

Amendment Notes

CON moved from FY04 to post-FY05 by FY03 TIP Amend 2 due to financial constraint. FY07 TIP Amend 2 increases funds due to low bid. FY07 TIP Amend 7 delays project to coordinate schedule w/sister project and increases cost due to utility work. FY07 TIP Amend 17 moves entire schedule out 1 year and increases funding. FY07 TIP Amend 24 Adds PE Phase to FFY09. FY07 TIP Amend 27 moves AC and FFY10 funds to FYI. Project moved into FY10 TIP. Con moved to FFY11. Project is included in the FY15 TIP for CON. FY15 TIP Amend 14 changes funding source and moves CON into FYI, Moved to FY21 TIP. FY21 TIP Amend changes fund source to STPNH, FY21 TIP Amend 29 increases funding and changes project limit.



Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Fiscal Year 2021-Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Twenty-Nine

Whereas: U.S. Department of Transportation “Metropolitan Planning Regulations” (23 *CFR* 450) prescribe that each metropolitan planning organization maintain a financially constrained multi-modal transportation improvement program consistent with a *State Implementation Plan for Air Quality (SIP)* conforming to both U.S. Environmental Protection Administration-established air quality guidelines and *SIP*-established mobile source emissions budgets; and

Whereas: The Council, per 23 *CFR* 450.324 and in cooperation with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) and public transit operators and relying upon financial constraints offered by ConnDOT, adopted a *Fiscal Year 2021-Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Improvement Program* on September 23, 2020, after finding the *Program* conforming per U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (U.S. EPA) final conformity rule (40 *CFR* 51 and 93) and relevant Connecticut Department of Transportation air quality conformity determinations: *Air Quality Conformity Reports: Fiscal Year 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program* and the Region’s *Metropolitan Transportation Plans—2023 to 2050, (April, 2023)*; and

Whereas: The Council, on *September 23, 2020*, indicated that periodic *Program* adjustment or amendment was possible; and

Whereas: Projects referenced in the *Program* amendment (below) are consistent with the region’s metropolitan transportation plan *Metropolitan Transportation Plans—2023 to 2050, (April, 2023)*; and

Whereas: Council *Public Participation Guidelines: Transportation Planning* have been observed during the development of the proposed *Program* amendment (below); and

Whereas: By agreement between the Council and the Connecticut Department of Transportation, public involvement activities carried out by the South Central Regional Council of Governments in response to U.S. Department of Transportation metropolitan planning requirements are intended to satisfy the requirements associated with development of a *Statewide Transportation Improvement Program* and/or its amendment; and

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



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Fiscal Year 2021-Fiscal Year 2024 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Twenty-Nine (Continued)

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

The Program Amendment *Twenty-Nine* shall be transmitted to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, for inclusion in the *State Transportation Improvement Program*

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the South Central Regional Council of Governments certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the South Central Regional Council of Governments on **August 23, 2023**

Date August 23, 2023

By: _____
First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreement for eSTIP Software Subscription

Whereas: SCRCOG administers the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for its member municipalities;

Whereas: The TIP is incorporated fully into the Connecticut Department of Transportation's (CTDOT) Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP);

Whereas: Both the TIP and STIP are revised regularly as projects are updated and new projects are added;

Whereas: EcoInteractive offers a subscription service to electronic TIP and STIP management software which would streamline the amendment process between SCRCOG and CTDOT while also being publicly accessible;

Whereas: SCRCOG identified this subscription service in the approved FY24-FY25 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); and

Whereas: CTDOT has approved SCRCOG's use of this selected vendor pursuant to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Handbook.

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

That the Executive Director is authorized to negotiate and sign a subscription services agreement with the above consultant consistent with the CTDOT MPO Handbook.

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 August 23, 2023.

Date: August 23, 2023

By: _____
First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments

CTrides: Quarter Activity Summary

April—June 2023

Transit is a Trip Campaign

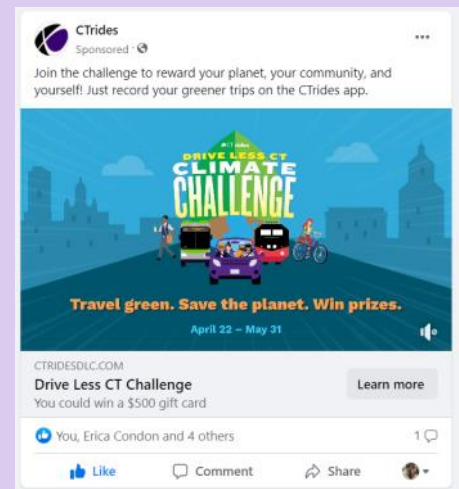
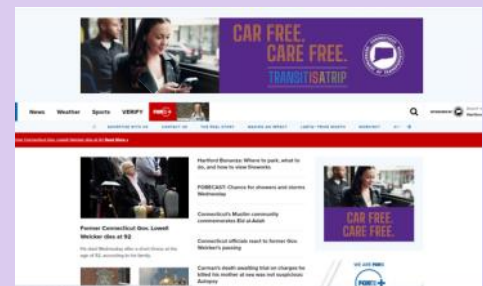
Throughout the quarter, we collected weekly data from YouTube and Google Analytics on the campaign videos and landing page. Additionally, we held weekly check-in meetings with partner agencies. We received approval for the Aquarium billboard, which includes the use of the Norwalk aquarium logo, and we received social media static assets of the same creative. To ensure consistency, we updated the naming conventions on YouTube videos, and developed and published a new header video on the landing page. The screen displays for the Hartford Healthcare ads were reviewed and approved. Additionally, we continued to develop and post organic social media content, and we provided new creative files to DOT’s ad agency, Cashman + Katz, via Dropbox. We also gave recommendations for all out-of-home placements, including bus posters, billboards, and other highway signage.

During the middle of this quarter, the Phase III TV assets rotation recommendations were presented. We provided a script, talking points, and a list of extras to Fox 61 on the day of filming for a video spot for the Homepage sponsorship. After the video spot was launched, the Transit is a Trip ads were displayed on the Fox 61 home page. We also supported the Hartford Yard Goats with filming the "Where is Chompers" campaign.

This campaign won a Telly Award for Local TV - Campaign Branding. We developed a social media graphic to announce the accolade to the public. The recommendations for the last phase of billboard placements were also provided at the end of the quarter and the development of new “Man on the Street” spots were in production.

Drive Less Connecticut Climate Challenge

Several projects were finalized in preparation of the kick-off of the Challenge. This included drafting, reviewing, and approving various communications, such as weekly performance emails for CTrides Agile Mile members. The interim landing and employer pages were also launched, and a CTrides Agile Mile hero image for the website and app were completed and sent to the Agile Mile team. Save the Date and Event Kick-off email blasts were sent to CTrides subscribers and CTrides Agile Mile members. An event press release was completed and approved. Additionally, multiple marketing assets were completed, such as paid and organic social media graphics, animated posts for each mode, and digital banners. Finally, a panel and an alert bar to promote



CTrides: Quarter Activity Summary (Continued)

April—June 2023

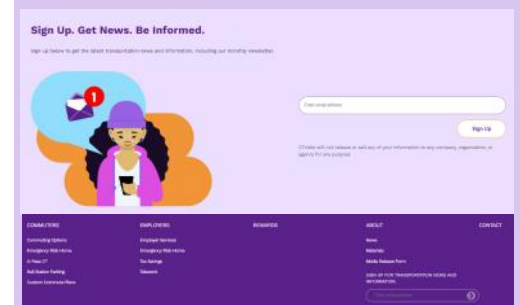
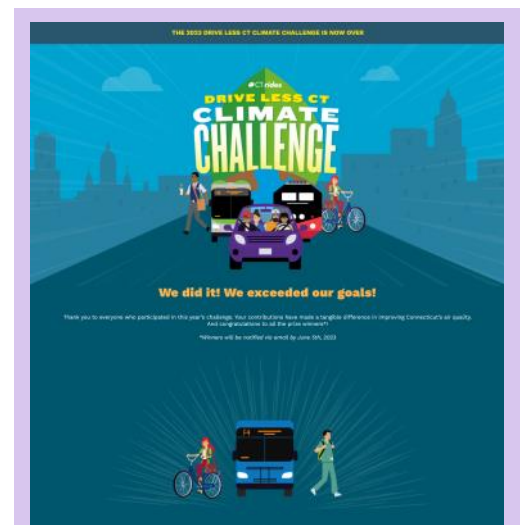
the Challenge were developed and placed on the CTrides homepage.

In May, we completed and launched the landing and employer permanent pages on the CTrides content management system. We also developed the copy and layout for the post-event landing page for the CTrides and Agile Mile website. A weekly performance email was sent to the CTrides Agile Mile members every Friday during the Challenge, and a mid-campaign reminder was sent to the CTrides subscribers. Once the Challenge was completed, we sent a "Thank You" email blast. The Challenge achieved 26,866 car trips eliminated (goal of 20,000), 432,010 miles saved (goal of 300,000), 374,390 lbs. emissions prevented (goal of 275,000), \$270,007 money saved and 19,102 gallons of gas saved, and a Challenge Results social media asset was developed and posted on multiple social media platforms.

Finally, the post event landing page for the CTrides and Agile Mile website was launched on June 1st, and the development of the evergreen DLC landing page was completed including the "About" and "Results" sections. The winners were selected and notified via email and the prizes were claimed by June 15. The DLC hero graphic was removed from the Agile Mile website and the alert bar and panel were removed from the CTrides homepage. A post event report with highlights from the media buy, organic social media, CTrides app, and email marketing data was created and sent to DOT. The internal team met to collect feedback and identify areas of improvement for next year's Challenge. Lastly, a survey was conducted by email and in-app messages of all CTrides members who were active in 2023 to assess the impact of the Challenge on their use of green modes and gather information on what they thought of the Challenge.

CTrides.com

During this quarter, we added META Pixels to the website code, removed the old Telework Webinars from 2020, added Transit is a Trip videos to the videos section and the News Roundup articles to the news section. We initiated, completed, and launched the new sign-up panel and footer to allow visitors to subscribe to the CTrides email list. The "Contact Us" page was updated and the Live Text button was removed from the website to simplify the contact process. The Google Analytics property migration to Google Analytics 4 was completed, and a media release form issue was resolved. Finally, the following organizations were added to the Emergency Ride Home list: Amazon Fulfillment Center BDL2, Amazon Fulfillment Center BDL3, Amazon Fulfillment



CTrides: Quarter Activity Summary (Continued)

April—June 2023

Center BDL4, Town of West Hartford, Naval Submarine Base.

CTrides News Roundup

Three monthly editions of CTrides News Roundup were created and distributed. The April edition included content about the Drive Less CT Climate Challenge (Save the Date) and Earth Day, the new CTDOT Public Transportation Bureau Chief Benjamin Limmer, Token Transit promotion, the CTrides App and the Transit is a Trip campaign promotion.

The May edition included the promotion of the Drive Less CT Climate Challenge, ParkConneCT 2023, Transit is a Trip with the Hartford Yard Goats, the New Haven coalition for active transportation bike classes, Norwalk Trail progress, and the CTrides app.

Lastly, the June edition included a thank you note to all participants and results of the Drive Less CT Climate Challenge, ParkConnect promotion, new early-morning and late-night service on the CTrail Hartford Line, All About Trains program promotion, the free shuttle service to Mohegan Sun, and events accessible by transit. Finally, the development and sourced content for the next quarter began.

Road Scholar

At the beginning of the quarter, an early request for the digital Road Scholar brochure for Fairfield University was fulfilled, and the Fall Semester 23 QC was completed. The changes were made on the content and design, and the team reviewed and approved them. The brochures were sent to the printer and distributed to 27 schools that requested hard copies. In addition, we developed, printed and distributed a new U-Pass CT poster for eight schools.

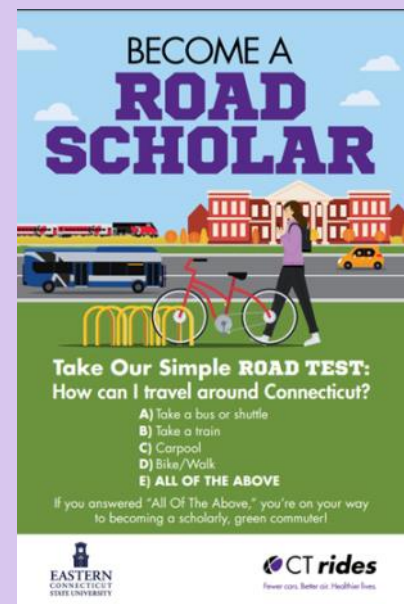
ParkConneCT

During this quarter, we developed 28x18 and 24x26 Individual Park posters for Hammonasset State Park and once it was approved from DOT, the design was replicated for the remaining four parks. We simultaneously worked with DOT and DEEP to finalize the transit connections to the parks and developed an article to be featured on CTvisit’s website. We also received the Media Buy purchase order from Estuary Transit and sent the Media Plan to DOT and DEEP for approval. The development of individual park media assets was completed and we received approval from DOT and then sent them to the agency for

New Early-Morning, Late-Night Service on the CTrail Hartford Line



Great news! As of June 5, new Amtrak trains will be on the Hartford Line. These trains will provide early-morning and late-night service on weekdays and weekends, and they will also offer direct service from Hartford to Penn Station in under three hours! If you're planning a trip, this is definitely something to keep in mind.



