



MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and Central Naugatuck Valley MPO March 22, 2024

I. Commencement of Meeting

Chairman Pete Hess called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called.

NVCOG CEOs/Reps:

In person: Jeff Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol; Andrew Martelli, Alternate, Cheshire; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Paul Pernerewski, Mayor, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott.

Remote: David Cassetti, Mayor, Ansonia; Michael Krenesky, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour; Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury.

Guests: Jane Dunbar, CT DOT; Ellen Graham (Sen. Blumenthal), John Wardzala, The Kennedy Collective; Tommy Hyde, NVDC; Barbara Kolesky (CT Transit).

NVCOG Staff: Drew Baklik, Trish Bauer, Desira Blanchard, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Heidy Coronel, Richard Crowther, Christian Damiana, Jack DeOliveira, Richard Donovan, Thomas Dougherty, Rick Dunne, Kevin Ellis, Molly Johnson, Tayo Olaleye, Christine O'Neill, Steven Perry, Phoebe Ploof, Glenda Prentiss, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Karen Svez, Michael Szpryngel.

II. Public Comment

There were no members of the public that wished to speak.

III. CNVMPO Meeting

1. **Adoption of CNVMPO Resolution 2024-07 - TIP Amendments – Projects 0174-0467 and 0170-3733**

Kevin Ellis reported, Project 0174-0467 is the repair of various bridges in District 4. The total cost is \$9 million - \$7.2 is the federal share and \$1.8 is the state.

Project 0170-3733 is the NVCOG Municipal ADA Program. Rich Donovan explained, the DOT conducted a statewide survey on the state of ADA Transition Plans in each town. The plans identify barriers to mobility and buildings for people with disabilities and each town's plan to address those barriers. Many of the respondents requested additional resources to assist in preparing their plan. In response, the DOT is hiring a consultant to work with each town to update or develop these plans. The NVCOG region will be the first to receive this assistance. We highly recommend every town participate in this free resource from the DOT. We anticipate the final product will be both a practical and useful document, as well as meeting the requirement that the town maintains the

plan. The Department is in the process of putting the RFQ together. By adding it to the TIP it authorizes the release of federal funds to pay for the project. We hope to have more information for you over the summer.

Jeff Caggiano MOVED to adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2024-07 – Amendments to the FFY2021-2024 TIP; SECONDED by Joe Kilduff. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2025-2028 TIP and Air Quality Conformity Presentation

Rich Donovan explained, we are in the process of developing the new 2025-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the associated statewide STIP (Statewide Transportation Improvement Program).

The first piece is determining air quality conformity. An air quality conformity determination was released and adopted last year. The new TIP looks at the four-year period and requires a new air quality conformity determination. The new report shows a steady decline in the release of both the components that lead to ground level ozone, and in 2.5 or smaller particulate matter. We will vote to endorse the air quality conformity determination at the next meeting.

3. Air Quality Public Comment

Today we are providing an opportunity for public engagement and to share additional information, in conformance with the TIP and STIP development process and their alignment with Federal Title XI and the NVCOGs public participation process.

Pete Hess opened the public comment portion for Air Quality. There being no requests received to make public comment, he declared the public comment portion closed.

4. 2025-2028 TIP Public Comment

Rich Donovan recapped the development of the new TIP and its importance to the region. This full, new, four-year TIP is one of the ways the MPO is empowered to control the spending of federal money within our area. This document must be fiscally constrained to only the federal funds that are available and all projects that use any federal funding must be included within the TIP. The new TIP and STIP go into effect on October 1st.

We now have a full draft of both the TIP and the STIP and are in the public engagement period. All relevant documents can be viewed on a project page on the NVCOG website. If you click on the 2025-2028 TIP and related documents, you'll see not only the CNVMPOs TIP, but the Statewide TIP, related bridge and safety reports, and the air quality conformity determination. The public can also provide comments on this page. Any comments will be provided to the Board prior to action on the TIP at the next MPO meeting.

EcoInteractive provides a much more interactive way for people to be able to see what these projects are, what the finances look like, as well as to provide comment. Anyone who visits the

projects on the EcoInteractive page – www.nvcog.ecointeractive.com – will see in the top right corner an “add comment” button. Any comment added there is sent directly to our staff.

