

During the past year SCCOG hired two new staff members to fill positions vacated by staff members who retired and became half-time. In June, Ned Connell, joined the SCCOG staff as a Planner III/Project Manager, and Celeste Roeller began work at SCCOG as a Planner I.



Ned Connell & Celeste Roeller hired in June 2014.

Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

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SCCOG Staff:

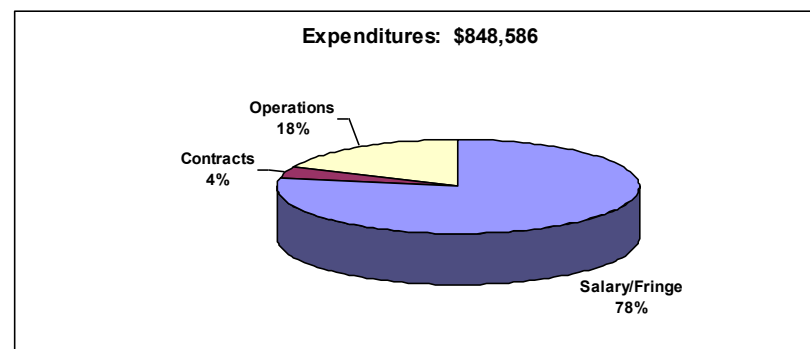
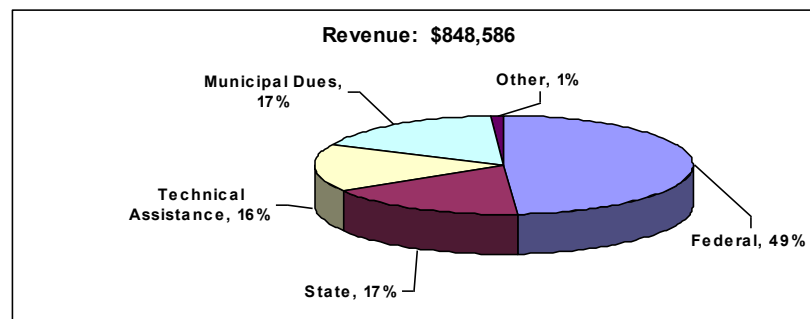
- James S. Butler, AICP
Executive Director
- Richard Guggenheim
Assistant Director
- James Rabbitt, AICP
Planner III
- Thomas Seidel
Planner III
- Richard Serra
Planner III
- Ned Connell
Planner III
- Celeste Roeller
Planner I
- Wendy Leclair
Executive Secretary
- Liz Crutcher
GIS Coordinator

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 2014, 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 \$0.55. The charts below summarize both revenues and expenditures during the fiscal year.

OPERATING BUDGET, 1 JULY 2013—30 JUNE 2014



Based on independent audit by Albert J. Rusilowicz, CPA. Copies of the FY 2014 Audit are available for review at the SCCOG office and at www.seccog.org.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



Member Municipalities:

- Bozrah
- Colchester
- East Lyme
- Franklin
- Griswold
- City of Groton
- Town of Groton
- Lebanon
- Ledyard
- Lisbon
- Montville
- New London
- North Stonington
- Norwich
- Preston
- Salem
- Sprague
- Stonington
- Bor. of Stonington
- Waterford
- Windham

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 2014 and provides financial information on the fiscal year ending 30 June 2014.

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-one 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 U.S. 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. Currently, a staff of nine supports the work of the Council, its committees, and the Planning Commission. In December, 2014, the staff consisted of an executive director, an assistant director, five planners, an executive secretary, and a GIS coordinator.

During this past year, the membership of the Council changed as the result of State legislation that consolidated regions. The towns of Windham and Lebanon joined SCCOG, and Voluntown left to become a member of the Northeastern CT Council of Governments.

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 Federal Transportation Act entitled, Moving Ahead For Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). In 2012, SCCOG was designated as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) due to a 2010 Census figure for the urbanized area of more than 250,000 population in the region which included a portion of Westerly, Rhode Island.

portation Plan addresses a variety of issues required by Federal law, as well as previously identified needs such as Route 11, I-95, and regional transit improvements. In 2014, SCCOG worked toward Plan implementation.

In 2014, SCCOG approved 17 amendments and 26 actions to the FY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the region. In addition, the agency participated with the CONNDOT in the preparation of a new three year STIP/TIP for the federal fiscal years covering 2015 through 2018.

SCCOG adopted the FY 2011-2040 Regional Transportation Plan in April, 2011. The Regional Trans-

SCCOG MEMBERS:

Bozrah:
William Ballinger, Vice Chairman

Colchester:
Stan Soby

East Lyme:
Paul Formica
Mark Nickerson (Alt)

Franklin:
Richard Matters

Griswold:
Kevin Skulczyck

City of Groton:
Marian Galbraith, Treasurer

Town of Groton:
Rita Schmidt
Mark Oefinger (Alt)

Lebanon:
Joyce Okonuk

Ledyard:
John Rodolico

Lisbon:
Thomas Sparkman

Montville:
Ron McDaniel, Secretary

New London:
Daryl Finizio

North Stonington:
Nicholas Mullane

Norwich:
Debery Hinchey
Alan Bergren (Alt)

Preston:
Robert Congdon

Salem:
Kevin Lyden, Chairman

Sprague:
Catherine Osten
Denise Dembinski (Alt)

Stonington:
Ed Haberek, Jr.