CTrides: Quarter Activity Summary (Continued)

April—June 2023

placement. The design of the connections PDFs was completed and a organic social media strategy and calendar was created. An email blast was sent to CTrides members to promote the ParkConneCT program and the first round of social media posts was scheduled. During the end of the quarter, we received two campaign progress reports from the media agency.

Gold Star Bridge Shuttle

Due to the temporary closure of the pedestrian pathway across the Gold Star Bridge, DOT provided bus service between New London and Groton. To promote the temporary service, we developed content and creative direction of a landing page with the shuttle information, route, and schedule and sent it to AECOM IT team for production. The team and DOT reviewed multiple drafts, and changes were provided and implemented. The new page was launched within six days of the request.

All About Trains

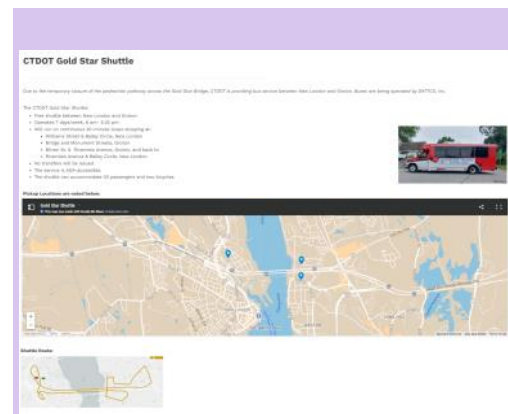
A new brochure was created to promote the All About Trains program, and was mailed to 200 schools and children’s organizations. We also printed CTrail Hartford Line and CTrail Shore Line East mailers to use as handouts on field trips. Finally, we updated the existing presentation to make it more applicable for students in grades 6-8.

CTrides College Videos - Update

We reviewed the current videos that promote the CTrides and U-Pass CT programs to college students and identified the changes needed. We also compiled new and updated graphics, reviewed the script and made adjustments to reflect the new program direction. The final script is in process with the voice-over talent.

Mini CTrides June Campaign

The multiple green mode assets (bus, train, carpooling, walking, biking) from the DLC campaign were updated to be used as a Mode Heroes campaign. The media plan that included digital banners and social media posts was reviewed and approved. The campaign ran from June 19 - 30.



CTrides: Quarter Activity Summary (Continued)

April—June 2023

CTrail Hartford Line Mailer Redesign

A new summer design for the Hartford Line mailer was created and approved by DOT. We coordinated and approved a mail plan, and the printing process was initiated.

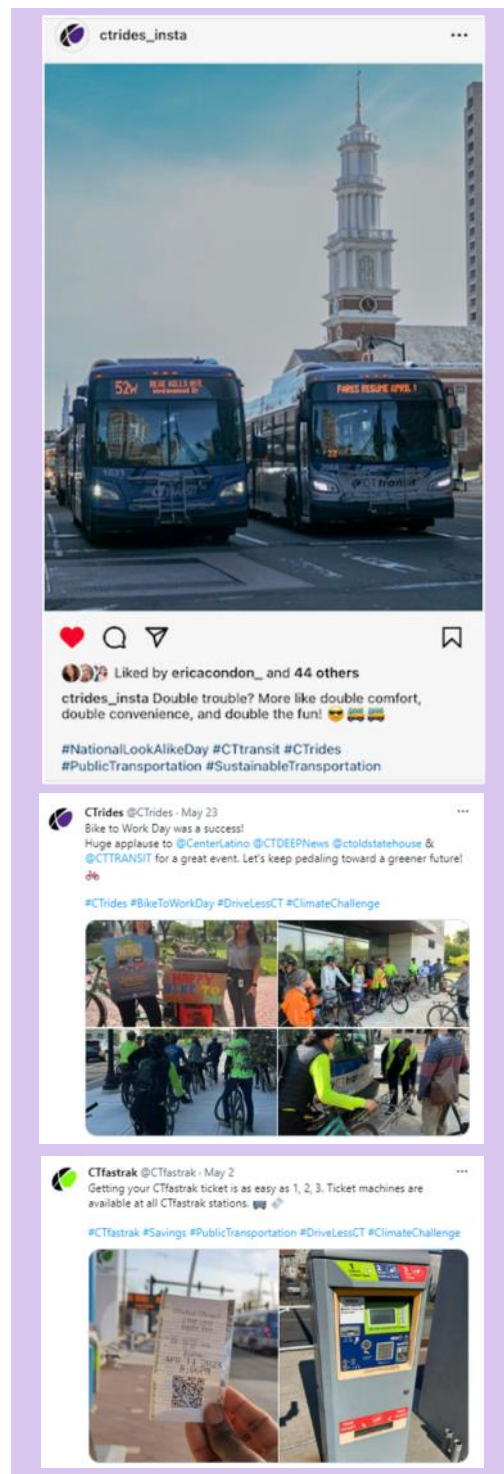
Social Media

The team posted social media content across the *CTrides*, *CTrail* Hartford Line, *CTrail* Shore Line East, and *CTfastrak* accounts, which includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and TikTok (*CTrides* only).

A total of 133 posts were published through *CTrides* various platforms during this quarter. Posts included *CTrides* app promotion, Transit is a Trip videos, Drive Less Connecticut promotion, benefits of taking transit, Bradley Flyer promotion, Tunxis Community College and Yard Goats tabling event, Greater Hartford Bike to Work Day promotion, ParkConneCT, Downtown Stamford Duck Duck Goose event, DominGO! Hartford, Token Transit, Outreach team highlights, and All About Trains program. The total impressions were 17,531,209, with 7,400 engagements and an engagement rate of 5.9%. This represents the following changes from the last quarter, +48.4%, +161%, and +48%, respectively. Lastly, the *CTrides* TikTok account received a total of 40,780 video views and 70 new followers.

For *CTfastrak*, 121 posts were published on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Some of the posts included events near the stations, Drive Less Connecticut promotion, Transit is a Trip videos, benefits of using *CTfastrak*, UConn victory parade, bring your bike on board, station highlights, Bushnell events, and Token Transit promotion. The total impressions were 122,690, with 3,853 engagements and an engagement rate of 6.2%. This represents the following changes from the last quarter, +577%, +228%, and +80.7%, respectively.

For the *CTrail* accounts, Hartford Line and Shore Line East, a total of 243 posts were published on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Examples of postings included UConn parade, Drive Less Connecticut promotion, bikes on board, Earth Day, Man on the Street reels, Rail fan photos, *CTrail* eTix app, Transit is a Trip promotion, events near the stations, kids on the train, and All About Trains promotion. The total impressions were 775,370, with 24,736 engagements and an engagement rate of 8.6%. This represents the following changes from the last quarter, +132%, +45.9%, and +83.7%, respectively.



CTrides: Quarter Activity Summary (Continued)

April—June 2023

Outreach requests—in support of the Outreach and Engagement Specialists

- A final design approval on a Family Bicycle Rally poster for Fit Together was received
- Finalized the design of “poster” project for Hartford Yard Goats; they printed and posted around the stadium

Miscellaneous Projects

- The CTrail eTix brochures were reordered and delivered to Hartford Union Station
- Updated the Hartford Line map to include the future Enfield station. Approved map was updated on appropriate websites, and hard copy posters were produced and delivered to DOT
- Continued working with IT and Marketing teams to develop a New Riders page for the Hartford Line website
- A new order of CTrail lanyards was placed, completed and delivered to TASI in New Haven
- Additional CTrail Shore Line East decals for M8 cars were delivered to the Office of Rails in New Haven
- Collaborated with Mohegan Sun to create an advertisement that promotes the CTrail Shore Line East service to guests of Mohegan Sun
- Alzheimer's awareness pins and bracelets were delivered to TASI who participated in bringing awareness to the Longest Day



Participating Organization Activity

As of June 30th, the total number of CTrides employer participants, stakeholders and community participants was **506**.

Highlights:

All About Trains

Seven presentations were conducted to various grades at Nathan Hale Magnet School in New London. In partnership with rail operations, conducted two CTrail field trips with Michael D. Fox Elementary School (Hartford Line) and Nathan Hale Magnet School (Shore Line East), engaging over 300 new riders (273 students, 39 adults). Additionally, hosted four presentations for Parker Farms Elementary School at New Haven Union Station. Established connections with over 30 new organizations and schools related to All About Trains marketing and outreach efforts, that resulted in 13 presentations scheduled with schools in Windsor Locks and New Haven.

Earth Day Events

Hosted six sustainable transportation events celebrating Earth Day with Pratt and Whitney, Sikorsky, Merritt 7, and The Hartford, reaching over 1,000 employees.

Drive Less Connecticut Climate Challenge (DLC)

Outreach partnered with over fifty organizations to host onsite events or advertise DLC on their websites, social media, and campus digital displays. Among these events were two Try Transit events with sixteen new riders and three Bike to Work events co-sponsored by the City of New Haven and Hartford state agencies. Partners ranged from private employers, residential developments, chambers of commerce, and municipalities.

Road Scholar

Conducted outreach to 39 colleges and universities to launch the Fall 2023 Road Scholar campaign.

The CTrides Outreach Team held **213 Events and Meetings** with our worksite partners during Q2. The total number of currently participating organizations is at **506**.

This quarter’s worksite activity, segmented by region, can be found on the following pages. A complete list of program organizations/stakeholders is in Appendix A.



Quarterly Report

April—June 2023

Hosted ten onsite orientation events to promote the U-Pass CT program and transit networks surrounding each campus.

New Partners:

- Amazon HFD5 (Manchester)
- Bike West Hartford
- Bristol Rotary Club
- Connecticut Old State House
- Dav-Co Metals, LLC
- Edgewood Magnet School
- Governor Pitkin School
- InCord
- Manchester Senior Citizen Center
- Morgan Stanley
- North Street School
- Northeastern Connecticut Chambers of Commerce
- Norwalk River Valley Trail
- Office of State Treasurer
- Parker Farms Elementary School
- Robert J. O'Brien STEM Academy
- Silver Lane School
- Sound Cyclists
- Stepping Stones Museum for Children
- Stratford Rotary Club
- Sunset Ridge School
- The Salvation Army
- Town of Barkhamsted
- Town of Hartland
- Town of Roxbury
- Town of Warren
- West End Association
- Wilbur Cross High School



Regional Worksite Highlights

Western CT includes Litchfield, Housatonic, Bridgeport & Stamford regions

Highlights

Siemon Company

Formed new partnership with a 270-employee manufacturer in Watertown, leading to multiple events onsite. Outreach will focus on promoting choice carpool spaces and the CTrides ridematching program to build a more robust carpool program within the workforce.

Higher Education Outreach

Conducted five events in the Stamford region with the University of Connecticut-Stamford, Fairfield University, and Norwalk Community College to promote public transportation options in and around campus during orientations.

Altair Global

In collaboration with Altair's Vice President of Operations, promoted sustainable transportation and the Drive Less CT Climate Challenge to their onsite workforce. Altair is working with CTrides to increase carpool commuting and planning for a campus-wide Try It Day.

Bridgeport Regional Business Council

Presented CTrides resources on a speaker's panel to discuss transportation infrastructure in

Greater Bridgeport for Leadership Greater Bridgeport 2023 class. Partnership with Leadership Greater Bridgeport has led to 2023 Try Transit Day planning for community leaders to understand and promote transit access to their networks.

Town of Stratford

Hosted a sustainable transportation booth in partnership with the Stratford Greenway Committee and Zoning Commission during the Town of Stratford Main Street Festival. Promoted biking infrastructure in town and CTrides resources to the over 15K people in attendance.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children

New Partner meeting with the Norwalk landmark to discuss Try-Transit Days (Metro-North) for staff and the Emergency Ride Home program as a service to the employees. Stepping Stones leadership also expressed interest in hosting All About Trains presentations for children throughout the summer.

Meetings

- Altair Global
- Bridgeport Chamber of Commerce
- Bridgeport Regional Business Council
- Career Resources, Inc.
- City of Stamford
- Connecticut at your Service
- Connecticut Beardsley Zoo

- Connecticut Department of Labor (NW/SW Business Services)
- Connecticut Department of Labor (Waterbury American Job Center)
- Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
- Fairfield University
- Fit Together
- Greater Bridgeport Transit
- Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
- Hamilton Connections
- Merritt 7 Complex
- Norwalk Community College
- Norwalk River Valley Trail
- Norwalk Transit District
- People Friendly Stamford
- Siemon Company
- Sikorsky
- Sound Cyclists
- Stamford Downtown Special Services District
- Stepping Stones Museum for Children
- Stratford Rotary Club
- Sustainable Southbury
- Town of Barkhamsted
- Town of Cornwall
- Town of Roxbury
- Town of Stratford
- Trumbull Chamber of Commerce
- University of Connecticut - Stamford
- Western Connecticut Council of Governments
- Western Regional Tourism District



Regional Worksite Highlights

Southern CT includes Middlesex, New Haven & coastal regions

Highlights

Connecticut College

Held onsite event to promote sustainable transportation and the Drive Less CT Climate Challenge in partnership with the campus Sustainability Director. Trained students on trip tracking, eligible modes, and transit options adjacent to campus.

Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce

Partnered with the Chamber to promote the Drive Less CT Climate Challenge (DLC) to residents and members of the Chamber. Published DLC event information, how to join, and the DLC landing page on their website.

Yale University

Hosted an event with Yale University and Yale Health to promote multi-modal commuting into campus. Over 60 employees took a green trip to work and assisted the group in tracking their trips.

Avangrid

Reengaged partner and secured new contact on the ESG team during Drive Less CT Climate Challenge outreach. Avangrid is publicly committed to reducing carbon emissions and is in planning to reduce SOV commutes by utilizing CTrides services.

RMS Companies

Ongoing support of RMS companies' residential properties across the state, including Aura, Parkside, Pierpoint, and The Maddox, all at City Crossing in New Haven. Met with RMS to provide nearby transit materials to 100 incoming residents.

The Salvation Army

New partnerships with statewide organizations specifically interested in promoting transit and bringing the All About Trains program to K-8 community groups within their social service centers.

Meetings

- AdvanceCT
- Aura City Crossing
- City of New Haven
- Connecticut College
- Connecticut Council of Municipalities
- Connecticut Innovations
- goNewHavengo
- Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce
- Greater New Haven Transit District
- Nathan Hale Magnet School
- New Haven Coalition for Active Transportation
- Quinebaug Valley Community College- Willimantic
- RMS Companies
- Save the Sound
- South Central Regional Council of Governments

- The Salvation Army
- University of New Haven
- Wallingford Public Schools
- Wesleyan University
- Wilbur Cross High School



Regional Worksite Highlights

Eastern CT includes the Hartford, North and Central regions of Connecticut

Highlights

Amazon Outreach

Hosted four events at BDL2 and BDL4 to promote the Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program, transit, and carpooling options. Engaged with over 500 employees, most of which are enthusiastic to try transit with ERH in place. This ongoing outreach led to a new partnership with Amazon HFD5, the Manchester sorting center.

The Hartford

Held preliminary logistics event in preparation for May Try Transit Day with *CTtransit* to register participants, select routes, and promote trip tracking for the Drive Less CT Climate Challenge.

Amazon HFD5 (Manchester)

A new partnership with Amazon HFD5 led to multiple onsite events and campus registration for Emergency Ride Home. Outreach focused on transit and ridesharing for the multiple-shift workforce.

Hartford Yard Goats

Hosted an onsite event during the evening home game to promote the Drive Less CT Climate Challenge and encourage transit use to the ballpark in partnership with *CTtransit*.

Partnered with Assistant General Manager to encourage transit use to the park through the utilization of the *CTrides* app.

City of Bristol

Launched a Try-Transit initiative for the weekly farmer's market in partnership with City leadership and the Bristol Rotary Club. Hosted a registration event for marketgoers to sign up for the event. Using this event as a pilot program to encourage residents to take transit to community events.

Town of Berlin

In response to the feedback received from employers at Spruce Brook Industrial Park through the *CTrides* survey, *CTtransit*, in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, will launch a new service extension of Route 501. Targeted start date is set for November 5th. This service extension aims to enhance accessibility and connectivity for the community. *CTrides* to support pop-up events at various bus stops alongside *CTtransit* to promote services to the public.

Meetings

- A Balanced Life
- Aetna
- Amazon Fulfillment Center BDL2
- Amazon Fulfillment Center BDL4
- Amazon HFD5 (Manchester)
- Amazon Sort Center HFD5
- Asnuntuck Community College

- Bike West Hartford
- Bristol Rotary Club
- Capital Community College
- Center for Latino Progress
- Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce
- Central Connecticut State University
- City of Bristol
- Collins Aerospace
- Commute with Enterprise
- Connecticut Department of Administrative Services
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Connecticut Department of Transportation
- Connecticut River Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Connecticut Transit
- Connecticut's Old State House
- Dav-Co Metal Finishing
- Governor William Pitkin Elementary School
- Hartford Job Corps Academy
- Hartford Yard Goats
- Lincoln Technical Institute
- LTIMintree
- Manchester Community College
- Michael D. Fox Elementary School
- Nassau Financial
- North Street School
- Office of the State Treasurer
- Plastic Molding Manufacturing
- Pratt and Whitney
- Robert J. O'Brien STEM Academy
- Silver Lane Elementary School
- Sunset Ridge Middle School

Meetings (continued)

- Talcott Resolution
- The City of Bristol
- The Hartford
- The Jackson Laboratory
- Town of Berlin
- Town of East Hartford
- Town of Farmington
- Travelers
- Tunxis Community College
- UnitedHealth Group
- West End Association
- XL Center

Customer feedback:

- *“Lisa was fantastic and patient as a saint!”*
- *“Cindy was knowledgeable and offered so many good suggestions to make the trip better, faster, and more convenient. I am so grateful for the time she spent answering my many questions!”*
- *“I called to check on a lost item. Cindy was responsive and helpful. She even asked the station staff to look for it real quick. They didn't find it, but the effort was very much appreciated.”*
- *“Brendan was wonderful and quick to respond”*
- *“Kimberley was MOST efficient and helpful. MUCH appreciated!!!”*
- *“Appreciated the prompt response and extra info about overnight space #s. Would not have known that!”*

Customer Service Highlights

CTrides/CTrail calls: **6,135**

Custom Commute Plans: **51**

Total Number of Website Form Submissions: **384**

Total Number of Emails Sent and Received: **1,193**

Customer Service Details:

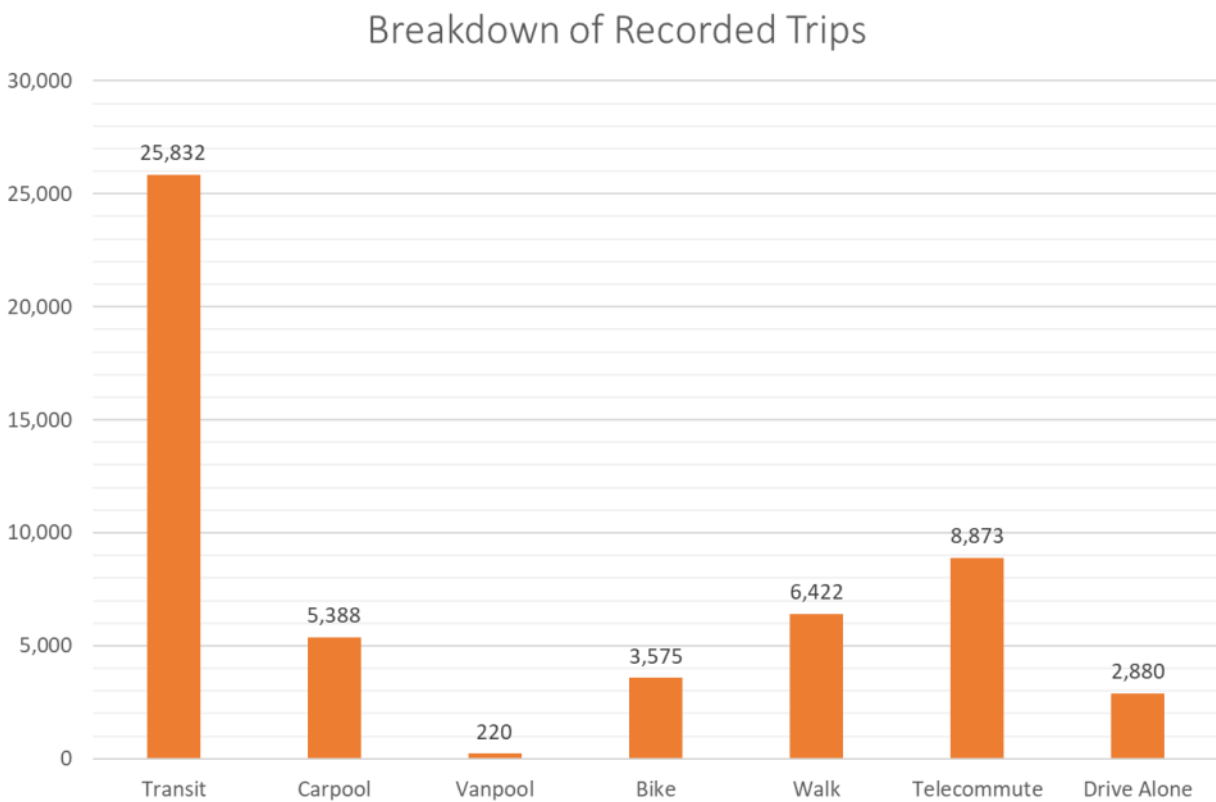
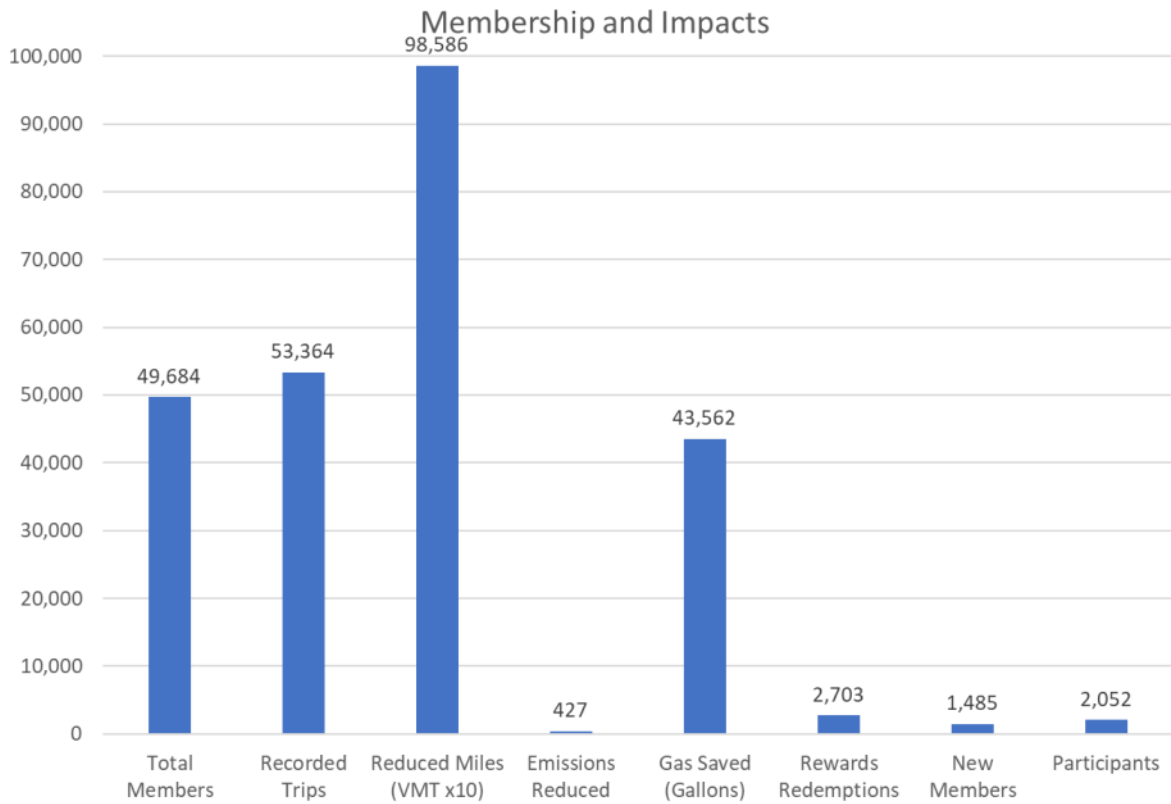
- **5,488 Total** cases into CTrides
 - **3,967 calls**
8 inquiries about available disabled services
10 bilingual inquiries
 - **Sent and received 1,193 emails**
Great or OK rating on 76.4% of emails surveyed
 - **Facilitated 328 live online chats of which 78 were SMS (text) chats**
4.5 out of 5 (best) avg. rating on all chats
- **Provided 2 Emergency Ride Home**— 1 Vanpool services, and 1 Carpool
- **Processed 152 CTrail Hartford Line and 77 CTrail Shore Line East** complaints, suggestions, questions

2nd Quarter 2023



▶ **3,967 — Inbound Calls** ▶ **328 — Online Chats**
▶ **1,193 — Emails**

Ridematching and Rewards





SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution Authorizing Executive Director to Execute Renewal of Lease with Candid Group, LLC.

Whereas: SCRCOG entered into a Lease with Candid Group, LLC, dated October 3, 1995, for 4,928 square feet on the fourth floor of the west building located at 127 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT (the “Premises”);

Whereas: SCRCOG has renewed the Lease five times, with each renewal lasting a period of five years (July 2000, June 2005, May 2010, November 2015, and November 2020);

Whereas: SCRCOG desires to expand the size of the Premises to 7,614 square feet and to extend the term of the Lease; and

Whereas: SCRCOG’s Executive Director has negotiated a Fifth Addendum to the Lease (attached), commencing December 1, 2023 and ending November 30, 2029.

Therefore, be it Resolved:

That the Executive Director, Carl Amento, is hereby authorized to execute all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments with Candid Group, LLC. to expand the size of the Premises to 7,614 square feet and to extend the term of the Lease to November 30, 2029.

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 August 23, 2023.