Rick Dunne encouraged the CEOs to have their lead transportation person log onto the EcoInteractive site and look at the projects that are on the schedule for each community.

Pete Hess opened the public comment portion for the 2025-2028 Draft TIP. There being no requests received to make public comment, he declared the public comment portion closed.

IV. Minutes for Approval

Mark Laretti MOVED to approve the 02-16-2024 CNVMPO/NVCOG meeting minutes; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Financial Report

Mike Szpryngel reviewed the report for the period ending February 29th. We are 8 months through the fiscal year and our net position is just under \$117,000. Our cash balance is \$837,000 and general fund balance of \$1,037,000. There haven't been any unanticipated funding cuts or expenses. We are anticipating the potential for a 1 percent reduction in our UPWP pending the decisions in Congress today. If it does go through it will impact the 2026-27 UPWP cycle.

Tom Dunn MOVED to accept the financial report for the period ending February 29, 2024; SECONDED by George Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Director's Report

1. Kinneytown Dam

Rick Dunne reported, I've heard from many of you about this. I first want to apologize to any of the CEOs and to my Staff that may have gotten any blowback on this. We're a good agency; we choose to be optimists here. This project has presented some challenges – not unexpected, but some were surprising.

Big plan – we are acquiring the Kinneytown Dam on behalf of the Connecticut Brownfields Land Bank. They will possess it. We're spending the money to assess it and design the restoration of the river.

As we were going through our due diligence, last August Aaron discovered that what was listed on all records as a 60-foot concrete spillway in Ansonia was actually a 3,000-foot berm made of sand. I'm not an engineer, but it's like a paper bag filled with water – it's probably not going to leak in the short-term - but when it goes, it's going to go. I'm not comfortable, the attorneys are not comfortable, in letting the Land Bank take on that kind of liability. We take on environmental liability every day, but we don't take on risk to human life. The situation there is clear from the engineering report.

I made statements that said the state had emergency powers to deal with this – that's not quite the way the state sees it. We don't agree on the reading of the Statute. They have to go

through a process if the owner doesn't perform. My understanding is that the State is in touch with the owner and working on remedial activities. We think, according to our engineers, that lowering the water level in Coe Pond will mitigate the problem in the short term and then we can move forward with our acquisition and our project.

In August when Aaron made that discovery, we convened meetings with all the relevant agencies. They all sent people and went to the site. CTDOT in fact filed comments with FERC back in October concerning Metro North and the risk of imminent danger. It's a 40-acre pond, 15 feet deep. Down below it, below the sand wall (that holds back the pond), are the Metro North Railroad tracks. Below the railroad tracks is the main channel of the river.

On the Friday before we released everything to the 19 of you, we sent it to all of our State and Federal partners and let everyone know what was going to be released on Monday publicly so that everyone had a chance to digest that and ask questions. Everyone has a copy of it – it's on our website. Aaron has put everything together.

I have a high degree of confidence that this project will go through and we'll be able to complete it. I'm sure DEEP is working very diligently to get the owner to perform. We found out that the federal government really doesn't have any police powers, even though it's a federally regulated facility. They can't enter the site; they can't take action.

We'll get through this and figure it out. The good news is that our partners at Save the Sound are out for design engineers for the main project. We've already selected and are in negotiations with the design engineer to replace a sewer siphon across the river for the Town of Seymour before we can take down the dam.

We had a field walk yesterday with about 10 firms looking at the project. We felt better about having released the report based upon what a bunch of engineers traipsing over the site thought.

Bob Chatfield asked if it was there in 1955. Rick replied, the portion we're talking about was not impacted in '55. The dam in the main river channel partially collapsed in '55. This is a pond fed by a diversion canal from behind the dam. It was built between 1842 and 1845 by American Brass. It's a pile of sand, slag, and brick.

Pete Hess encouraged everyone to look at the pictures in the report with trees growing right out of the sides of it. It's logical and the engineering report makes a lot of sense to release some of the water from up above – there's a plan to do it – and that will eliminate the risk. I think the engineers did a fantastic job in the report and I encourage everyone to read it. I would say you don't have to be an engineer to understand it – it's pretty simple.

