



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
and
Central Naugatuck Valley MPO
Hybrid Meeting
NVCOG Conference Room
49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor
Waterbury, CT 06702
10 a.m., Friday, February 11, 2022

NVCOG Representatives: David Cassetti, Mayor, Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia (both virtual); Gerry Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls (virtual); Stephen Sordi, First Selectman, Bethlehem (in-person); Jeff Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol (in-person); Andrew Martelli, Alternate, Cheshire (virtual); Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby (in-person); Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury (in-person); Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck (in-person); George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford (virtual); Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth (virtual); Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect (in-person); Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour (virtual); Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston (in-person); Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury (in-person); Jonathan Ramsay, Town Council Chair, Watertown (virtual); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott (in-person).

Guests/Other: Betty Bajak, GWTD; Erik Shortell, FWA; John Field, DEMHS Region 5; Hedy Ayers, Eversource; April Chaplin, Kennedy Center (all virtual).

Staff: Rick Dunne (in-person); Mark Nielsen (in-person); Josh Lecar (virtual); Aaron Budris (virtual); Joanna Rogalski (virtual); Lauren Rizzo (in-person); John DiCarlo (in-person); Michael Szpryngel (in-person); Richard Crowther, Jr. (in-person); Christine O'Neill (virtual); Savannah-Nicole Villalba (virtual); Kevin Ellis (virtual); Kate Minutillo (virtual); Karen Svetz (virtual); Ricardo Rodriguez (virtual).

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

Secretary 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. There was no public comment.

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

- a. *Adoption of CNVMPO Resolution 2022-07 – TIP Amendments for Project 0025-0149* – Kevin Ellis explained this project is for the design and construction of drainage improvements along Route 42 in Cheshire for approximately 0.5 miles to the outlet at Willow Brook to the east of the watercourse. Sidewalk and curb ramp upgrades will also be performed as needed. The project is expected to have a total cost of \$4 million, with federal and state contributions. There is no local contribution. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Jeff Caggiano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2022-07 approving the above listed TIP amendments.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the January 14, 2022 NVCOG & CNVMPO Meeting* – On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Bob Chatfield, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 14, 2022 NVCOG and CNVMPO meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 12/31/21* – Michael Szpryngel reviewed the financial report. The current net position is \$173,000. It is

still projected that there will be a \$20,000 surplus at the end of the year despite a \$78,000 deficit budget having been adopted. There have been no funding cuts or unusual expenses. On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Bob Chatfield, it was unanimously

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

- c. *Review of Preliminary FY 2023 Budget Estimates and Dues Schedule* – Rick Dunne said the Executive Committee had met to discuss the preliminary dues estimates for FY 2023. Normally, estimates are adopted in January and notices are sent to the towns for budgeting purposes. In May or June, the actual budget is usually adopted. The Executive Committee did not feel comfortable moving forward with the adoption of the budget estimates and directed staff to send a notice to the towns stating that a decision would be made later in the year. Each town will receive a memo with two columns: the first being the current year's dues, and the second column showing a 5% increase. The reason for the 5% increase is that NVCOG is anticipating an increase in the main funding source for federal transportation planning. The 5% increase in dues would represent the match that NVCOG must make in local funds to the federal funds. The typical split is 80% federal, 10% state and 10% local. The budget itself is essentially flat. NVCOG is also budgeted for one vacant position and one that may be vacant during the year. Mr. Dunne then outlined priority expenditures. Mr. Szpryngel added there is a projected 8% increase in health insurance, which would take place in July. He and Mr. Dunne also spoke about PL carryover and the cut in RSG funding from the state that affected NVCOG. There are also a few programs and grants that have closed. Mr. Dunne said performance reviews are underway, and he will make a recommendation to the board at a future date concerning salaries.
- d. *Director's Report*
 - NVision Update – Mr. Dunne said this conference has been postponed from March and NVCOG is now looking at a September or October date for the event.
 - RSG Funding – Mr. Dunne noted he had discussed NVCOG's reduction in RSG funding during the review of the preliminary FY 2023 budget estimates.

4. **Municipal Shared Services**

- a. *DEEP Sustainable Materials Management Grants, Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Working Group* – John DiCarlo said NVCOG staff has been working with CT DEEP and its consultant Kristen Brown to assist any interested municipality in applying for the sustainable materials management grant program. Six municipalities are advancing to phase two of the process. NVCOG is preparing its own application, with a scoping meeting to be held next week with Ms. Brown. Mr. DiCarlo said the next meeting of the Municipal Solid Waste & Recycling Group will take place in the next few weeks. They are working on ways to help towns deal with escalating costs.
- b. *ARPA Joint Procurement Savings* – Mr. DiCarlo said NVCOG is cataloging all municipal ARPA projects that are under consideration and moving forward in order to identify potential savings that may be achieved by joint procurement. Such items include HVAC upgrades, recreational facilities upgrades, and sewer projects.

5. **Emergency Management Update**

- a. *COVID-19 Response Update* – Joanna Rogalski said the house passed the Covid Emergency Declaration extending the governor's emergency powers to June 30. The CT senate is expected to vote on Monday. John Field added information on vaccination requirements

for nursing home staff being extended to March. School and daycare mask requirements will be extended until at least February 28.