Date: August 23, 2023

By: _____
First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments

FIFTH ADDENDUM TO LEASE

THIS FIFTH ADDENDUM TO LEASE (“Amendment”) is hereby entered into as of this ___ day of August, 2023 by and between **CANDID GROUP, LLC**, having an office at 110 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor, North Haven, CT 06473 (“Landlord”) and **SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**, having a principal place of business at 127 Washington Avenue, West, 4th Floor, North Haven, Connecticut 06473 (“Tenant”).

W I T N E S E T H:

WHEREAS, Landlord and Tenant are parties to a certain Lease dated October 3, 1995, a First Addendum to Lease dated July 2000, and a Second Addendum To Lease dated June 23, 2005 and a Third Addendum To Lease dated May 28, 2010, a Fourth Addendum To Lease dated November 18, 2015 and a certain extension letter dated July 30, 2020 (collectively, the “Lease”), respecting the premises described in the Lease containing approximately 4,928 square feet on the 4th Floor of the West building located at 127 Washington Avenue, North Haven, Connecticut (the “Premises”); and

WHEREAS, Tenant desires to extend the Term of the Lease and expand the size of the Premises and Landlord and Tenant agree to amend the Lease accordingly on the following terms and conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises herein contained and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by the parties, Landlord and Tenant hereby agree as follows:

1. **TERM:** The Term of the Lease is hereby extended so that the same shall now end on **November 30, 2029**. Paragraph 3 of the Lease is hereby amended accordingly.
2. **PREMISES:** As of the Completion Date (as hereinafter defined) the size of the Premises shall be increased by **2,686** rentable square feet from the existing **4,928** rentable square feet so that the total rentable square footage of the Premises shall equal **7,614** rentable square feet as outlined on the drawing dated **July 13, 2023** and attached hereto as Exhibit A. Paragraph 1 of the Lease is hereby amended accordingly.
3. **LANDLORD’S WORK:** Landlord shall use commercially reasonable efforts to substantially complete in all material respects except for “punch-list items” so-called, the Tenant improvements described on Exhibit B attached hereto (collectively, the “Landlord’s Work”) on or before **December 1, 2023**, subject to force majeure (the “Completion Date”). The Landlord’s Work shall be completed in a first class and workmanlike manner, and in compliance with all applicable laws. Tenant hereby acknowledges and agrees that Landlord’s Work within the existing Premises and the new area shall be performed during normal business hours and Landlord shall not be liable to Tenant for any disturbance or interruption due to the performance of Landlord’s Work.

4. **RENT:** The revised monthly Base Minimum Rent is modified as set forth in the table below.

<u>Lease Year</u>	<u>Annual Rent</u>	<u>Monthly Rent</u>
12/1/2023 through 11/30/2024	\$178,929.00	\$14,910.75
12/1/2024 through 11/30/2025	\$184,296.87	\$15,358.07
12/1/2025 through 11/30/2026	\$189,825.78	\$15,818.81
12/1/2026 through 11/30/2027	\$195,520.55	\$16,293.38
12/1/2027 through 11/30/2028	\$201,386.17	\$16,782.18
12/1/2028 through 11/30/2029	\$207,427.75	\$17,285.65

Paragraph 5 of the Lease is hereby amended accordingly.

5. **RENEWAL OPTION:** Paragraph 23 of the Lease is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following is substituted in its place and stead:

“23. RENEWAL OPTION: Provided that Lessee is not then in default under the terms of the Lease, Lessee shall have the option to extend the term of the Lease for **two (2)** additional periods of **five (5) years** each. Lessee must exercise the right to extend the term, if at all, by written notice to Landlord by no later than **twelve (12) months** prior to the expiration date of the term (as the same may be extended), **TIME BEING OF THE ESSENCE**. Each extended term shall be on the same terms and conditions of the Lease, but for the provisions of this Paragraph 23 and the rent payable during such period. Said rental rate for each year of each such extension period shall be based on the rental rate of the immediately preceding lease year plus a **three percent (3%)** annual rental increase. In the event that the Tenant fails to provide the notice as aforesaid, then the options shall be deemed null and void and of no further force and effect and this Lease shall, unless sooner terminated, terminate on the original expiration date of the Term, as the same may have been extended hereunder.”

6. It is mutually agreed that all covenants, conditions and agreements set forth in the Lease (as hereby amended) shall remain binding upon the parties and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns.

7. Except as modified hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Lease shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect and are hereby ratified and confirmed by the parties hereto.

8. Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, all defined terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Lease.

9. Any inconsistencies or conflicts between the terms and provisions of the Lease and the terms and provisions of this Amendment shall be resolved in favor of the terms and provisions of this Amendment.

10. This Amendment shall not be modified except in writing signed by both parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Amendment on the date indicated above.

Landlord:
CANDID GROUP, LLC

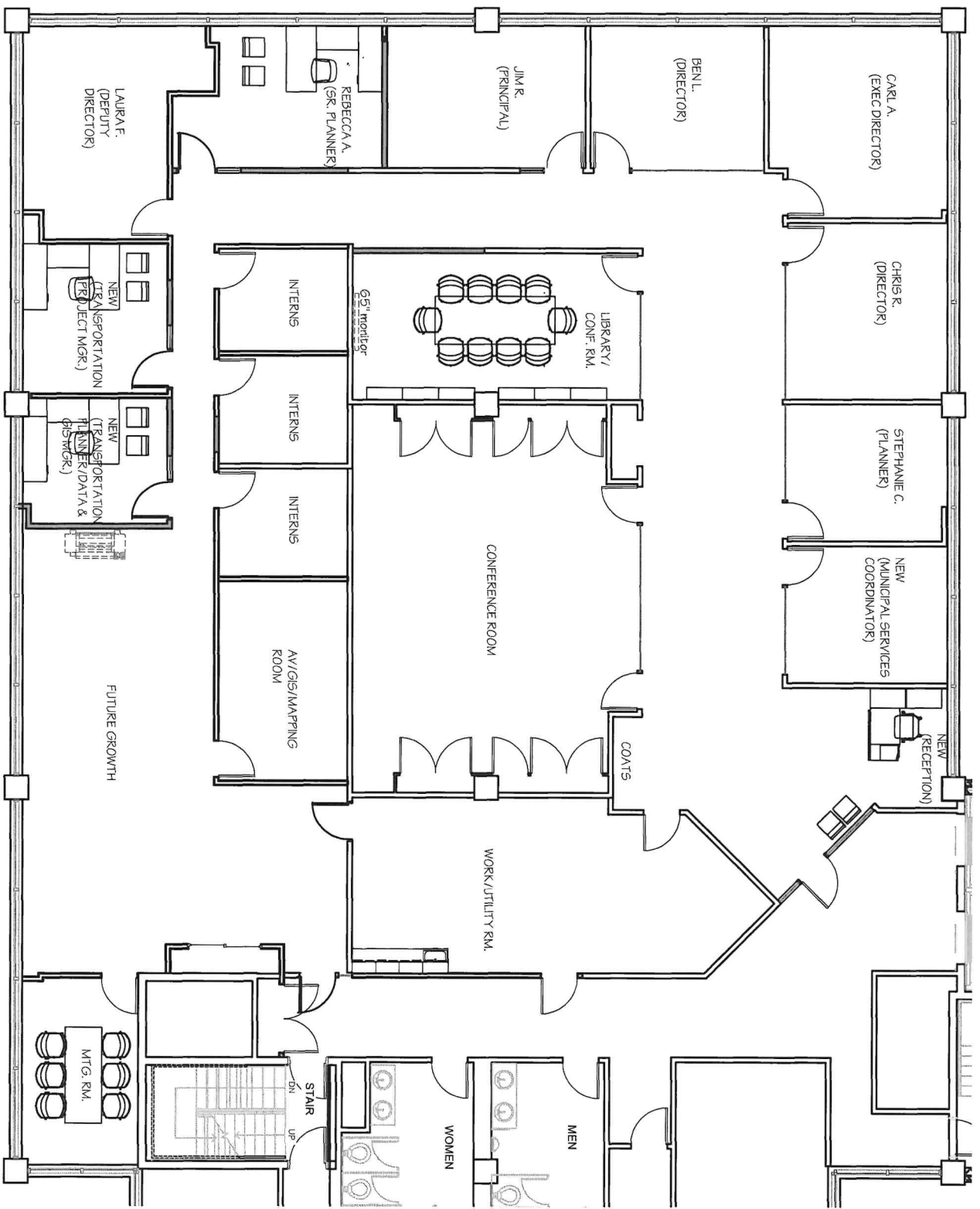
By: _____
Name: Stephen C. Longobardi
Title: Manager
Duly Authorized
Date: 8/__/2023

Tenant:
SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

By: _____
Name: Carl J. Amento
Title: Executive Director
Duly Authorized
Date: 8/__/2023

Exhibit A

See attached plan dated **July 13, 2023**.



SCRKOCG 127 Washington Ave, North Haven, Office Renovations

CONCEPT B

scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

13 July 2023

#23030



ANTINUZZI ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS

Exhibit B

AS IS WHERE IS, per drawing dated **July 13, 2023** (“the Drawing”).

Landlord shall:

- (1) Reconfigure offices adjacent to existing conference room within original leased space into another smaller conference room as shown on the Drawing. Such new smaller conference room in the original leased space shall have a lighting dimmer switch;
- (2) Create a hallway and an access opening between the existing office space and the new office space alongside the new small conference room as shown on the Drawing;
- (3) Reconfigure three offices in the new office space as shown on the Drawing. The large room in the new space shall have a lighting dimmer switch;
- (4) Add one additional office at external south wall adjacent to existing offices in new office space as shown on the Drawing;
- (5) Add access opening from existing work room to the new office space as shown on the Drawing;
- (6) Add doorways and doors and glass or partial glass walls, as appropriate, to existing and new offices in the new office space and to the new small conference room in the existing office space;
- (7) Paint and recarpet the new office space;
- (8) Connect internet cabling and extend alarm system from existing space to new office space;
- (9) Retrofit external door to new office space so that it is an ‘exit only’ doorway; and
- (10) Install electronic access to the main entrance door of the existing space.

FY 2023-24 Budget Revision #2

This revision updates the FY 2023-24 budget to incorporate the increased office rent expense, brings in revenue from the SCRCOG Reserves for new office furniture, and adjusts the expenses associated with the three new staff positions as the original budget projected all positions being filled as of July 1. The new anticipated start times are as follows.

September

Transportation Planner – GIS/Data Manager

October

Transportation Project Manager

Municipal Services Coordinator

Revenue

Budget Revision #2 adds \$25,000 of revenue from the SCRCOG Reserves (Fund Balance) to the adopted FY 2023-24 budget.

Expenses

Budget Revision #2 includes the following changes. As a result of these changes, the projected overhead rate increases from 1.3550 to 1.4473. This is still below the maximum reimbursable overhead rate set by CTDOT (1.5000).

- Salaries decrease by \$39,408
 - Salaries reduced to reflect the new anticipated start times for the three positions.
- Benefits decrease by \$22,280
 - Reductions in payroll and health insurance expenses related to the three positions.
- Rent increases by \$36,000
 - To reflect the new lease for the expanded office space.
- General Office Expenses decrease by \$2,515
 - This is a result of the increased overhead rate and balances the budget.
- Other Consultants increase by \$16,400
 - These are Regional Services Grant funds that are made available for re-programming due to the reduction in the Municipal Services Coordinator's hours.
- Office Equipment and Furniture increases by \$25,000
 - New office furniture will be purchased using up to \$25,000 from the SCRCOG Reserves (Fund Balance).
- Project Contingencies
 - The Transportation, LOTCIP, SMM Grant, and CPRG contingency line-items have been adjusted to account for the increased overhead rate and/or reductions in staff labor.

Actual line-item revisions are on the following page, followed by a resolution authorizing Budget Revision #2.

FY 2023-24 Budget Revision # 2

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Municipal Contribution			
Municipal Contribution - Dues	239,600		239,600
Fund Balance	-	25,000	25,000
Designated Fund Balance	33,586		33,586
Transportation Planning			
U.S. DOT	1,394,144		1,394,144
U.S. DOT - Carryover	507,454		507,454
CTDOT	174,268		174,268
CTDOT - Carryover	63,432		63,432
CTDOT - LOTCIP	171,611		171,611
Regional Planning			
CT OPM - Regional Services Grant (RSG)	948,502		948,502
CT Secretary of the State - Regional Election Monitor	3,691		3,691
CT DEEP - SMM Grant	112,800		112,800
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - CARES Act Funds	195,100		195,100
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - 4CT Funds	8,390		8,390
US EPA - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant	999,479		999,479
Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan			
Federal Emergency Management Agency	-		-
Other			
Investment Income	20,000		20,000
Retiree Health Insurance Contribution	6,500		6,500
TOTAL	4,878,557	25,000	4,903,557

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>Current Budget</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>	<i>Revised Budget</i>
Salaries	850,806	(39,408)	811,398
Benefits	438,744	(22,280)	416,464
Travel	9,500		9,500
Computer Supplies & Software	53,800		53,800
Rent	116,900	36,000	152,900
General Office Expenses	106,101	(2,515)	103,586
Transportation Consultants	1,309,658		1,309,658
Other Consultants	785,376	16,400	801,776
Passthrough Grants	155,105		155,105
Office Equipment and Furniture	-	25,000	25,000
Contingency	-		-
Transportation - Reserved	120,828	16,543	137,371
LOTICIP - Reserved	128,737	(689)	128,048
CT DECD (EDA Grant) - Reserved	36,714		36,714
SMM Grant - Reserved	17,168	(699)	16,469
CPRG - Reserved	749,119	(3,352)	745,768
Total	4,878,557	25,000	4,903,557



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution

**South Central Regional Council of Governments
Fiscal Year 2023-24 - Budget Revision # 2**

- Whereas: The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) adopted an operating budget for FY 2023-24 on May 24, 2023;
- Whereas: SCRCOG adopted Budget Revision #1 on June 28, 2023;
- Whereas: SCRCOG will be executing a renewal of the Lease with Candid Group, LLC that will increase the square footage of the leased office space;
- Whereas: SCRCOG will utilize up to \$25,000 from the SCRCOG Reserves (Fund Balance) to furnish the additional office space; and
- Whereas: The FY 2023-24 Budget has been adjusted to reflect the fact that the three new staff positions were not filled on July 1 as originally anticipated.