Rick Dunne continued, if you go out there and walk up on the berm, your feet sink in 4-6 inches.

George Temple asked, ultimately we're going to take these dams down – there are two of them – why are we going to put money in to correct a weakness in the dam when in fact we're going to take the dam down anyway? Rick Dunne replied, we're not putting any money into this repair. The owner has the obligation to mitigate the risk before we can close. FERC has ordered him to do it. If he fails to perform, we can't close. The police power lies with the State.

The State has an obligation to go after the owner to perform first, which I believe they are doing in conjunction with the FERC. We can't spend any of the money that we have for these remedial activities. We won't close if this risk remains in place.

Rick Dunne continued, there are neighborhoods in Ansonia that abut Coe Pond. We will have community opposition. There are people that live at the northern end who have a very nice view from their houses – it looks like a placid pond. The people at the southern end have what's basically the back end of a sewer. It's the back end of a canal that doesn't flow, filled with garbage and mosquitoes. It's not fair to those people.

It's a balance of interests here – the plan will open up access to the river and all of whatever water features or water courses are redesigned into this that will be more natural – we don't know any of that at this point. The community will get access, legal access to the river. I know that in Ansonia there has been a lot of concern, and rightfully so, as this particular issue is in Ansonia.

As to the overall project, there are specific river and environmental interest groups that have been trying to deal with the lack of fish passage and other issues for years. The CEOs of the communities that are directly impacted by the Naugatuck River hold it as a high priority to open it up. Environmentally, it will restore 22 miles of main river and an additional 48 miles of tributaries for spawning grounds for the Atlantic Fishery. We got involved when the money became available to remove barriers to fish passage, through the Commerce Department, and NOAA. We're doing this with a plan. The agreement to purchase the asset does not involve NVCOG, but the Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank.

(NOTE: See additional comments under Item: "Other – Kinneytown Dam" on Page 13 at the end of these minutes)

2. By-Laws and Personnel Policy Revisions

As a result of the last Executive Board meeting – we have some By-Laws revisions and Personnel Policy changes to deal with. I will be drafting new language to present to the Executive Board and eventually to the full Board for adoption in May or June.

3. Naugatuck Valley Waste Committee

Pete Hess stated, in the past we've had an NVCOG Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling workshop and group. They last met in 2021. We want to restructure and reactivate it, set up a group and start meeting to talk about the big issues. The majority of the members present expressed interest in this committee.

Rick Dunne stated when Commissioner Dykes was here she announced that we are receiving a Regional Waste Authority Grant. Whether we form a Regional Waste Authority is something the Board will decide in the future. This Committee would be a jumpstart to getting to that. We are prepared to staff it – Environmental Planning would be in charge and Christine would probably be the program lead on this. Members should expect an invite to the first meeting – meetings will be held separately from the full Board meetings.

VII. Transportation Planning

1. Safe Streets for All

Rich Donovan announced the Safe Streets and Roads for All discretionary grant program is currently open. We applied and received a planning grant to update the Regional Safety Action Plan and Vision Zero Action Plan. Because these meet the requirements of the federal government, it allows applicants to apply for planning or implementation funding in this current round with a really significant portion of this to go into planning. There are three filing deadlines for Planning grants – one is nearly upon us, the second is in mid-May and the third is in late August. Contact us for assistance in applying.

If applying for implementation which is much more competitive, contact us as soon as possible. About one in five applications have been awarded in the past two years. This is round three of five rounds. Implementation applications have to be submitted by May 16th. April 25th is the date CONDOT would like to receive information about those projects if you want support or feedback from the Department.

2. CTDOT Microgrants

Tayo Olaleye explained the Active Transportation Microgrant Program from CONDOT. The program seeks to make funds available to put in infrastructure, training, or anything encouraging active transportation. Eligible entities include schools, school districts, municipalities and 501c3 non-profits. Activities eligible include the purchase of bicycle helmets and locks, bicycle maintenance training and materials, bicycle fleets including adaptive bikes, sponsoring of league cycling instructors training, sponsoring of program, events and materials for bicycles and pedestrian safety, as well as the purchase of safety vests. The Program has \$500,000 in funding. Applications are being received through open solicitation. CONDOT plans to disburse through the COGS to the recipients every quarter. The maximum award to any entity is \$5,000. Please encourage your eligible entities to apply for these funds. Applications are being received by Richard Donovan. Reach out if you need help.

