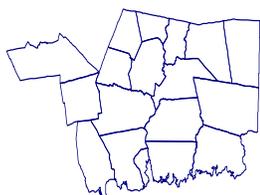


ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Member Municipalities:

- Bozrah
- Colchester
- East Lyme
- Franklin
- Griswold
- City of Groton
- Town of Groton
- Ledyard
- Lisbon
- Montville
- New London
- North Stonington
- Norwich
- Preston
- Salem
- Sprague
- Stonington
- Borough of Stonington
- Voluntown
- Waterford



INTRODUCTION

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments was formed in the fall of 1992. The Council succeeded its predecessor agency, The Southeastern Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (SCRPA), which had been in its existence since 1961. It was created through the adoption of membership ordinances by the towns, cities, and boroughs within the Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region. The Council is a governmental agency, formed and operating under the provisions of Sections 4-124i through 4-124p of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Council's mission is to provide a basis for inter-

governmental cooperation for a wide range of issues facing southeastern Connecticut.

This annual report reviews activities of the Council during calendar year 2007 and provides financial information on the fiscal year ending 30 June 2007.

For the latest news and information about SCCOG's programs, projects, meeting agendas & minutes, publications, newsletters and links to its member towns, visit us on the web at www.seccog.org.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The policy board of the SCCOG consists of the municipal chief elected officials from the twenty member municipalities. Additionally, the Regional Planning Commission, which functions as a sub-unit of the Council, is composed of one representative from the planning commission of each member municipality. As authorized by statutes, some municipalities also have appointed alternates to the Council and Commission. The Council has amended its bylaws to provide for the participation on a non-voting basis of liaison representatives from the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes, Submarine Group Two/Naval Region Northeast, and the Coast Guard Academy.

In addition to the Regional Planning Commission, the Council has formed several standing committees and, as needed, may form ad hoc committees. A staff of nine supports the work of the Council, its committees, and the Planning Commission. In December, 2007, the staff consisted of an executive director, an assistant director, four planners, the director of the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance, an executive secretary and a GIS coordinator.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

TRANSPORTATION:

The Council is the state-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for purposes of carrying out the regional transportation system planning and programming required under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFTEA-LU).

During this past year, staff updated the Regional Transportation Plan for FY 2007-2035. The latest Regional Transportation Plan addresses a variety of new issues required by SAFTEA-LU, the new umbrella Federal Transportation Act, as well as previously identified needs such as Route 11 and regional transit improvements.

The Council continued to be members of two Transportation Investment Areas (TIAs), the Southeast Corridor and the I-395 Corridor, established under the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) legislation adopted in 2001. During the year, the Council voted to recommend that Dennis Popp, Mayor of the City of Groton, become the Southeast Corridor representative to the TSB, replacing John Markowicz, whose term had expired.

The Council also continued to support major projects being conducted by ConnDOT. These included the Environmental Impact Statement for the extension of Route 11, completed in October, 2007; transportation system improvements in the Routes 2, 2A, and 32 corridors; and the design of

SCCOG MEMBERS:

Bozrah:
William Ballinger

Colchester:
Linda Hodge

East Lyme:
Paul Formica

Franklin:
Richard Matters

Griswold:
Philip Anthony, Jr.

City of Groton:
Dennis Popp

Town of Groton:
Harry Watson
Mark Oefinger, Town Mgr.

Ledyard:
Fred Allyn, Jr.

Lisbon:
Thomas Sparkman, Treasurer

Montville:
Joseph Jaskiewicz, Vice Chair

New London:
Margaret Curtin
Martin Berliner, City Mgr.

North Stonington:
Nicholas Mullane

Norwich:
Benjamin Lathrop
Alan Bergren, City Manager

Preston:
Robert Congdon

Salem:
Robert Ross

Sprague:
Catherine Osten

Stonington:
Ed Haberek, Jr.

Borough of Stonington:
Donald Maranell

Voluntown:
Gilbert Grimm

Waterford:
Daniel Steward

AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

Mashantucket Pequot Tribe:
Michael Thomas, Chairman
William Satti, Dir. Public Affairs

Mohegan Tribe:
Bruce Bozsum, Chairman
Chuck Bunnell, Chief of Staff

U.S. Naval Submarine Base
CAPT Mark Ginda

U.S. Coast Guard Academy
RADM J. Scott Burhoe
LTCDR Curtis Sumrock

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for I-95 and I-395 in southeastern Connecticut. Staff is also participating in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement for improvements planned for I-95.

The Council is a member of and provides staff assistance to the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission. This commission, created by state statute, is charged with establishing standards for the development of a greenway which is integral to the Route 11 project. The Commission met monthly during the past year. The Commission adopted its first Greenway Development Plan and in October, 2006, acquired its first property, located in Salem. Additional parcels in Waterford, Montville and East Lyme are in the process of being acquired.

Council staff provided planning support to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) and to the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC). In July, SCCOG members met with SEAT board members at a half-day session to plan the transit district's future expansion.