Borough of Stonington:
Jeffrey Callahan
Michael Blair (Alt)

Waterford:
Daniel Steward

Windham:
Ernie Eldridge
Neal Beets (Alt)

AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

Mashantucket Pequot Tribe:
Rodney Butler, Chairman
William Satti (Alt)

Mohegan Tribe:
Kevin Brown, Chairman
Chuck Bunnell (Alt)

U.S. Naval Submarine Base
CAPT Carl Lahti
Robert Yust, P.E. (Alt)

U.S. Coast Guard Academy
RADM Sandra Stosz
LTCDR Brooke Millard (Alt)

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

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 bike-pedway/greenway which is integral to the Route 11 project. The Commission met once during the past year due to the Commission's change in focus toward assisting the State in moving forward with completing the Environmental Impact Study, including developing a financial and environmental mitigation plan.

Council staff provides continuing planning support to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) District and to the Eastern Connecticut Transportation Consortium (ECTC). In 2014, SCCOG applied to CTDOT for use of \$250,000 in STP-U funds to conduct a Comprehensive Operational Analysis (COA) of the SEAT system. The consulting firm of Nelson-Nygaard was selected by a committee of SEAT, CTDOT, and SCCOG representatives to conduct this study. The COA is expected to be completed in the summer of 2015.

Council staff continued to assist the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) 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 the 12-month period from October, 2013 through September, 2014, the Department of Social Services (DSS) supported a total of 284,448 trips by this system. A major reduction in DSS funded trips during the 2014 explains the reduction, down from 530,464 trips the previous year. However, with a shift in funding from CONNDOT to SEAT, this population was able to benefit from an expansion of the fixed route SEAT system.

Staff continues to work on a Locally Coordinated Health and Social Services Plan (LOCHSTP) which brings together the JARC, 5310, and New Freedom's Federal Transportation Programs.

During this calendar year, SCCOG staff has been continuing to work with the Norwich Clean Cities Coalition on acquiring new clean fuel vehicles and the establishment of CNG fueling stations in the region. Funding for a new fueling station the region was supported by the federal CMAQ program.

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 2014, SCCOG continued the development of a web-based GIS for the region.

In 2013, the Connecticut General Assembly adopted legislation creating a new funding program for transportation improvements that will largely re-

place the federal STP-U program for MPOs such as SCCOG. The program, called "LOTICIP" (Local Transportation Capital Improvements Program) will provide regions with non-federal funds for local transportation infrastructure improvements and shift responsibility for the management of funds and the projects undertaken to MPOs and municipalities. Since the source of funds is the State and the administrative requirements are less than those of the federal STP-U program, the schedule by which these projects are approved, engineered, and constructed can be accelerated. To date, SCCOG has undertaken two new transportation projects utilizing funds provided under the LOTICIP program. These projects include improvements to Connecticut Avenue in the Norwich Business Park as well as improvements to Thames Street in the City of Groton. A second solicitation for LOTICIP projects will be made to all SCCOG municipalities in late 2014.

SCCOG annually conducts a solicitation for projects federally funded under the Local Road Accident Reduction Program. This funding source allows municipalities to correct structural deficiencies on local roads not on the federal aid system where a link can be demonstrated between the deficiency and recorded accidents.

During the year just ended, SCCOG staff addressed an array of issues associated with Title VI of The Civil Rights Act of 1964. As a recipient of federal funds, SCCOG must comply with regulations and requirements that enable low income, minority and people with limited English speaking and reading abilities to have equal access to the planning and decision-making process undertaken by SCCOG. As the demographics of the region change due to the immigration of people seeking employment opportunity, it is incumbent on the SCCOG to reach out to all citizens to make the program accessible, especially to those with limited English capability. SCCOG's Title VI Program has been approved by both the SCCOG and CTDOT, and has been made accessible to the public.

This past summer, SCCOG staff began assisting the City of New London in analyzing and making recommendations for traffic circulation and parking, in anticipation of the future location of the National Coast Guard Museum in the downtown.

In 2014, SCCOG, on behalf of CTDOT, did solicit and prioritize applications under the Section 5310 program, which will result in funding for the purchase of new elderly and disabled vans by Griswold, New London, UCFS, and ECTC.

The SCCOG, on behalf of the Thames Maritime Heritage Park Committee, served as a fiduciary for donated funds and procured a boat and operator of a water taxi that ran between Groton and New London on the Thames River for two weekends in September.