3. Transportation Alternatives Solicitation

Rich Donovan explained that there is more money available. The Transportation Alternatives set aside must be used for active transportation items. This is for construction and maintenance of multi-use trails. Application materials will be sent out this week according to which urban area your town falls within. If you have project ideas, we would like to talk about them. We will be ranking these projects amongst the individual urban areas.

VIII. Municipal Services

1. Legislative Update

Drew Baklik highlighted the following bills:

SB191 – food scraps diversion. It passed out of the Environment Committee and was pushed forward. Opponents like the bill overall but are not in favor of municipal mandates of separation by 2028. They feel the timeline is aggressive. We are way ahead of the curve as a COG and DEEP may be looking for input from us.

HB5226 - EPR batteries. This has been pushed out of Committee and looks like it has legs – it will make the EPR batteries mandatory in 2026. Part of that is that they have exempted car batteries from that.

In the Labor Committee – SB328 An Act concerning permanent partial disability benefits and pension offsets. This bill is designed to prohibit municipal or special taxing district pension systems from diminishing or eliminating certain retirement rights and benefits due to the receipt of permanent or partial disability benefits. Opponents argue that it undercuts local collective bargaining for both municipalities and unions.

SB332 – Portal-to-portal coverage for Public Works Department employees. This would mandate insurance coverage for State and municipal Public Works employees. The bill has traction but will likely see some amended language that will limit it to employees who are actually called in to work for an emergency. As of right now, it would extend coverage to anyone who was even on call.

The Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee General Obligation Bonding Subcommittee met on Monday, and there is bipartisan support expected for the Bonding Bill, as was the case last session.

DECD, the Capitol Region Development Authority, the Department of Labor, DEEP and others made presentations to the Committee this week and notably, DECD discussed that Brownfields remediation is on track to use the full \$35 million allotment that they got.

The Community Investment Fund – only 15 percent of the applications through CIP were either fully or partially funded. DECD is asking that they take the Small Business Loan Program out from under that umbrella.

On Wednesday the Environment Committee met and put about two dozen bills on the consent calendar, so there's a lot of agreement on things coming out of Environment. There were a few bills that were healthily debated. One to keep an eye on from the municipal standpoint is SB294 which strengthens the language around existing statute which requires municipalities to designate alternate open space when they use existing open space for development or any other purpose.

Yesterday the Labor and Public Employees Committee met and discussed three separate bills that addressed paid sick days - SB7, SB12, HB5005. One came from the House, one from the Senate and another from the Governor. They all call for mandatory paid sick days in one way or another.

Municipal service is discussing this today, which is relevant because just this week NVCOG was retained by the Town of Oxford to write and assist with the up-front work required for the State-mandated affordable housing plan. If you need help with this or any other plans such as the Plan of Conservation and Development, don't hesitate to reach out to me or anybody from SN's Community Planning Team.

In light of the new Legislation coming down the pike that will streamline certain processes in Economic Development, specifically Transit oriented development, I will be reaching out directly to your respective economic development directors and staff in the coming weeks. I already know most of them and already work with them to reintroduce myself in person and hear specific projects happening in your town. We are happy to supply staff to sit on committees, if you're trying to vet developers or specific development projects. We would love to be able to pass along relevant grant information directly to your staff.

Between COST, CCM, CT Main Street and the various area Chambers of Commerce, there's a lot of resources within the State. As a COG, we're uniquely positioned to make sure your staff is provided with all that information.

Rick Dunne asked that Drew and/or Jack get a hotlist of bills out to the CEOs as things change.

2. Emergency Management Update

John Field's CT DEMHS COG Report was in today's meeting packet.

Drew thanked Tom Eighmie from Seymour who retired after many years of service to the Emergency Management community. Spring has been a very busy time for Statewide Emergency Management. On April 23rd there is a CCM-sponsored Statewide Emergency Management event in Niantic which will include practical breakout sessions. On Thursday, April 25th there will be a migrant exercise – details to follow.