Council staff continued to assist the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board in managing the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program, a multi-region system for providing transportation to individuals on welfare that are seeking jobs, job training, and day care services for their children. During FY 2007, 241,029 trips were supported by this system, up from 206,957 in FY 2006.

Staff also oversaw the development of a Locally Coordinated Health and Social Services Plan (LOCHSTP) which brings together the JARC, 5310 and New Freedoms Federal Transportation Programs.

During 2007, SCCOG staff has also been continuing to work with the Norwich Clean Cities Coalition. This effort resulted in a \$2.2 million Congressional appropriation for an Alternative Fuels-Bus Rapid Transit project that will be operated by SouthEast Area Transit. The project will provide funds for the acquisition of up to two new experimental buses that will be put into SEAT service to support the Intermodal Transit project championed by SCCOG.

The Council maintains and regularly updates a variety of information and statistics related to the region's transportation system. SCCOG staff maintains a regional Geographic Information System (GIS).

In 2007, SCCOG was notified that an application it

co-submitted with the City of New London for \$1.1 million in SAFETEA-LU Enhancement funds had been awarded. This funding is being applied to the New London Parade project, with an emphasis on creating safer and better connections between the transportation services in the vicinity of Union Station.

In November, SCCOG received word from ConnDOT that \$750,000 funding to study the Union Station/Transportation Center intermodal complex in New London had been approved as part of the State budget. This study will be managed by SCCOG and should commence in 2008.

In 2007, SCCOG adopted an updated Public Involvement and Consultative Process for Transportation Planning.

During the year, SCCOG's Traffic Incident Management Committee met to discuss responses to major accidents on the region's highways and the procedures used to clear the highways. In addition to SCCOG members, other persons attending these meetings were representatives of the State Police, ConnDOT, CT DEP, and local law enforcement, and other emergency responders. As traffic volumes and accidents increase on the region's roads, the efforts of this group becomes more critical.

In November, the SCCOG approved a resolution that would allow SCCOG to enter into a contract with ConnDOT to conduct a Safe Routes to School Study in the region.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

The 2002 SCCOG Housing analysis led to the creation of the Blue Ribbon Housing Initiatives Panel (BRHIP). The stated mission of this organization was to "drive the creation of a diversified housing stock in southeastern Connecticut to meet the ever-changing demands of the region." The BRHIP became the Southeastern Connecticut Housing Alliance (SECHA) in 2006, and a full-time staff person was hired to assist the SECHA board in carrying out its work. In 2007, SCCOG and SECHA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement, and this staff person became a SCCOG employee, demonstrating SCCOG's commitment to seeing more affordable housing built in the region. SECHA will endeavor to work with the region's municipalities to enable creation of both multi-family and single-family affordable housing stock.

After nearly two years of preparation, four public workshops, and numerous Regional Plan of Conservation and Development Steering Committee meetings, the draft 2007 Regional Plan of Conservation

and Development was posted on the SCCOG website during the spring of 2007, and presented at two public meetings in June and July. This process resulted in a final draft Plan which was forwarded to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for review, was again posted on the SCCOG website and was the subject of a public hearing on October 15, 2007. On October 17, 2007, the SCCOG board unanimously adopted the 2007 Regional Plan of Conservation and Development. Copies of this adopted Plan are anticipated to be distributed to member municipalities and to OPM prior to the end of the year. The adopted Plan is now available for viewing on the SCCOG website at www.seccog.org. This Plan replaces the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development adopted in 1997.

SCCOG continued its emergency management planning efforts during the year with notice that a grant of \$111,070 in FY 2006 Homeland Security funds had been approved for eight municipalities and one tribal nation that had elected to submit a regional application. These funds will be used for a three-part work program which includes an emergency management training exercise for chief elected officials held at the Mashantucket Pequot Safety Center in December. The other two projects include an interoperable radio project for the region, and the purchase of equipment and traffic control items to be used by the nine governments in an emergency.

SCCOG has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with NECCOG and WINCOG for division of funding and work required of the DEMHS Region 4 COGs under a FY 2007 Homeland Security grant. A DEMHS Region 4 Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) has been formed, which will determine how FY 2007 funds, expected to be at least \$850,000 in Region 4, will be distributed for emergency planning projects in eastern Connecticut. In October, Thomas Sparkman, First Selectman of Lisbon, was elected REPT chairman.

To grow its economy and to serve its residents in the future, the region must find ways to deal effectively with the challenge of assuring an adequate supply of potable water. Toward this goal, SCCOG's Regional Water Committee completed in 2007 a report examining several aspects of the issue. The Committee has been negotiating with the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA) during the year on a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations that will set forth mutual areas of cooperation and shared governance.

The Council's Regional Planning Commission Reference Committee reviewed 96 referrals (through November 19th) for member municipalities during the year.

OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES:

SCCOG continued to participate in the activities of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board

(ECWIB). This board, covering 43 towns in eastern Connecticut, oversees a network of workforce related programs and agencies using federal and state funds. The ECWIB is governed by a 35-member Board of Directors appointed by member towns' chief elected officials.

