



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

and

Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

Hybrid Meeting (with limited in-person attendance)

10 a.m., Friday, October 8, 2021

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia (virtual); Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem (virtual); Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, Bristol (virtual); Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby (in-person); Jim McGrath, Proxy, Naugatuck (virtual); George Temple, First Selectman, Kristyn Rosa, Proxy, Oxford (both virtual); Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect (virtual); Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston (virtual); Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury (virtual); Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown (virtual); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott (virtual); Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury (virtual).

Guests/Other: Linda Zukauskas, United Way of Greater Waterbury; Kristen Brown, Waste Zero; Chris Nelson; CT DEEP; John Field, DEMHS Region 5; Jennine Lupo, Office of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes; Sara Radacsi, CTDOT; Hedy Ayers, Eversource; Joe Violette, Greater Waterbury Chamber; Tom Hyde, Naugatuck Valley Regional Development Corporation; Lou Mangini, Office of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Aaron Budris, Joanna Rogalski, Lauren Rizzo, John DiCarlo, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Christine O'Neill, Richard Donovan, Savannah-Nicole Villalba, Kevin Ellis.

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a presentation about United Way's annual campaign by Linda Zukauskas of United Way of Greater Waterbury.

1. **Commencement of Meeting (Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment)**

Secretary Ed Mone called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. For public comment, Hedy Ayers of Eversource spoke about municipal points of contact being trained and registered on the municipal hub tool.

2. **CNVMPPO Meeting** (*Voting members for these items are limited to the 15 CEOs in the CNVMPO area*)

- a. *Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2022-01, Acceptance of CTDOT 2022 Safety Targets* – Rich Donovan explained the state safety targets, objectives, and performance measures. The CNVMPO will integrate these items into the planning process and provide a description of how the transportation improvement program will contribute to achieving these targets. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Jim McGrath, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve CNVMPO Resolution 2022-01, adopting the state-developed Safety Performance Measure Targets as the targets for the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO.

- b. *Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2022-02, Acceptance of TIP Amendments for Project 0171-0471, use of STPA Money for Signal Replacement throughout District 1* – Rich Donovan said CTDOT is requesting this new project be added to the CNVMPO 2021-24 TIP. The project will utilize funding from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program – Anywhere Funds to replace traffic signals at various locations in District 1. These signals will be replaced to ensure they comply with current safety and functionality standards. The project will utilize

100% federal funding. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Len Assard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2022-02 to amend the TIP to include Project No. 0171-0471.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the September 10, 2021 NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the September 10, 2021 NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 08/31/21* – Michael Szpryngel reported that NVCOG is 16.67% through the fiscal year with a net balance of \$191,000, and is on target for the current deficit spending, but NVCOG is working to minimize it. Mr. Szpryngel noted that although the agency has been billing to Regional Service Grant (RSG) funds, an award letter has yet to be signed and the spending plan was approved just this week. The current holdup on these funds is due to the Attorney General and OPM working to develop new contracting procedures, particularly negotiating set protocol. Once resolved and a signed award letter is received, NVCOG will be able to bill for the first two quarter payments. On a motion by Rich Dziekan, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the NVCOG financial reports and summaries as presented.

- c. *Director's Report*

- 2022 Legislative Agenda Discussion – Rick Dunne asked that anyone with priorities for the upcoming legislative session contact staff during October and November.
- RSG Funding Formula – Mr. Dunne said that in last year's negotiations and legislative activities, a new formula was agreed to which would have distributed more of the money that is already set aside for regional initiatives. The formula is disadvantageous to the NVCOG region and NVCOG is the only urban region that saw a reduction. This is part of the planned deficit NVCOG has for this year. Mr. Dunne plans to meet with legislators and request that the original language that was negotiated last year be fully implemented this year, so that the Waterbury region can be made whole. It is not equitable that the Waterbury region is receiving less funding while the other regions are receiving increased funding.

Mr. Dunne said the CDC expects that vaccines will be permitted for all ages by November. The anticipation is that NVCOG will alter its policy so that meetings can be largely in-person and without masks for those who are vaccinated.

Additionally, Mr. Dunne said a meeting of the Executive Committee (acting as the Audit Committee) will take place between now and December.

4. **Municipal Shared Services Update**

- a. *Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Review* – John DiCarlo said the Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling group has decided on a two-pronged approach to this crisis. One is to evaluate regional solutions to reduce waste streams and costs, and the other is statewide advocacy. He noted that DEEP is offering a grant program that makes \$5M available statewide on a first come, first served basis to operate pilot programs, reduce the waste stream via unit-based pricing, organics reduction, and other opportunities. Letters of interest from municipalities are strongly encouraged. NVCOG submitted a letter of interest in running a regional program. Mr. DiCarlo then introduced Kristen Brown of Waste Zero.