IX. Community Planning

Rick Dunne shared Savannah-Nicole's St. Patrick's Day greeting with the Board.

Christine O'Neill explained that the reason SN couldn't be here today is because she has been selected to receive the Rising Star Planner Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planners Association for her outstanding early career accomplishments and contributions to the planning profession.

She continued, Aaron Budris will also be honored with the CCAPA Media Award in recognition of his Kinneytown Dam story map as an engaging and important resource to explain this complicated project. These two NVCOG Directors have received statewide recognition for their hard work, once again putting the Naugatuck Valley on the map as a leader among COGs.

1. Regional Housing Needs Assessment

Pheobe Ploof reported that NVCOG recently began work on our first Regional Housing Needs Assessment. This is a housing analysis intended to help planners, CEOs, land use commissions and interested organizations better understand our region's housing needs. It will include information on housing stock availability, cost burden residents, and housing needs accessibility for those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in our region,

We use State and Federal data sources to better understand our region's housing stock and how residents are managing in our market. Our Regional Housing Needs Assessment can help our municipalities to plan for better housing production and affordable housing implementation by identifying gaps in affordability and availability for certain income levels. Municipalities can better understand housing preservation in our region through our analysis of affordable protections such as set aside agreements on deed restrictions. Housing preservation information will also provide data about the physical condition of our aging housing stock and the costs that might be affiliated with preservation and adaptive reuse of these structures.

Finally, the NVCOG Regional Housing Needs Assessment can help our member municipalities to understand the need for deeply affordable units for the population of the homeless and housing-insecure. Those interested in seeing what a municipal assessment would look like can request an example that we can send to your offices. We have completed Housing Needs Assessments for Thomaston, Naugatuck and Watertown.

Rick Dunne explained that this is a needs assessment for housing - this is an assessment of need based on income as one matter, but we need more units to house a workforce in Connecticut. The State mandated that you need Affordable Housing Plans. We want to take a more regional approach – how many housing units does the Naugatuck Valley market need over some period.

The Board members discussed the exclusion of mobile home parks as affordable housing units because the land is not deed restricted. Pheobe explained that our assessment looks at income levels of the residents as well as the price of units, so it will include things like naturally occurring affordable housing such as mobile homes and smaller units. This assessment doesn't focus only on 8-30g appeals affordable housing.

2. Accessibility Site Plan Lunch and Learn

Emely Ricci reported that NVCOG will host an Accessibility Site Plan Lunch & Learn from 10 am to 12:30 pm Friday, April 5, here at NVCOG. The event is tailored for planners and engineers with Bill Volker speaking on how to incorporate accessibility in the site plan review. This event will be eligible for 1.5 CM credits from APA CT Chapter.

X. Environmental Planning

1. Brownfields Update

NVCOG has three active pending applications to EPA. The first one is a \$500,000 assessment application. The second one is a \$5 million supplemental RLF application – and RLF funding can be used for cleaning up sites. The third one involves EPA strongly encouraging NVCOG to apply to be a Revolving Loan Fund Technical Assistance Provider. We hope to hear back from EPA on all three of those applications in late spring. As soon as we know, we'll share the news with everyone.

The meeting packet contains an updated list of all of the Brownfields projects we're currently working on.

Rick Dunne explained, if we're offered the Technical Assistance Grant from EPA, we filed it as a Coalition Grant between us and the Brownfields Land Bank. We will be providing technical assistance to RLF recipients around the country for EPA. We will be their technical assistance provider to the national program. We feel like we can handle it, particularly working with the Land Bank as the implementing agency for this. I want to make sure the Board understands it. If we're offered it, we will talk about it again before we accept it to make sure everyone's comfortable with that. We know more about the program, and how to successfully run it. We were asked to present at the national conference, and we had over 300 people show up for our session. I want to make sure the Board is comfortable with us taking on that role.