SCCOG worked closely throughout 2007 with the region's legislative delegation. The funding of regional transportation projects and municipal property tax relief were two of the most important issues discussed.

SCCOG members and staff participated actively on the boards and commissions of the region's key economic development organizations including seCTer, the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board, and the Eastern CT Convention and Visitors Bureau. These inter-agency links are critical to developing a consistent regional position on major economic development issues and programs.

In November, at the request of the Town of Waterford, SCCOG staff began work on a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) consolidation study which will examine the feasibility and actions required to consolidate the PSAPs in East Lyme, Montville, New London and Waterford at the Town of Waterford's emergency dispatch center.

At its meeting in November, SCCOG voted to create a Regional Film Commission. The mission of this Commission will be to increase the number of film projects in the region, help to build on the strong base of film production supporters to attract independent filmmakers, and to educate regional business on the potential economic impact of film production on the region.

In December, SCCOG submitted an application to the State for funds under the Regional Performance Incentive Program. SCCOG's application requests \$287,430 to develop and maintain for five years a web-based Regional Geographic Information System (GIS).

During the spring SCCOG members participated in several receptions hosted by Pfizer in an effort to recruit Pfizer employees from other Pfizer facilities looking to relocate.

In 2007, as recommended by an Energy Audit of the SCCOG office conducted by Norwich Public Utilities, the lighting system and HVAC units at the SCCOG office were replaced with energy-efficient equipment.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

In FY 2007, technical assistance to local land use commissions was provided under contract to Bozrah (2), Colchester, Franklin, Lisbon, North Stonington, Salem, and Sprague.

R P C M E M B E R S :

Bozrah:

Seymour Adelman

Colchester:

James Ford, Secretary
Stacey Brown

East Lyme:

Greg Ellis
Ashley Peterson Schinella

Franklin:

Peg Ayer
John McGuire, III

Griswold:

Martin McKinney
Robert Parrette

City of Groton:

David Rose
Hubert Poppe

Town of Groton:

Peter Roper
James Sherrard

Ledyard:

Mike Cherry
John Phetteplace

Lisbon:

John Dempsey, Jr.
Lawrence Alice

Montville:

Robert Baron, Chairman
Bart Ferrante, Jr.

New London:

Eleanor Butler

North Stonington:

Vilma Gregoropoulos
Elaine Boissevain

Norwich:

Arthur Sharron, Vice Chair
Richard Morell

Preston:

Thomas Fenton

Salem:

Richard Dalkowski
David Bingham

Stonington:

Paul Holland

Stonington Borough:

Lissa vanDyke

Waterford:

Edwin Maguire
Thomas Ward

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 Council of Governments**

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 Norwich, CT 06360

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 www.seccog.org

SCCOG Staff:

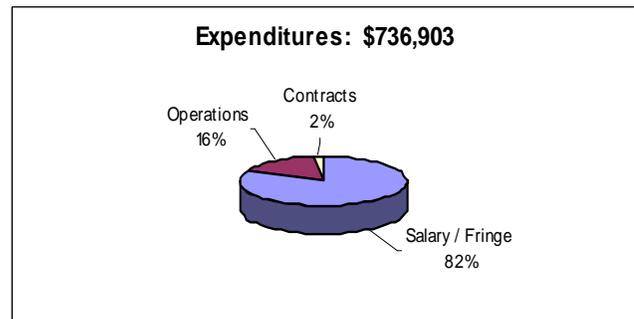
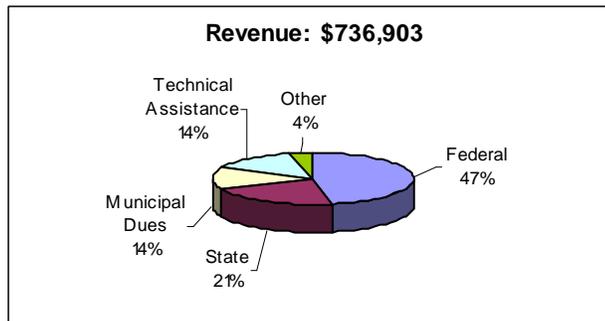
James S. Butler, AICP
 Executive Director
 Richard Guggenheim
 Assistant Director
 James Rabbitt, AICP
 Planner III
 Thomas Seidel
 Planner III
 Richard Serra
 Planner III
 Juliet Leeming
 Planner II
 Wendy Leclair
 Executive Secretary
 Claudia Tamayo
 GIS Coordinator
 Jane Dauphinais
 Director of SECHA

Financed with Grants from the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management and Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and with funds provided by member Municipalities of the SCCOG

FINANCING

During FY 2007, the Council operated its program with a combination of funds from a variety of sources. Member municipalities contributed toward the support of the Council at the per capita rate of \$0.50. The charts below summarize both revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year.

OPERATING BUDGET, 1 JULY 2006 — 30 JUNE 2007



Based on independent audit by Albert J. Rusilowicz, CPA. Copies of the FY 2007 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office.