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

That Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Revision # 2, which incorporates the increased office rent expense, brings in revenue from the SCRCOG Reserves for new office furniture (up to \$25,000) and adjusts the expenses associated with the three new staff positions, 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 August 23, 2023.

Date: August 23, 2023

By: _____
First Selectman Peggy Lyons, *Secretary*
South Central Regional Council of Governments

**FY 2023-2024 REGIONAL SERVICES GRANT (RSG) SPENDING PLAN
PROPOSED Amendment #1
August 16, 2023**

Source of Project Funding:

CT OPM Regional Services Grant (RSG)	\$948,502
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FY 2023-24 Budget

Line Item	Original	Change	Revised
1. Staff Labor and Expenses	\$390,752	-\$16,400	\$374,352
2. GIS Consultant	\$13,000		\$13,000
3. UConn MPA Interns	\$17,250		\$17,250
4. Capitol Region Purchasing Council Dues	\$7,500		\$7,500
5. Recreational Trails Update	\$30,000		\$30,000
6. UMass Data Dashboard	\$30,000		\$30,000
7. UVermont Regional Tree Canopy Mapping	\$30,000		\$30,000
8. Municipal Services Consultants	\$430,000	\$16,400	\$446,400
Total	\$948,502	0	\$948,502

Details of Municipal Services Consultants (#8 above)

8a. Affordable Housing Part 1	
Consultant: David Fink (continuing)	\$40,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue offering guest speakers, presentations, workshops and discussions for its Regional Housing Working Group and will dedicate additional time and more specific resources to municipal staff to further their housing goals. This year we will also offer bus tours of successful developments.</i>	

8b. Affordable Housing Part 2	
Consultant: Benjamin Fink (continuing)	\$60,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue to assist its member municipalities in the facilitation/promotion of resident education/communication through community-wide education programs and trainings. This year an additional \$15,000 will be set aside for the training and development of citizen outreach specialists allowing for expansion of the scope of this work</i>	

8c. Affordable Housing Part 3	
Consultant: To be selected by RFP/RFQ process	\$60,000
<i>SCRCOG staff will work with an affordable housing expert consulting firm to update and enhance its Draft Regional Affordable Housing Plan and will develop an Action Plan for assisting with the implementation of the region's 8-30j Local Affordable Housing Plans.</i>	

8d. Municipal Grants	
Municipal Grants Consultants: Juliet Burdelski/Renata Bertotti (continuing)	\$85,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue providing grants assistance to its member municipalities in two Grants programs: (1) Offering training and workshops to the Regional Grants Working Group; and (2) researching and informing member municipalities of relevant grants opportunities. In addition, the grants consultants will provide individualized grants assistance to SCRCOG member municipalities, with a pool of funds set aside for more dedicated attention to individualized municipal grants assistance.</i>	

8e. Solid Waste & Recycling, Food Waste Diversion and Municipal Composting	
Consultant: Pam Roach (continuing)	\$65,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue offering guest speakers, presentations, workshops, resources and discussions for its Regional Solid Waste & Recycling Working Groups. SCRCOG will also assist its member municipalities in the facilitation/promotion of resident education/communication through community-wide education programs and trainings, as well as the production of educational materials. SCRCOG will also provide individualized assistance to member municipalities in researching grant opportunities and assisting in applying for such grants. Finally, SCRCOG will provide assistance in municipal efforts to individually and collaboratively pursue new programs of glass and plastics recycling, and food waste diversion, as well as the conversion of existing municipal leaf and brush piles to use as composting facilities with the addition of food waste diversion.</i>	

8f. Information Technology/ Cybersecurity	
Consultant: Novus Insight (continuing)	\$45,000
<i>SCRCOG will continue offering guest speakers, presentations, workshops, resources, trainings and discussion of its Regional IT/Cybersecurity Working Group. One focus will be on policies and practices which will allow municipalities to obtain cyberinsurance coverage at reasonable rates of premium. Another focus will be on obtaining free or low-cost resources from federal and state government. In addition, SCRCOG will offer quarterly tabletop exercises for SCRCOG municipalities. Finally, \$10,000 of the total funding will be dedicated to purchasing additional cyberawareness training for SCRCOG municipal members' employees. Currently, 2000 municipal employees are involved in the year-long training.</i>	

8g. Purchasing	
Consultant: To be selected by RFP/RFQ process (revised)	\$33,200 (originally \$40,000)
<i>SCRCOG provided this program for its municipalities in FY 2021-2022 during which time it created a Regional Purchasing Working Group, established rules and procedures for a Regional Purchasing Consortium, developed two consortium bids for on-call engineers and on-call architects. SCRCOG also provided group and individualized training for the several municipalities that lacked a Purchasing Agent or had a new Purchasing Agent. The program wasn't offered in FY 2022-2023. In FY 2023-2024, SCRCOG would like to revive the Regional Purchasing Working Group and its training and discussion sessions as well as having the Purchasing Consortium offer several new regional bids as requested by SCRCOG's municipalities</i>	

8h. Risk Management	
Consultant: To be selected by RFP/RFQ process	\$28,200 (originally \$35,000)
<p><i>Because the majority of SCRCOG municipalities do not have a dedicated Risk Manager position, SCRCOG would like to hire an expert consultant and to organize a Regional Risk Management Working Group to provide best practices, resources, and training to its member municipalities in the areas of risk identification and assessment, safety, insurance coverage and claims management, and employee training and workplace culture.</i></p>	

8i. Economic Development (New)	
Consultant: REX Development	\$30,000 (new)
<p><i>In collaboration with the South-Central Regional Council of Governments, Rex Development will offer free on-call economic development services under the Municipal Services Program. These services will provide peer-to-peer coaching or direct service based on the market and organizational needs of the community. Such services will include:</i></p> <p><i>On-Call Staff Coverage (When staff is absent due to attrition or your staff is temporarily away or unavailable, the program will provide limited in-house coverage); Economic Development Training; Economic Development Consulting; Workforce Development; Resources; and Peer Review of Documents and the Local Economic Development Processes</i></p>	

SOLICITATION OF MUNICIPAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR SCRCOG REGIONAL WASTE AUTHORITY GRANT

SCRCOG submitted a Regional Waste Authority grant to DEEP in March 2023. The application with accompanying Resolution of Support from the SCRCOG Board dated March 22, 2023 and a Letter of Support from New Haven Mayor Elicker dated March 20, 2023 are attached to this cover memo.

DEEP is now requesting supplemental information and individual letters of support from our SCRCOG municipalities to be submitted by August 25, 2023.

SCRCOG will be sending you by email this week a request that you submit to us a letter of support for SCRCOG's grant application on municipal stationery and signed by the mayor, first selectman or city/town manager. We will furnish you with a template letter of support along with our email.

We are also asking you to look over the attached template letter of support and consider submitting a letter of support to us before the SCRCOG Board meeting on August 23rd. We are placing the solicitation of these letters of support on the SCRCOG Board agenda so that we may solicit letters of support on the day of the meeting as well.

Please look over the SCRCOG application, the previous Board resolution of support, Mayor Elicker's letter and the template letter of support, and submit a letter of support for your municipality.

Thank you.

Application for Sustainable Materials Management

Regional Waste Authority Grant Program

Deadline to Submit: March 31, 2023

PROJECT SUMMARY – Descriptive details, partners, purpose of the project

The South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) is requesting Technical Assistance funding to conduct a study that will guide and inform the SCRCOG region and its municipalities toward the creation of a Regional Waste Authority (RWA) that will serve the 15 member municipalities of the SCRCOG region. These municipalities include *Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge*. The region is home to approximately 570,000 residents, representing more than one-sixth of the state's population. The purpose of the study will be to identify and analyze the existing assets, programs, and initiatives of SCRCOG and its municipalities and to develop the options available to coordinate the various municipal waste operations into a RWA with a focus on developing a comprehensive regional solution for managing solid waste, food scraps, and recyclables.

PROJECT TITLE:	<i>South Central CT Waste Solutions: A Study to Guide the Creation of a Regional Waste Authority in the SCRCOG Region</i>
Municipality or Regional Waste Authority:	South Central Regional Council of Governments: <i>Regional Planning Agency for Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven, and Woodbridge</i>
Contact Name:	Carl Amento, Executive Director
Title:	127 Washington Avenue
Address:	4th Floor West North Haven, CT 06473
Phone Number:	(203) 234-7555
Email:	camento@scrcog.org
Co-applicants (additional municipalities):	A Resolution in Support of SCRCOG's Application to DEEP for Technical Assistance Funding to Study the Formation of a Regional Waste Authority was approved by a 12-1 vote at SCRCOG's Board Meeting on March 22, 2023. A copy of that Resolution is provided at the end of this application.
Indicate municipalities and contact information.	Additionally, an individual Letter of Support from the City of New Haven has also been provided and attached at the conclusion of the application.

<p>Are you currently a member of a regional council of government or regional waste authority?</p> <p>If yes, please identify</p>	<p>The SCRCOG is one of nine regional Council of Governments (COG) in the State of Connecticut. Located within New Haven County in Southern Connecticut, the South Central Region is comprised of the following fifteen municipalities: <i>Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, Meriden, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, Wallingford, West Haven</i> and <i>Woodbridge</i>.</p> <p>The City of New Haven, a member of SCRCOG, is the sole member of the New Haven Solid Waste & Recycling Authority (NHSWRA).</p>
<p>TYPE OF ASSISTANCE PROPOSED:</p> <p>Check all that apply</p>	<p><u>Regional Waste Authority Formation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Technical Assistance, including but not limited to, an inventory of existing regional and municipal assets and programs, opportunities for coordination of and building upon existing assets and programs, identifying services to be provided, evaluation of infrastructure and equipment needs, coordination of collection and hauling routes, transfer stations, disposal, composting and recycling sites- \$270,000 ✓ Legal Assistance, including but not limited to, determining options for governance structure, preparing legal documents, including memorandums of understanding/agreement, bylaws, municipal resolutions/ordinances, and contracts - \$50,000. ✓ Administrative Costs - Fund costs associated with the administration of the study – internal or consultant - \$33,000 <p>Total Request: \$353,000</p> <p>Other (describe):</p>

<p>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>Please briefly describe your proposed activities, details on how the grant will assist you in forming a regional waste authority and what activities that proposed RWA will incorporate.</p>	<p>SCRCOG is seeking Technical Assistance under the DEEP Regional Waste Authority Grant Program to conduct a study that will guide and inform SCRCOG and its municipalities in creating a Regional Waste Authority (RWA) that serves the 15 member municipalities in the South Central region.</p> <p>The study will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify the necessary steps for creating a RWA for the South Central Region’s municipalities (15 total – 570,000 population).</i> • <i>Explore whether a new entity is required or if expanding the existing NHSWRA into a regional entity is the most effective solution.</i> • <i>Determine the legal process required for creating an RWA, identify potential criteria and barriers for full regional membership, and identify options for a leadership and voting structure.</i> • <i>Ascertain an effective integration of the Region’s existing infrastructure, including transfer stations, collection and hauling routes, existing municipal contracts with waste-to-energy plants and biodigesters, composting sites and food waste collection into the RWA.</i> • <i>Identify potential new infrastructure requirements and suitable site locations.</i> • <i>Determine a programmatic approach for incorporating existing regional efforts such as the SMM Pilot Programs into the RWA operations.</i> • <i>Explore viable long-term solutions for the collection and diversion of food waste, glass, and other recyclables.</i> • <i>Tailor the RWA’s creation towards a goal of reducing aggregate regional solid waste generation and creating a long-term solution that phases out the shipping of MSW to out-of-state sites.</i> • <i>Consider the disproportionate impact of current or proposed waste management operations on environmental justice communities.</i> <p>The effort to create a RWA seeks to build on prior and existing efforts undertaken by SCRCOG and its members. If awarded funding, SCRCOG would contract a firm with extensive experience in the field of waste management as the technical expert to assist in the completion of the proposed study. Through this process, it will be determined if a RWA could feasibly be created to achieve mutual goals of increasing diversion from disposal and collection/processing of recyclables and organic materials, increasing in-state solid waste disposal capacity, and providing efficient and streamlined services and administrative capacity for all RWA member municipalities. The study would help determine whether the existing New Haven Solid Waste and Recycling Authority (NHSWRA) is capable of being expanded to meet these regional needs or if an entirely new entity is required. It is expected that a minimum of 18 months will be needed to complete the regional study. Through contracting a technical specialist, SCRCOG can be assured that the resulting study will clearly lay out the necessary steps towards regional waste self-sufficiency.</p> <p>SCRCOG and its members support the state’s Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (CMMS), which seeks to achieve 60 percent diversion of waste from disposal by the year 2024 by reducing waste, increasing reuse, recycling, and composting, and focusing on the utilization of innovative waste</p>
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conversion technologies. SCRCOG has an extensive history of assisting its member municipalities in working towards achieving the CMMS goals. For example, SCRCOG has engaged an experienced and knowledgeable Solid Waste & Recycling Consultant, Pamela Roach, who has worked closely with the SCRCOG municipalities and has regularly convened a Working Group consisting of representatives of SCRCOG's municipalities for the past 5 years. As a result, 8 of our 15 member municipalities applied for grants and 6 municipalities were awarded funding through the CT DEEP Sustainable Material Management Food Waste Diversion pilot grant program. SCRCOG has also helped facilitate regional coordination by supporting initiatives in West Haven focused on the successful development of a regional food composting facility and is now supporting the rollout of the 6 SCRCOG SMM Pilot programs with education and outreach campaigns. SCRCOG looks to build upon its efforts to coordinate with the Center for Ecotechnology (CET) in the areas of food waste diversion from schools, institutions, restaurants, commercial entities, and food manufacturing facilities. SCRCOG's and its municipalities' persistent efforts have proven that the region understands the value of collaboration and the urgent need for achieving a regional solution to avoid the impending waste disposal crisis. This Region is a prime candidate for exploring a more robust regional approach to waste management. With grant funding, SCRCOG can further explore the most effective and efficient ways to integrate existing efforts into a regional solution with an eye toward assisting with the state's overarching waste management goals.