2. Revolving Loan Fund – Chair's appointments to fill Vacancies

Mayor Hess announced the appointments of Jeff Caggiano and Paul Pernerewski to Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

3. CT DEEP Climate Resilience Fund

Aaron Budris reported that in November 2022 we applied for a new DEEP program called the Climate Resilience Fund for a project to advance culvert and drainage projects in nine of our communities. The project would develop preliminary engineering plans for flood resilience projects that were previously identified by municipalities and also provide grant writing assistance to help pursue implementation funding from various sources. At the time we worked with municipal officials and staff to identify and include projects in Ansonia, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, Thomaston, Waterbury, and Wolcott. Last summer we were awarded \$689,181 for the project. We're now nearing the end of the DEEP contracting process. I'm asking the Board to adopt Resolution 2024-14 to authorizing NVCOG to enter into an agreement with DEEP to receive the grant funds and to authorize Rick Dunne to execute and deliver documents necessary to carry out the terms of that agreement.

George Temple MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2024-14, to accept funds from CT DEEP for regional flood resilience projects under the Climate Resilience Fund; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Christine O'Neill reported that Naugatuck Valley municipalities are split among four planning areas for the purpose of this program. All four have submitted their priority climate action plans to the EPA earlier this month. State, regional and local government entities are eligible to apply for over \$4 billion in implementation funding from the EPA. The grants are extremely competitive. The CT COGs have formed a coalition and plan to submit applications on two separate projects.

The first project is called Solar Energy on Affordable Housing Properties and involves removing aging roofs to solar adoption for housing authority properties. The second is Climate Friendly Local Regulations and Processes. Expert consultants will provide technical assistance to interested municipal staff and commissions wishing to incorporate climate friendly practices into zoning regulations, ordinances and administrative processes. We recommend that the Board adopt both resolutions.

Tom Dunn MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolutions 2024-15 and 2024-16, to support two Climate Pollution Reduction Grant implementation applications, as part of a multi-COG coalition; SECONDED by Paul Pernerewski. Motion carried unanimously.

Household Hazardous Waste

Steven Perry reported that the next Household Hazardous Waste collection will take place from 8 am to 2 pm Saturday, April 27, 2024 at Ansonia's Public Works facility at One North Division Street. This will be followed by events in July and September.

This program allows 15 participating municipalities (Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, Derby, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Prospect, Seymour, Southbury, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott and Woodbury) to safely dispose of hazardous and toxic materials that could pose a danger to human health if they're not properly disposed of. We have on our website and all of our promotional materials a specific list of accepted and unaccepted materials. Each participating municipality is required to send one Public Works employee to help staff the event.

Composter & Rain Barrel Sale

Steven Perry reported that our annual Composter and Rain Barrel sales are up and running. Since 2001 the event has distributed 248 composters and 206 rain barrels. Residents can pre-order reduced-cost composters, rain barrels and related accessories online through Thursday, May 2 - [Composter and Rain Barrel Sale – NVCOG CT – Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments](#) Pick up will be held May 4th from 10 am to 1 pm at the Seymour Community Center. Thanks to First Selectwoman Drugonis and Seymour for hosting this event for the second time.

OTHER

***Kinneytown Dam**

Rick Dunne reported that he received a status update from CTDEEP during the meeting and wanted to add it to the record: CTDEEP, CTDOT, FERC and Metro North are collaborating on measures to ensure that the rail line is monitored and kept safe. DEEP and FERC are discussing the interim actions that could be conducted to remediate the immediate risk. DEEP anticipates there will be more of an update next week.

VIII. Adjournment

At approximately 11:20 a.m., Jeff Caggiano MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Joe Kilduff. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Bruder

Executive Administrative Clerk

Attachments:

CNVMPO Resolution 2024-07 – TIP Amendments

NVCOG Resolution 2024-14 – Climate Resilience

NVCOG Resolution 2024-15 – Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Solar

NVCOG Resolution 2024-16 – Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - Regs-Processes



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-735-8688

RESOLUTION 2024-07

**AMENDMENT
FFY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO**

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is authorized by the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)* and related US Department of Transportation regulations to prepare, endorse, and periodically amend a short-range Transportation Improvement Program for the 15-town MPO within the Waterbury Urbanized Area and is required to maintain a fiscally constrained program of priority projects; and

WHEREAS, the CNVMPO endorsed the *FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region (TIP)* at its October 9, 2020, meeting; and the US Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) have approved the *State FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is requesting amendment of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP as shown in the attached page; and

WHEREAS, the proposed projects do not necessitate a new Air Quality Conformity Determination; and

WHEREAS, the public notification and review of these amendments was consistent with and followed the procedures set forth in the MPO's public involvement guidelines, and the proposed amendments are consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Central Naugatuck Valley planning region;

BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO approves the amendment of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

This resolution shall become effective as of March 22, 2024.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on March 22, 2024, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.