Ms. Brown held small group meetings with key officials in the NVCOG region to provide waste crisis briefings as well as information on best practice solutions. Better materials management is key. She spoke about projected waste shift and residential cost with unit based pricing and curbside food collection. She discussed the first co-collection pilot, funded through a DEEP grant, that will start in 1,000 homes in Meriden beginning in November.

Chris Nelson of DEEP noted that the current \$5M available for grants is the largest amount DEEP has ever had allocated to it.

- b. *Approval of Letter to CCM concerning Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling* – Mr. DiCarlo reviewed a draft letter addressed to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities urging escalation in its advocacy regarding the state's municipal and solid waste crisis. On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Rich Dziekan, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the letter to Joe Delong of CCM and authorize the Chairman to sign it.

5. **Emergency Management Update**

John Field of DEMHS said he has been receiving questions about the use of funds from the American Rescue Act. The DECD has taken on the role of answering these questions. The public assistance total on the COVID response is \$149M. DEMHS continues to work with municipalities to get reimbursements.

Mr. Field said Connecticut did not reach the threshold for assistance for Storm Henri. The threshold has been met for Storm Ida. FEMA will be reaching out to each municipality.

- a. *COVID-19 Response Update*
 - Long Term Recovery Update – Joanna Rogalski spoke about the FEMA Region 1 call for projects. NVCOG encourages all towns to submit projects. Staff is available for assistance. The state will prioritize projects and send them to FEMA. NVCOG will also be submitting region-wide projects.
- b. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski said the Region 5 steering committee meeting is October 18. The next CEO meeting will be November 15.
- c. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski encouraged those communities with CERTs to use the teams when they have COVID events. A statewide CERT training event will occur in the next fiscal year.

6. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *Regional Service Grant SFY 2021 Annual Report Submission to OPM* – Rick Dunne explained that this is the work plan that outlines everything NVCOG does. As required, it is submitted each year to OPM. A copy of the report was emailed to the CEOs last week.
- b. *LOTICIP Policy Guidelines: Should Streetscape/Complete Streets Elements be Participating Items?* – Mr. Dunne suggested this item be tabled as the TTAC Committee will be taking this up in early November. This item can be addressed at a later meeting.

7. Environmental Planning

- a. *Kinneytown Dam Update* – Rick Dunne said the attorney was instructed to file a complaint requesting that the exemption from licensing be revoked for Kinneytown. This action was publicized in the media. Aaron Budris added that a formal legal motion was filed with FERC asking the Commission to declare the Kinneytown fish passage operations out of compliance and revoke Hydroland's operating license exemption. Hydroland is required to respond directly to the complaint within 20 days of filing. On October 5, 2021, Hydroland submitted a letter to FERC admitting there are serious problems at Kinneytown Dam and proposing a timeline to address those issues. This letter was not a response to the complaint, but rather a late response to FERC's previous order to update the status of Kinneytown by August 1. NVCOG staff, legal counsel, and coalition partners see this letter as a continued lack of a substantive response from Hydroland that proposes to unilaterally delay and extend deadlines. It does not specifically address issues identified in the USFWS assessment. NVCOG staff is working with Attorney Shems and coalition partners to prepare responses to Hydroland's October 5 letter and/or their eventual response to the complaint. The NVCOG board will continue to be informed of updates.
- b. *Approval of SolSmart Designation Letter* – Christine O'Neill explained the SolSmart certification program is a national program administered by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, and is designed to recognize cities, counties, and regional organizations that foster the development of mature local solar markets. There is no cost to towns or NVCOG. The designation will let solar entrepreneurs and eco-conscious building owners know that the Naugatuck Valley is "open for business," aligning with both environmental and economic goals. If municipalities are interested in pursuing their own municipal SolSmart designation, NVCOG staff is available for support. On a motion by Jim McGrath, seconded by Sheila O'Malley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Chairman to sign the letter seeking SolSmart regional designation and for staff to take all necessary steps to comply with program requirements.

- c. *DEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program*
 - i. *Assistance and Support Letters* – Aaron Budris said CT DEEP has announced the 2021 funding round of the CT Recreational Trails Program. Proposals are due by November 1, 2021. Staff is available to provide assistance with applications and support letters.
 - ii. *Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2022-02, Application of Behalf of the City of Waterbury* – Mr. Budris said the City of Waterbury has requested that NVCOG submit a Recreational Trails grant application on behalf of the City for a planning study on the Phase II segment of the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail in Waterbury. If

awarded, NVCOG staff will be responsible for grant administration and consultant oversight. On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Jim McGrath, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse NVCOG Resolution 2022-02 authorizing NVCOG Executive Director Rick Dunne to submit a Recreational Trails Program grant application to the CT DEEP, and to sign any documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded.