Another focus of the study will be to determine whether an all-encompassing regional approach is viable by way of integrating the existing services in which many member municipalities are currently engaged. The study will be tailored to explore whether there is capacity for existing MSW haulers to expand their services beyond single town utilization. There is hope that the study will determine if these existing regionally-offered services can be upscaled to serve larger populations. The ideal regional authority study would build upon what has been done already while also looking at what services could be upscaled in the most efficient manner.

SCRCOG member municipalities contains approximately 570,000 residents which places this region as one of the most densely populated in the state and one of the largest producers of solid waste as well. New Haven also serves as a major employer for residents outside our region and the population estimate does not capture the significant quantity of waste generated from commuters that come into the city for work. If the Region creates a RWA, it has the opportunity to be one of the largest in the state. The region's density and diverse communities represent an excellent opportunity to create a structure that has an immense impact on total waste management efforts while also providing an opportunity to manage costs.

While regional efforts are ongoing in the SCRCOG region, municipal solid waste management is generally handled independently by each member town. The lack of regionalization or coordination has likely resulted in inefficiencies (such as asset management, labor duplication, regulatory compliance and reporting, and transport/hauling) and has resulted in added costs that can only be recovered by raising taxes. Waste authorities such as HRRAs and SCCCRAs have proven that a

regional approach is not only cost-effective but significantly more efficient in all aspects of waste management. SCRCOG hopes that by exploring the necessary pathway to creating a regional entity that this Region can mimic other RWA successes while also learning from their past challenges. Determining the most effective pathway will require extensive study and robust analysis that can only be completed through supplementary grant funding.

Additional Study Details

The requested grant funds will be used to hire an outside solid waste management technical consultant who will coordinate with SCRCOG administrative staff. The consultant will be tasked with, at minimum: evaluating the current local and regional needs and assets, identifying opportunities for regional collaboration, using data-driven analysis, and recommending practical solutions given the political and regulatory realities relevant to our region. The consultant must be experienced in solid waste best management practices, related technologies, operational and cost feasibility, and shall complete the following tasks and answer the following questions:

1. What solid waste management, recycling, food waste/composting, biogas/digestion, or other facilities and assets do the participating municipalities currently own, operate or have access to?
2. What services do the participating municipalities provide to their residents, institutions and businesses?
3. What, if any, services, assets, or facilities are currently shared?
4. What relevant capital improvements are planned or should be planned within the next 5, 10, and 20 years by each city or town?
5. What, if any, services are planned to be added or terminated within the next 5, 10, or 20 years by each town?
6. Identify current and projected inefficiencies based on unchanged non-regional waste management practices.
7. Identify relevant government, quasi-government, nonprofit, or private stakeholder participants in each city/town.
8. Identify relevant community groups/environmental justice group participants in each city/town.
9. Identify and recommend the best practices for the establishment of the South Central Regional Waste Authority (SCRWA).
10. Identify potential services to be provided by the SCRWA.
11. Identify annual and decennial projected municipal savings resulting from:
 - a) Combined buying power resources.
 - b) Combined workforce.
 - c) Coordinated planning efforts.

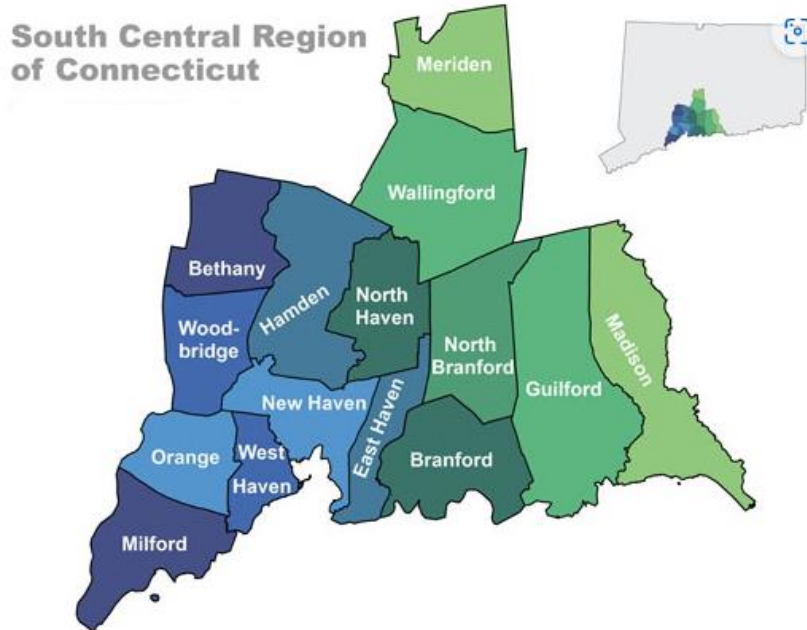
Prior to applying for this grant, SCRCOG staff researched past practices and studies implemented throughout the state and region. Based on this analysis and SCRCOG's experience with similar consultant-led projects (HMP update, regional POCD, etc.), the total time to complete would be approximately 18 to 24 months at an estimated cost of \$353,000. That figure would include a 10% cost for administering the study, leaving approximately \$270,000 to be spent on the final study and \$50,000 set aside for legal advice and assistance. Preliminary

discussions with engineering firms determined that scaling up similar studies to the size of the region would require at least \$225,000 but given recent inflationary effects, a total of \$300,000 was selected for the study portion and \$50,000 was selected to complete the necessary legal analysis. SCRCOG intends to work closely with DEEP in further developing the scope of analysis and in finalizing the budget. Given the potential impact, SCRCOG is the ideal candidate for grant funding through this program.

PROJECT LOCATION:

41.396183,-72.856233

Include site map, Lat/Long, address, or other related information. Find Lat/Long here: <https://getlatlong.net/>. Or indicate if it is a statewide project.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY(S)

<https://portal.ct.gov/D-EEP/Environmental-Justice/Environmental-Justice>

Please identify the area(s) from the [CT mapper](#) and include % for minority, poverty level and/or limited English proficiency.

Environmental Justice Communities Census Tract Summary

Town	Number of EJ Census Tracts	Percent Households LEP*	Percent Population Minority*	Percent Population Below 200% FPL*
Wallingford	3	4.77	25.13	35.23
New Haven	77	8.86	77.14	56.04
Branford	4	1.53	20.15	35.65
Hamden	13	2.14	62.78	42.15

Source – CT DEEP 2022 ARCGIS Environmental Justice Communities Interactive Map - <https://ctdeep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d04ec429d0a4477b9526689dc7809ffe>

*Totals represent the mean percentages within the identified EJ census tracts using CT Mapper

Distressed Municipalities and EJ Communities

The SCRCOG region includes the following municipalities that have been identified as “distressed municipalities” by CT DECD since 2018: *East Haven, West Haven, Meriden, and New Haven*. Environmental Justice concerns in these communities include disproportionate impacts to vulnerable populations including low-income, minority residents. Due to high levels of air pollution, New Haven County was also recently classified as a severe ozone nonattainment area by the EPA. New Haven consistently reports one of the highest hospitalization rates for asthma in the state and ranks as one of the communities with the highest asthma prevalence in the country (Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, 2021).

The SCRCOG region includes the following municipalities that contain Community Reinvestment Act- eligible census tracts: *East Haven, West Haven, Meriden, New Haven and Branford*.

Using data from SCRCOG and the US EPA EJ Screen Tool mapper (ACS estimated for 2016-2020) <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>, the regional population of (approximately) 567,000 residents includes the following % of vulnerable populations:

- **Communities of color:** 31.27% of the population identifies as non-white; 18.94% identify as Hispanic
- **Children 0-4:** 5% of the regional population are under four years of age
- **Children 0-17:** 20% of the regional population are children under 17 years of age
- **Seniors:** 17.1% of the regional population are over 65
- **Low-income communities:** 35% of the region’s households have household income below \$50,000 per year. Low-income residents are highly concentrated in the municipalities of New Haven, West Haven, and Meriden; municipalities with >10% of population below poverty level include New Haven, West Haven, and Meriden

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People with Limited English Proficiency (LEP): 22% of the region’s residents primarily speak non-English at home, with Spanish being the primary non-English language spoken. 8% of the region’s residents speak English “less than very well”• Populations identified by the American Public Health Association: See data above for low income, minority, children, and senior population in the region. https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/climate-change/vulnerable-populations



SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Planning for Our Region's Future

Bethany Branford East Haven Guilford Hamden Madison Meriden Milford
New Haven North Branford North Haven Orange Wallingford West Haven Woodbridge

Carl J. Amento, Executive Director

Resolution in Support of SCRCOG's Application to CT DEEP for Technical Assistance Funding to Study the Formation of a Regional Waste Authority

Whereas: The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has announced the availability of \$1.5 million in state grant funding through the Sustainable Materials Management Grant Program to help municipalities and regional waste authorities evaluate interest and identify governance in order to form new or to expand existing regional waste authorities and engage in planning activities for diversion programs and infrastructure development; and

Whereas: SCRCOG municipalities have been active in seeking solutions to Connecticut's waste crisis and recognizes the need for a viable long-term regional solution that coordinates and enhances the regions' existing efforts including:

- (1) Findings from the Solid Waste & Recycling Working Group, which has convened regularly for the past 4 years, and
- (2) The rollout of several Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) municipal grants including facilitating pilot projects focusing on co-collection of food waste and MSW, food waste diversion, including to an aerated static pile compost facility, and the implementation of Unit-Based Pricing, and
- (3) SCRCOG applying for and being awarded an SMM grant to provide outreach and education to the municipal pilot projects on a regional basis.

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

The SCRCOG Board authorizes and supports the application to CT DEEP for Technical Assistance funding to conduct a study focused on identifying a pathway for creating a Regional Waste Authority that would serve the SCRCOG member municipalities.

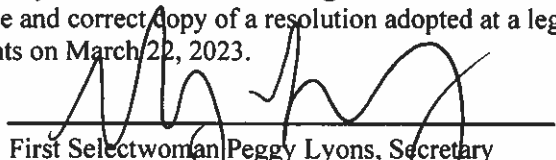
Be It Further Resolved:

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 March 22, 2023.

Date: March 22, 2023

By:



 First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons, Secretary
 South Central Regional Council of Governments



CITY OF NEW HAVEN

JUSTIN ELICKER, MAYOR

165 Church Street
New Haven, Connecticut 06510
T: 203.946.8200 F: 203.946.7683
www.CityofNewHaven.com



March 20, 2023

Commissioner Katie Dykes
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

It is with sincere pleasure that I submit this letter of support for the South Central Regional Council of Government's (SCRCOG) application to the Sustainable Materials Management Regional Waste Authority Grant Program. SCRCOG's proposal will analyze the existing legal and operational landscape of municipal activities related to the disposal and process of solid waste in order to determine the best pathway forward for the creation of a regional waste authority. A regional waste authority has the potential to deliver a comprehensive regional solution to managing solid waste, recyclables, and organics. By coordinating our waste management efforts, municipalities stand to better educate their residents, share cost savings, and meet critical environmental goals. The environmental impact of reducing emissions from the transportation and incineration of solid waste is a particularly important consideration for New Haven as we seek to reduce air pollution and improve respiratory health in New Haven's environmental justice neighborhoods.