N. Warren Hess, Chairman

March 22, 2024
Date

BLANDFORD • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESTER • MIDDLETOWN • NAUGATUCK • OXFORD • PLYMOUTH
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RESOLUTION 2024-14

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FROM CT DEEP'S CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUND

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) at its hybrid meeting on March 22, 2024, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, NVCOG's Multijurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies flooding as the most common impact of climate change in the region, given that "storms are becoming more intense, while aging infrastructure has not been [...] updated in a timely manner to reduce the rising flood risk."

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's (CT DEEP) solicited applications for climate resilience planning and design projects through their Climate Resilience Fund in 2022.

WHEREAS, the NVCOG municipalities of Ansonia, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, Thomaston, Waterbury, and Wolcott expressed interest in bundling together selected culvert and drainage improvement projects to receive funding through the grant.

WHEREAS, NVCOG staff applied to CT DEEP's Climate Resilience Fund grant program, proposing to hire a consulting firm that will study and design improvements to nine stormwater infrastructure projects throughout the region.

WHEREAS, CT DEEP selected NVCOG's application entitled "NVCOG Region Flood Resilience Project Development" to receive an award in the amount of \$689,181.00.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG Board may enter into with and deliver to CT DEEP any and all documents which it deems to be appropriate or necessary for a grant of \$689,181.00 for the "NVCOG Region Flood Resilience Project Development," **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Executive Director Rick Dunne is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the NVCOG Board and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on March 22, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed



N. Warren, Chairman



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

49 Larnethworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-755-8658 • nvcoag.gov

RESOLUTION 2024-15

**AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE U.S. EPA'S CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT,
TO FUND SOLAR ON PUBLIC HOUSING**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) at its hybrid meeting on March 22, 2024, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting applications for implementation proposals under its Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program.

WHEREAS, NVCOG is eligible to apply for the EPA's CPRG implementation grant under any of the four Priority Climate Action Plans that cover this region.

WHEREAS, a coalition of Councils of Government, led by the Capitol Region COG and including NVCOG, Northwest Hills COG, Connecticut Metropolitan COG, Western Connecticut COG, South Central Regional COG, and Lower Connecticut River Valley COG, intends to apply for implementation funding to lower barriers for solar energy on public housing projects.

WHEREAS, the implementation proposal would fund the removal of barriers like aging roofs or outdated electrical panels on housing authority and municipally owned affordable housing properties suitable for solar installations, to render these properties eligible for the Connecticut Green Bank's solar programs.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG Board authorizes Executive Director Rick Dunne to submit a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application for the proposal described above to the U.S. EPA, and to sign any documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on March 22, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed



N. Warren Hess, Chairman



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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RESOLUTION 2024-16

**AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE U.S. EPA'S CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT,
TO FUND CLIMATE-FRIENDLY REGULATIONS AND PROCESSES**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) at its hybrid meeting on March 22, 2024, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting applications for implementation proposals under its Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program.

WHEREAS, NVCOG is eligible to apply for the EPA's CPRG implementation grant under any of the four Priority Climate Action Plans that cover this region.

WHEREAS, a coalition of Councils of Government, led by the Western Connecticut COG and including NVCOG, Northwest Hills COG, Connecticut Metropolitan COG, Capitol Region COG, South Central Regional COG, and Lower Connecticut River Valley COG, intends to apply for implementation funding to provide technical assistance to local governments to decarbonize local regulations and processes.

WHEREAS, the implementation proposal would fund the hiring of one or more contractors to work with municipal staff and commissions to provide intensive technical assistance to develop, adapt, and implement regulations and processes that yield low-emissions outcomes.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG Board authorizes Executive Director Rick Dunne to submit a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application for the proposal described above to the U.S. EPA, and to sign any documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on March 22, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed



N. Warren Hess, Chairman