- d. *Brownfields Program Discussion* – Rick Dunne said applications are currently being accepted for assessment grants. The deadline is October 15. Additional supplemental grants have been initiated from EPA for the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). An RLF meeting will be scheduled. The Regional Brownfields Partnership annual meeting will be held on December 2 at the Mattatuck Museum.

8. **Other**

John DiCarlo said the household hazardous waste (HHW) event held on September 25 in Beacon Falls was very successful, with more than 500 cars processed. This was the last event for 2021. Dates for HHW events in 2022 will be scheduled.

9. **Adjournment**

At 11:22 a.m., on a motion by Len Assard, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Services Coordinator
for
Ed Mone, Secretary



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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

CNVMPO RESOLUTION 2022-01

**RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF TARGETS FOR SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES
ESTABLISHED BY CTDOT**

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (CNVMPO) has been designated by the Governor of the State of Connecticut as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible, together with the State, for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Central Naugatuck Valley Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) final rule (23 CFR Part 490) requires States to set targets for five safety performance measures by August 31, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has established targets for five performance measures using both a 5-year moving average trendline and an annual trendline to guide the selection of targets for:

- (1) Number of Fatalities,
- (2) Rate of Fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
- (3) Number of Serious Injuries,
- (4) Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 million VMT, and
- (5) Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-motorized Serious Injuries, and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT coordinated the establishment of safety targets with the 8 Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Connecticut at the May 2021 Council of Governments (COG) Coordination meeting, and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT has officially adopted the safety targets in the HSIP annual report dated August 27, 2021, and the Highway Safety Plan dated June 29, 2021, and

WHEREAS the CNVMPO may establish safety targets by agreeing to plan and program projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the aforementioned State's targets, or establish its own target within 180 days of the State establishing and reporting its safety targets,

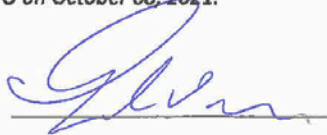
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CNVMPO Policy Board has agreed to support CTDOT's 2022 targets for the five safety performance targets as attached herein, and

ALBANY • BEACON FALLS • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESHIRE • DERBY • MIDDLEBURY • NAUGATUCK • OXFORD • PLYMOUTH
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CNVMPO Policy Board will plan and program projects that contribute to the accomplishment of said targets.

CERTIFICATE: The undersigned duly qualified Secretary of the CNVMPO certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the voting members of the CNVMPO on October 08, 2021.

Date:



By:

10/8/21
Ed Mone, Secretary



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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RESOLUTION 2022-02

AMENDMENT

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

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is authorized by the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)* and related US Department of Transportation regulations to prepare, endorse, and periodically amend a short range Transportation Improvement Program for the 15-town MPO area within the Waterbury Urbanized Area and is required to maintain a fiscally-constrained program of priority projects.

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)*.

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is requesting amendment of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP to allocate Surface Transportation Program – Anywhere (STPA) grant funds for projects 0171-0471.

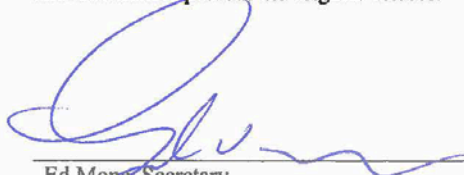
WHEREAS, the proposed projects do not necessitate a new Air Quality Conformity Determination.

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.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO approves the amendment of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP to allocate federal aid funds as listed and described in the attachment to this resolution.

This resolution shall become effective as of October 8, 2021.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on October 8, 2021, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.


Ed Moore, Secretary

October 8, 2021
Date

BEAUFORT, FAIRFIELD • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESHIRE • MIDDLETOWN • NAUGATUCK • NEW FORD • PLIMMOUTH
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**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NVCOG)

RESOLUTION #2022-02

Resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in response to its Request for Applications for the Recreational Trails Grant Program.

Whereas, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has requested applications for funding trail planning, design and construction projects;

Whereas, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, on behalf of the City of Waterbury has prepared an application in response to the RFA requesting financial support to conduct environmental and preliminary design work on the City's Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Phase II project.

Whereas, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and its member municipalities have demonstrated a strong commitment to promote and expand pedestrian and bicycle opportunities and facilities in the region.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that NVCOG strongly supports and endorses the application to be submitted to conduct environmental and preliminary design work on Waterbury's Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Phase II project.

Be Further Resolved, that Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments authorizes Rick Dunne, Executive Director of the NVCOG, or his successor, to sign the grant application and to sign any other documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded, including any amendments thereto.

Certification

The undersigned duly qualified officer, acting on behalf of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Board of Directors.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, this 8th day of October, 2021.

Ed Mone
Secretary, Naugatuck Valley COG

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