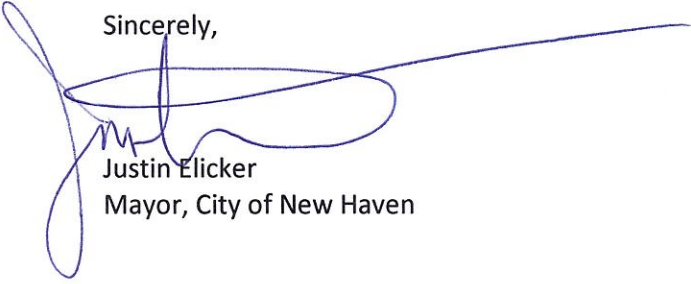
The City of New Haven has seen the benefits of regional coordination brought through the creation of regional authorities for both water and water treatment. Rather than having each municipality shoulder the burden of identifying, evaluating, and implementing best practices for materials management, there may be significant value in a coordinated approach. This approach could rely on expanding the membership and operations of the New Haven Solid Waste and Recycling Authority or setting up a new regional entity. Efficiencies could be gained by better understanding the logistical, legal, and operational structures of current municipal materials management efforts and devising new structures for cooperation across municipalities.

Our administration has taken initial steps in this direction through the submission of a joint funding application with the City of West Haven to the Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling program. If awarded, funding would help to set up regional infrastructure for de-packaging and decontaminating food scraps collected from SCRCOG municipalities so that they can be composted. This shared infrastructure would only constitute one piece of much larger and more complex network of facilities, educational programs, legal and operational structures needed to realize the potential benefits of regional coordination.

The technical analysis of existing facilities and evaluation of best management practices that SCRCOG has proposed would be a valuable first step toward regional cooperation. It would allow each member

municipality to consider whether to join a coordinated approach to sustainable materials management. We look forward to partnering with SCRCOG and assisting their team as this work proceeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin Elicker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Justin Elicker
Mayor, City of New Haven

[Municipal Letterhead]

August 23, 2023

Commissioner Katie Dykes
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Commissioner Dykes,

I am writing this letter of support for the South Central Regional Council of Government's (SCRCOG) application to the Sustainable Materials Management Regional Waste Authority Grant Program. SCRCOG's proposal will analyze the existing legal and operational landscape of municipal activities related to the disposal and process of solid waste in order to determine the best pathway forward for the creation of a regional waste authority in the Greater New Haven area. A regional waste authority has the potential to deliver a comprehensive regional solution to managing solid waste, recyclables, and organics. By coordinating our waste management efforts, municipalities stand to better educate their residents, share cost savings, and meet critical environmental goals. The environmental impact of reducing emissions from the transportation and incineration of solid waste is a particularly important consideration.

New Haven's Solid Waste and Recycling Authority has already seen the benefits of regional coordination brought through the previous creation of regional authorities for both water and wastewater treatment. Rather than having each municipality shoulder the burden of identifying, evaluating, and implementing best practices for materials management, there may be significant value in a coordinated approach. This approach could rely on expanding the membership and operations of the New Haven Solid Waste and Recycling Authority or setting up a new regional entity. Efficiencies could be gained by better understanding the logistical, legal, and operational structures of current municipal materials management efforts and devising new structures for cooperation across municipalities.

The technical analysis of existing facilities and evaluation of best management practices that SCRCOG has proposed would be a valuable first step toward regional cooperation. It would allow each member municipality to consider whether to join a coordinated approach to sustainable materials management. We look forward to partnering with SCRCOG and assisting their team as this work proceeds.

Sincerely,

[Signature of Mayor, First Selectman or City/Town Manager]

NEWSLETTER

Volume III, Issue 8

August 2023

Welcome to the SCRCOG monthly newsletter where you can find updates on our transportation planning, regional planning, and municipal services programs.

Please visit the [SCRCOG website](#) for more information on who we are, what we do, and opportunities for public participation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Announcements

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program Update

The passage of 2022's Inflation Reduction Act has resulted in unprecedented federal spending on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across the nation. As part of that act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has created the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG) which set aside \$250 million dollars for planning efforts along with \$4.6 billion for a competitive implementation phase that will begin later this year.

Each state received a \$3 million planning grant with the largest 79 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) also receiving \$1 million to create regionally specific plans. The New Haven-Milford MSA region, which encompasses all 15 SCRCOG member municipalities, was one of those 79 MSAs that received funding. SCRCOG is excited to announce that the agency will function as project lead for the New Haven-Milford region and will be spearheading the four-year project.

The goal of the grant program is to create three distinct Climate Action Plans that offer

recommendations for how the region can lower GHG through a variety of projects and policies. A primary focus is to also offer direct solutions designed to improve air quality, create jobs, and ensure the region's low income and disadvantaged communities are prioritized as solutions are created.

After months of engagement with the EPA, SCRCOG was officially awarded their grant funds earlier this month. The agency will be hosting its first kickoff stakeholder engagement event in two weeks. Over the next four years the agency will be seeking your feedback on what projects, approaches, and recommendations you believe should be prioritized. Each of you has the opportunity to impact the way these plans will be drafted. Details on this first event are provided below and we invite any interested resident to attend virtually or in-person.

New Haven-Milford MSA – Study Region:



SCRCOG, in partnership with NVCOG, is preparing to develop the first of two Climate Action Plans in collaboration with the University of Massachusetts Amherst Center for Resilient Metro-Regions. These plans will be funded through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). The program was created through the Inflation Reduction Act and represents an incredible opportunity for the region to lower greenhouse gas emissions. The region's first plan, the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), is due by March 1, 2024. This preliminary climate action plan will include a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the region, as well as actions, strategies, and projects to reduce climate pollution. Actions, strategies, and projects identified in the PCAP can potentially be funded through competitive CPRG implementation funds. Applications to apply for part of the \$4.6 billion set aside for implementation will be due in April of 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Ben Lovejoy at bllovejoy@scrcog.org.

Climate Planning Stakeholder Workshop

As part of the PCAP, SCRCOG and NVCOG will be hosting a Stakeholder Workshop later this month, on **August 29th from 2:00 – 3:30 PM** at the SCRCOG office in North Haven and online via Zoom. We're inviting stakeholder groups in the New Haven-Milford

MSA/New Haven County region to this meeting to share the ins and outs of the CPRG Program, highlight opportunities for involvement, and gather feedback on next steps. If you're a stakeholder in the region and would like to attend this workshop, you can register for this hybrid meeting by clicking the button below.

[LINK | Register for Climate Planning Stakeholder Workshop](#)

Additionally, if you would like to be included on future emails regarding CPRG events, please email smcamp@scrcog.org .

For more details about this event, please see the flyer below.



CLIMATE PLANNING STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29TH, 2:00 - 3:30PM
VIRTUALLY OR IN PERSON AT SCRCOG HQ

REGISTER AT:
[BIT.LY/NEWHAVENCLIMATE](https://bit.ly/newhavenclimate)



LEARN ABOUT THE CLIMATE POLLUTION
REDUCTION GRANT THAT NEW HAVEN COUNTY
RECEIVED FROM THE EPA.

WHO	WHERE	WHY
We welcome all environmental stakeholder groups in New Haven County.	Online or in Person at SCRCOG Offices 127 Washington Ave 4th Floor West North Haven, CT	Your voice and expertise will make our planning efforts stronger.
HOSTED BY: SCRCOG & NVCOG <small>SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS</small>		

General Announcements

SCRCOG is excited to introduce our 2023-2024 intern – Amealia Maynard. Amealia is a

graduate student at the University of Connecticut School of Public Policy. She will be working with SCRCOG over the next several months while she completes her master's in public policy (MPP). Amealia grew up in the neighboring Capitol Region, in Mansfield, CT, and stayed local while she earned her Bachelor of Science in Applied and Resource Economics at UConn. During those four years, Amealia applied her passion for environmental issues with marketable skills relating to economics and public policy. She was attracted to apply to the School of Public Policy after joining the internship and professional practice (IPP) program, where she learned about SCRCOG's Municipal Services and Regional Planning Internship program partnership with UConn. We're excited for Amealia to start at the end of August!



AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2023-2024 Housing Working Group Meetings

SCRCOG continues its housing work building community and educating residents, advocates, and municipal staff throughout the second half of 2023.

The next Housing Working Group meeting will be on September 27, 2023. You can view more details about this event and future Housing Working Group meetings on the flyer below.

[LINK | Register for September '23 Housing Working Group Meeting](#)

Housing

Events
Working Group

SCRCOG Housing Working Group 2023 - 2024

Check Out List of Events for 2023 - early 2024

September

27

Kick-Off!

A town-by-town look at what methods and strategies are working well and why & a review of our upcoming Mixed-Income Housing Tour and future sessions.
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

October

25

Mixed-Income Housing Tour

A 3-hour tour of 5 examples in the region of very successful mixed-income developments.
12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

November

15

Tour Post-Mortem & The Ins And Outs of Inclusionary Zoning

A discussion of what we learned from the tour and a look at inclusionary zoning -- how it was adopted and how it's worked in different municipalities around the state.
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

January

24

Our Region's Efforts To Deal With Homelessness

A visit to homeless shelters and supportive housing in the region and discussions with providers about how the region's municipalities can help.
12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

February

28

Working With Builders & Developers

Now that your town wants to create housing, how do you attract a developer? What type of property is a developer looking for? A conversation with our region's developers.
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

For detailed information: scrcog.org/
Email Stephanie Camp at smcamp@scrcog.org

SCRCOG
SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Please email smcamp@scrcog.org if you would like to be added to the Housing Working Group email list.

Don't forget that SCRCOG has a vast library of housing-related articles as well as video recordings of all our past Housing Working Group meetings. To watch or listen to these meetings, please visit <https://scrcog.org/regional-planning/affordable-housing/housing-working-group-meetings/>

Community Conversations with Ben Fink

Ben continues his mission to build as broad and diverse a base as possible to support expanded housing options in our municipalities. The goal is to be inclusive of residents with varying experience and open to all perspectives on housing, while working in tandem with municipal governments as they implement their affordable housing plans.

The next training is scheduled for **September 14, 2023 at 9:30 AM** at the SCRCOG office – ***Due to the nature of this training it will be offered in person only.***

This training will focus on how to organize and facilitate a story circle. For more details, please see the flyer below.

[LINK | Register for Story Circle Training](#)

Discovering Common Ground Through Sharing Stories

In this hands-on training, participants will learn how to organize and facilitate a story circle, a technique with roots in the civil rights movement, which makes it possible for a community's residents, leaders, and officials to discover common ground they never knew they had, even on challenging and controversial issues. This training is open to all – including people and municipalities who have started hosting community conversations and want to learn from each other's experience, and those who have not yet started and are looking for a place to start. This training will build on the skills developed during last May's session on facilitating effective community conversations, but newcomers are also encouraged to take part.

REGISTER



BEN FINK

SCRCOG Consultant

This training will be facilitated by Ben Fink. To learn more about Ben, visit scrcog.org.



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

September 14, 2023

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Light breakfast at 9 AM



If your municipality would like to begin working with Ben to facilitate honest and productive community discussions, please contact Stephanie Camp, Regional Planner, at smcamp@scrcog.org or Ben Fink at ben.fink@gmail.com



HAZARD MITIGATION

Hurricane and Severe Weather Event Preparedness – A Reminder to Municipalities from the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

[LINK | Reminder to Municipalities from CT DEEP](#)

Natural Hazard Mitigation Survey – DEMHS

The Connecticut Natural Hazard Mitigation Public Survey is now open! The responses and comments will be used to inform the update of the 2023 Connecticut Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. You can help identify hazard areas, share your experiences, and provide input on what you want Connecticut to prioritize by taking the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CT-HMP-2023>



MUNICIPAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grants Writing Services

SCRCOG continues to offer free grant writing support and education through a partnership with consultants Renata Bertotti and Juliet Burdelski. In this Fiscal Year, the Grants consultants will offer more in-depth and more individualized assistance to the SCRCOG municipalities.

Training Opportunity for SCRCOG Member Municipalities

SCRCOG co-hosted grant training sessions throughout 2022 and into 2023. Past meetings featured guest speakers, best practices, and guidance for attendees. You can watch recordings of these past training sessions on our [webpage](#).

The [Municipal Grants webpage](#) on SCRCOG's website contains a wealth of information on the services offered by the Grants consultants. The page contains an updated Grant Opportunities Worksheet, links to recordings of past webinars, sample documents, and more.

Please reach out to blovejoy@scrcog.org if you require additional assistance.

EMERGING GRANTS OPPORTUNITIES

Thriving Communities Program (TCP)

The U.S. Department of Transportation will be announcing the notice of funding opportunity for the FY2023 Thriving Communities program later this summer to support additional communities in the coming year. This planning, technical assistance, and capacity building support will enable disadvantaged and under-resourced communities to advance a pipeline of transformative infrastructure projects that will increase mobility, reduce pollution, and expand affordable transportation options, connecting communities to the essential opportunities and resources that will help them thrive.

More information can be found [here](#).

Sustainable CT Equity Coach

Sustainable CT is offering a no-cost assistance program to help CT municipalities lay out a process to complete action to Optimize for Equity or to address other equity-related issues of importance regarding federal and state grant proposals.

More information can be found [here](#).

NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge

Approximately \$575 million is available for projects that build the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather (e.g., hurricanes and storm surge) and other impacts of climate change, including sea level rise and drought. Funding was made possible by the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), a historic, federal government-wide investment that is advancing NOAA's efforts to build [Climate-Ready Coasts](#). **The focus of this grant program** is on collaborative approaches to achieving resilience in coastal regions. Proposed projects should address risk reduction, regional collaboration, and equity, and build enduring capacity for adaptation.