REGIONAL PLANNING:

Staff continued work with its consultant to prepare an on-line property survey index using a \$436,400 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant from OPM.

The Southeastern CT Housing Alliance (SECHA), formed in 2006, and pursuant to an MOA entered into by both agencies, functions as a committee of the SCCOG. Until December 2012, the SCCOG employed a staff member who served as Director of SECHA. When the former Director resigned to take a new position, the SECHA Board decided to not fill the position due to funding constraints and SCCOG staff now fills that role. SECHA highlights in 2014 included: a forum with a panel discussion on the State's affordable housing laws held in June; and a bus tour of affordable housing projects in the region held in November.

SCCOG continued its emergency management planning efforts during the year as a participant in the DEMHS Region 4 emergency management process. With the dissolution of WINCOG on June 30, 2014, SCCOG assumed the role of fiduciary for this program, which serves the 42 municipalities and 2 Tribal Nations in the DEMHS 4 region. The REPT is chaired by SCCOG member and Lisbon First Selectman Thomas Sparkman.

During the year, SCCOG's Regional Water Committee, including participation from the region's three major municipal water utilities, and the Mohegan Tribal Utility continued work on its Regional Water Plan. One of the keys to this plan is the East Lyme-New London regional water project, which SCCOG has endorsed, and for which construction was completed this year. This past year, a consultant to SCCOG finalized an emergency response plan and permit applications needed to implement the regional water supply response plan.

The SCCOG formed a Regional Human Services Coordinating Council (RHSCC) in 2011, the first of its kind in Connecticut. The Council, which functions as a special committee of the SCCOG, met quarterly during year. In 2014, the legislation which consolidated Councils of Governments from 15 down to 9, also required all COGs to form RHSCCs, and to add representation from State human service agencies. The SCCOG invited representation from these nine agencies this past summer. The Council is co-chaired by TVCCA Executive Director Deborah Monahan and Chuck Seeman, President of UCFS.

During the year, the SCCOG hosted a number of guest speakers at its monthly meetings including U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney, CT DOH Commissioner Evonne Klein, CT DPH Commissioner Jewell Mullen, and RADM Ricky Williamson, Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic; the SCCOG also held one monthly meeting at the U.S.S. Nautilus Museum followed by a tour of the SUBASE, and at Dominion's Millstone Nuclear Power Plant, which the COG members toured after the meeting.

In 2014, SCCOG was awarded a \$43,400 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant to connect to the Nutmeg Network; SCCOG contracted with Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) to provide this service and the connection was made in November.

In the fall of 2015, SCCOG was informed by OPM that it had been awarded a 2013 Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant to conduct a study of possible shared municipal services. It is expected that work on this study will commence in the summer of 2015.

At the end of 2014, the SCCOG explored the provision of regional code enforcement services to six interested municipal members, and sought and received a legal opinion that the SCCOG could provide such a service under its enabling statutes.

SCCOG staff reviewed 43 legislatively required referrals in 2014 for member municipalities during the year.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:

In FY 2014-2015, technical assistance to local land use commissions is being provided under contract to Bozrah (2), Franklin, Lisbon, Sprague, and Salem. GIS assistance is being provided to Franklin and Griswold.

OTHER SCCOG ACTIVITIES:

During 2014, SCCOG, in conjunction with the UCONN CLEAR Land Use Academy Program conducted two education training sessions which were presented at the SCCOG offices in Norwich for members of municipal land use commissions. The first session held in March focused on legal responsibilities of land use commissions, and the second held in April dealt with the basic elements of reading plans.

SCCOG continued to participate in the activities of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB). The EWIB is governed by a 35-member Board of Directors appointed by member towns' chief elected officials and oversees a network of workforce related programs and agencies. SCCOG representatives to the council that governs EWIB activities are Stonington First Selectman Ed Haberek, Franklin First Selectman Rich Matters, and Lisbon First Selectman Tom Sparkman.

SCCOG members and the Executive Director serve on the Board of Directors of the Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer). This past November, seCTer and the SCCOG approved of a CEDs Status Report which must be submitted to EDA annually.

RPC MEMBERS:

Bozrah:
Seymour Adelman

Colchester:
James Ford
Stacey Brown

East Lyme:
Brian Schuch, Secretary
Luane Lange

Franklin:
Peg Ayer

Griswold:
Martin McKinney

City of Groton:
David Rose

Town of Groton:
James Sherrard
Jeffrey Pritchard

Ledyard:
Mike Cherry, Vice Chair

Lisbon:
Ronald Giroux
Ryan Donaldson

Montville:
Bart Ferrante, Jr.

New London:
Barry Levine
Timothy Ryan

North Stonington:
Elaine Boissevain

Norwich:
Arthur Sharron, Chair
Richard Morell

Preston:
Art Moran, Jr.
Fran Coviello

Salem:
Rich Amato

Stonington Borough:
David Atkinson

Waterford:
Dana Award