Letter of Intent Deadline: [August 21, 2023](#).

Full Application Deadline: [February 13, 2024](#).

More information can be found on [NOAA's website](#).

CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development's Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development – Round 18

The Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development (OBRD) announced funding availability under Round 18 –Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) links below:

- Municipal Grant Program – [Remediation & Limited-Assessment](#) (max. of \$4 million)
- Municipal Grant Program – [Assessment-Only](#) (max. of \$200K OR \$500K for Land Banks/COGs)
- [Targeted Brownfield Development Loan Program](#) (max. of \$4 million)

The OBRD is also announcing funding availability on behalf of the CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection through the DEEP CERCLA 128 (a) Brownfield Grant Program (Round 1). Funding available in Round 1 is \$485,000 and is open to municipalities or non-profit entities. Please follow this [link](#) for more details on the program.

Application Deadlines: [September 22, 2023](#).

More information can be found on the [Brownfield Remediation and Development webpage](#).

USDOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Community Planning Grants

The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) has released a joint [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the [Reconnecting Communities Pilot \(RCP\)](#) and [Neighborhood Access and Equity \(NAE\)](#) programs, which will combine two major discretionary grants into one NOFO. Together, this combined program will be known as the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program. While they remain separate programs for the purposes of award, the programs share many common characteristics, including:

- Prioritizing disadvantaged communities;
- Aiming to improve access to daily needs such as jobs, education, healthcare, food, and recreation;
- Fostering equitable development and restoration;
- Reconnecting communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development.

Application Deadline: September 28, 2023.

More information can be found on [Valid Eval's](#) and the [USDOT's](#) webpages.

Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

The Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) is now accepting applications for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA). The program provides grants to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to assist them in acquiring land for open space protection. The grant program is also available to water companies to acquire land to be classified and protected as Class I or Class II water supply watershed lands. Awards are granted to projects that offer the highest conservation and recreational value and that leverage the greatest percentage of private and municipal funding.

Application Deadline: October 2, 2023.

More information & applications can be found on [DEEP's website](#).

Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning

The U.S. Department of Transportation recently announced the availability of approximately \$13.4 million in competitive grant funds through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Planning. The funding will support local planning and investment near transit hubs to promote sustainable, livable, and equitable communities.

The Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development Planning will help fund comprehensive or site-specific planning efforts that advance the Biden-Harris Administration's goals to lower costs for American families, combat climate change, and promote equitable delivery of benefits to underserved communities. Special consideration will be given to applications that improve air quality, advance environmental justice, support unhoused populations, and promote housing affordability. This year, applications for areas with a lower population density or lower average income compared to surrounding areas will receive a higher federal funding share. Additionally, applications with a substantial focus on affordable housing may receive up to 100% federal cost share support.

Application Deadline: October 10, 2023.

More information can be found on the [Federal Transit Administration's webpage](#).

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) is accepting applications for the second years of its SMART Grants Program. This SMART Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

will accept applications for Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants. During Stage 1, the SMART program seeks to fund innovation aimed at solving real-world transportation problems and focused on building data and technology capacity and experience for State, local, and Tribal governments. The program also recognizes that many public sector transportation agencies face challenges finding the resources and personnel to leverage new technologies; so, the program builds in the time and support to enable successful deployment.

The funding opportunity is open to public sector entities seeking to carry out transportation projects that demonstrate at least one of the following technology areas:

- Coordinated automation
- Connected vehicles
- Sensors
- Systems integration
- Delivery/logistics
- Innovative aviation
- Smart grid
- Traffic signals

Application Deadline: [October 10, 2023](#).

More information can be found on the [SMART Grants Program website](#).

Exploring Office-to-Residential Conversions

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research has announced a new funding opportunity to study recent efforts to convert downtown office buildings to properties with residential units since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vacant office buildings coupled with a crisis of affordable housing have recently spurred efforts among city leaders to jointly address these issues through incentives and flexibilities that allow for the conversion of vacant office buildings for residential use. Research supported by this NOFO will compile case studies of conversion projects that have taken place since the start of the pandemic, improve understanding of the financing limitations associated with conversions and the policy reforms and subsidies that can make projects more economically viable, propose metrics to evaluate conversions on housing affordability and other outcomes, and develop a guide for local leaders and practitioners.

HUD will award up to \$860,000 under this NOFO. Submitted research proposals must describe how the knowledge generated under the proposed project will contribute to

understanding the federal, state, or local policies and programs designed to address office-to-residential conversions.

Application Deadline: October 12, 2023.

More information can be found on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services

ADS has been awarded \$10 million in funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that will be used to support upgrades and enhancements at senior centers statewide in Connecticut. The state is designating \$9 million of this funding to be distributed to municipalities. The municipalities can use the funding to support upgrades at their local senior centers through:

- Facility improvements, which can cover a variety of capital improvements, including air and HVAC systems, lighting, accessibility features, vehicle acquisition, maintenance, and repurposing; and
- Programming, which can include the acquisition of program registration software, web design renovation capability, extended senior center hours, special or focused entertainment or programming, while also encompassing expanded staff hours to support those programs, when applicable.

To obtain funding, municipalities must develop a plan and submit it, along with an application, to the Connecticut Department of Aging and Disability Services' Unit on Aging.

Application Deadline: June 2024

More information for municipal officials is available online at portal.ct.gov/ADS-SeniorCenterARPA.



SOLID WASTE, RECYCLING, & FOOD WASTE DIVERSION

DEEP SMM Pilot Programs

Through the DEEP's Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) pilot program, the City of West Haven has been conducting curbside co-collection of food waste and MSW on a voluntary town wide basis. This has resulted in an [11.6 percent reduction in overall waste](#) in the first nine weeks of 2023 compared to the same time period in 2022. To find out more about the pilot program, please [visit ReduceTheTrashCT – A sustainable solution with a](#)

[positive environmental impact](#). West Haven is considering continuing its program with participation made mandatory, and is seeking funding from DEEP to extend the pilot for another year.

Guilford and Madison have begun their SMM Pilot Program, and the City of Meriden is preparing to launch their pilot program as West Haven continues its program.

SCRCOG has received a grant from DEEP to assist SMM pilot programs being conducted in SCRCOG municipalities with education and outreach. SCRCOG Solid Waste & Recycling Consultant has been paid through the DEEP grant to lead the education and outreach initiatives in West Haven, Guilford, Madison and Meriden.



REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (RPC)

[LINK | August 2023 RPC Meeting Agenda](#)

[LINK | August 2023 RPC Action Table](#)

[DOWNLOAD | RPC Informational Brochure](#)



SUSTAINABLE CT

Sustainable CT Updates

The Sustainable CT fall certification deadline was August 15th at 12:00 PM. Check back on [Sustainable CT's website](#) for the certification deadline for the future certification cycle.

Sustainable CT events

There are many events and information sessions that can be viewed on the Sustainable CT calendar, located [on their website](#).

- August 30, 2023 & September 6, 2023- CT Department of Economic and Community Development: ["Financial Well-Being for Interdependence"](#) w/ Amy Smith + Makini – 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
- September 13, 2023 – [Practical Action for Aging, Dementia and Disability Inclusivity: Best Practice Guidelines](#) – 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- September 15, 2023 – [Hixon Center Urban Conference - Urban Forests: Solutions for a Changing Climate](#) – 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM



TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

LOTICIP Update

- The City of New Haven submitted their final design plans for project #L092-0005 *the Water Street Cycle track* along with an updated application packet for project #L092-0002 *Howard Avenue Reconstruction*. Total funding for both projects is approximately \$3,173,000.
- SCRCOG continues to work on updates to the region's LOTICIP guidelines. In July, CTDOT amended the program to allow the use of admin funds for any Preliminary Design (PD) activities that are necessary to develop a comprehensive application in accordance with the program guidelines. Staff is working with our consultant and our Transportation Committee to develop a process to provide additional services to our member municipalities.

Other Programs

- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is kicking off its annual Labor Day national enforcement mobilization campaign – Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. Learn more about the campaign on the [NHTSA website](#).
- Traffic Signal Advisory Committee – Interested in serving on the T2 Center's Traffic Signal Advisory Committee? This group of dedicated professionals helps build important educational programs and technical resources. If you're a member of the CT Traffic Signal Community and are interested in serving, please contact Donna

Shea, Executive Program Director, CT Training and Technical Assistance (T2) Center, donna.shea@uconn.edu



AROUND THE TOWNS

Congratulations to the Town of Wallingford for being No. 53 of the 100 Safest Cities in America for 2023! Real estate analytics firm, Neighborhood Scout, determines the 100 safest cities in America with 25,000 or more people based on a number of indicators. You can read more about it in this [Patch article](#).

Governor Ned Lamont also announced the purchase of 60 new rail cars that will be used on commuter lines, with prioritization of the Hartford Line and branches of the New Haven line. The first of the cars are expected to be delivered in 2026. Read more about this investment in this story by [WTIC Hartford](#).



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

August

- August 23rd – SCRCOG Board Meeting – 10:00 AM
- August 29th – Climate Planning Stakeholder Workshop – 2:00 PM

September

- September 13th – Transportation Committee Meeting – 12:00 PM
- September 14th – Community Conversations Training: Discovering Common Ground Through Sharing Stories – 9:30 AM
- September 14th – Regional Planning Commission (RPC) Meeting – 5:15 PM
- September 27th – SCRCOG Board Meeting – 10:00 AM
- September 27th – Housing Working Group Meeting – 1:00 PM

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
Regional Planning Commission**

August 2023 RPC Action Table

Ref. #	Received	Description	Adjacent RPC Towns	RPC Action
2.1	6.28.23	City of New Haven: Zoning Text and Map Amendments for New Mixed-Use District Within Long Wharf Responsible Growth Plan	West Haven, Orange, Woodbridge, Hamden, North Haven, East Haven	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning regulation text amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor does there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound. Furthermore, the proposed amendments align with the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development by supporting mixed used walkable neighborhoods, increasing housing opportunities, and promoting multimodal transportation options. The only concerns are that the developments consider resiliency when proposing projects given the proximity to the New Haven Harbor and the increase in significant weather events.
2.2	6.28.23	City of New Haven: Zoning Text and Map Amendments For New Transit-Oriented Development District – Transit Oriented Community Zone at 170 Union Avenue	West Haven, Orange, Woodbridge, Hamden, North Haven, East Haven	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning regulation text amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor does there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound. Furthermore, the proposed amendments align with recommendations established in the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development by reducing the amount of required parking & encouraging density near transit. The zone will also promote small business development and provide additional positions if fully realized which also aligns with recommendations offered in the RPOCD.
2.3	7.13.23	Town of Orange: Zoning Text Amendment to Miscellaneous Regulations, Outdoor Storage and Outdoor Displays	Milford, West Haven, New Haven, Woodbridge, Derby, Shelton	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning regulation text amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor does there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.
2.4	8.2.23	Town of Woodbridge: Zoning Text Amendment – Addition of New Section Regulation of Adult Use Cannabis	Orange, West Haven, New Haven, Hamden, Bethany, Seymour, Ansonia, Derby	By resolution, the RPC has determined that the proposed zoning regulation text amendment does not appear to cause any negative inter-municipal impacts to the towns in the South Central Region nor does there appear to be any impacts to the habitat or ecosystem of the Long Island Sound.



August 16, 2023

Dear Chief Elected Officials of SCRCOG,

Earlier this month, the 2023 Town Equity Reports were released by DataHaven. These reports offer relevant information at a town level that cannot be found anywhere else. By utilizing new methods to analyze data from various sources such as the 2020 Census, American Community Survey microdata files, DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey record-level files from 2015 through 2021, and federal and state agency databases, the reports provide an easy-to-use, infographic-filled resource for improving community well-being and racial equity. The updated reports for 2023 are now available for all 169 Connecticut towns, as well as for groupings of towns such as DMHAS Regions, Councils of Governments (COGs), and custom-defined areas.

In our previous report from last month, we mentioned that REX is currently performing tasks related to the CARES grant. As part of the grant's resilience aspect, we will conduct a survey of regional businesses using a modified US Census business survey to allow for comparison between Greater New Haven, Connecticut, and the United States. REX is also updating the CTData Collaborative's new business report until June 2023, which will complement the existing data dating back to June 2018. Additionally, we will obtain a report of all current businesses in the region by NAICS code to identify trends in growing sectors.

As part of the grant, we will focus on the arts, culture, and tourism sector. To evaluate the recovery of this sector, we will conduct a follow-up survey within two weeks aligned with the 2023 CEDS Business Survey, using sector employment data and hotel occupancy tax revenue. In addition, we are partnering with the Connecticut Restaurant Association to survey regional restaurants and identify challenges and opportunities within the food and beverage industry. To promote regional events and attractions, Visit New Haven will reach out to college and university student activity planners to encourage students to explore Greater New Haven. Furthermore, we are working with CVENT, an event management, marketing, and attendee engagement service, to bring smaller events to the region and increase hotel occupancy.

All the tasks related to the grant are scheduled to be finished by September 30, 2023.

Sincerely,

Ginny Kozlowski
Executive Director