- Long Term Recovery Update – Mr. Field said work is beginning on some projects that were identified by municipalities. FEMA will be meeting with the towns. The goal is to identify funding mechanisms to accomplish objectives. Ms. Rogalski said the Long Term Recovery group met on Wednesday. The health and human services group is focusing on equity issues with PPE and is investigating clear masks for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. The education sector is focusing on increasing internet capability for students. The arts and culture sector is focusing on resilience. Concerning projects that were submitted through the FEMA Region 1 portal in October, Ms. Rogalski said 348 projects across the state were submitted through the portal, 27% of the projects were from distressed communities and FEMA will focus on those projects first. In the NVCOG region, this includes Waterbury, Ansonia, and Derby. The next state long term recovery meeting will take place on March 9.
 - PPE Distribution – Mr. Field said over half a million test kits and half a million masks have been distributed in Region 5.
- b. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – The next meeting of the Region 5 steering committee will take place on February 14. Regional Emergency Planning Committee 2 is meeting on February 18.
 - c. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski said training for CERT team members is available in a variety of aspects.
 - d. *Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update* – Aaron Budris said FEMA has given final approval for the NVCOG Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The project was funded with a grant from FEMA and updates the local mitigation plans for all municipalities in the region. All 19 NVCOG communities are eligible to apply to DEMHS for hazard mitigation grants administered by FEMA. The updated plans will be active through January 2027.

6. NVCOG Planning Transportation

- a. *Corridor Planning Studies Updates*
 - i. Route 229, Bristol – Josh Lecar said this two-year consultant study is intended to identify existing and future traffic patterns, safety deficiencies and multi-modal transportation strategies for a six-mile corridor extending from the Farmington Avenue intersection in Bristol to the I-84 Interchange 31 in Southington. This is a cooperative effort between NVCOG and CRCOG. BL Companies, the consultant, identified key findings and issues and is preparing the study's Alternatives Analysis report, which is expected by the end of February 2022. Once the Alternative Analysis report is approved, BL Companies will prepare a Draft Final Report.
 - ii. West Main Street, Waterbury – Mr. Lecar said this two-year consultant study is intended to identify existing and future traffic pattern, safety deficiencies and multi-modal transportation strategies for a one-mile corridor extending from the Waterbury Green and North Main Street intersection on the east to the Route 8 overpass on the west. The consultant, Fuss & O'Neill, submitted their Existing Conditions report in August 2021, which was reviewed by NVCOG, shared with

Waterbury staff and presented to the public at an outreach meeting. The consultant submitted the study's Alternatives Analysis report in January 2022 and is currently reviewing comments from NVCOG staff. Once the Alternatives Analysis report has been revised, it is anticipated that Fuss & O'Neill will prepare a Draft Final Report for the project with completion by May 2022.

- iii. US Route 6, Woodbury – Mark Nielsen said this study was approved and work will begin in the coming year. An approach similar to the Route 229, Bristol and West Main Street, Waterbury studies will be utilized.

Mr. Nielsen described the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program which is designed to fund projects that will have an effect on reducing vehicle emissions. Two projects in the region were awarded, one in Ansonia and the other in Bristol.

- b. *Notice of Funding Opportunity – RAISE Grants* – Mr. Nielsen said USDOT has opened the next round of Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants that are intended to provide funds to implement larger critical projects that will have significant local or regional impact. The program is extremely competitive with proposals far exceeding available funding. NVCOG will be working with the towns to solicit projects. Based on the application deadline of April 15, 2022, and since this has now been designated as an annual program for the next five years, Mr. Nielsen said that if no projects are submitted this year, the planning can begin for submittal next year.
- c. *Update – Alternative Modes Assessment Study* – Mr. Nielsen said NVCOG has been administering this study to develop a capital improvement plan for the Waterbury Rail Line and assess opportunities to implement alternative transportation modes within the Route 8 corridor. The project is nearing completion and NVCOG will be initiating efforts to release the study's recommendations. The final tasks underway are the drafting of an Alternatives Assessment Report and the creation of a video that visualizes proposed improvements.
- d. *Regional Housing Profile – Update & Status* – Savannah-Nicole Villalba said the 2021 legislative session brought about a variety of land use changes. Of particular interest is the June 1, 2022 deadline for municipal affordable housing plans. In order to provide the NVCOG municipalities with information to assist them as they work towards meeting the statute requirements, NVCOG published a Regional Housing Profile. The goals of the Regional Housing Profile are to support member municipalities in the creation of municipal affordable housing plans, to distribute relevant housing data, and to spotlight municipal-level best practices and strategies. Electronic copies of the document will be distributed to the municipalities on February 14.

7. Environmental Planning

- a. *Composter and Rain Barrel Sale* – Aaron Budris said NVCOG held a successful composter and rain barrel sale in 2021. Naugatuck Valley residents purchased a total of 124 composters and 110 rain barrels, thereby diverting an estimated 62,000 lbs. of organics from the regional waste stream annually, reducing stormwater impacts and conserving drinking water. NVCOG is planning another event this year, and staff is looking for potential pickup locations for Saturday, May 21. Any municipality interested in hosting a pickup location should contact Christine O'Neill.

- b. *Kinneytown Dam Update* – Aaron Budris reported on the Kinneytown Dam actions and FERC docket filings since the last update on January 13, 2022. Hydroland filed a status letter on January 18, 2022 in response to the FERC letter that found it in violation of its federal permit exemption. On January 31, 2022 the Housatonic Valley Association filed a letter with FERC documenting schools of migratory fish stranded at Kinneytown in the canal leading to Unit 2. Both DEEP and USFWS submitted letters last week to FERC stating that Hydroland had missed certain deadlines and not contacted the agencies at all. The federal delegation has reached out to Hydroland and encouraged them to contact the Kinneytown Coalition to initiate a dialogue. Direct communication from the company is expected within the next 30 to 60 days. NVCOG staff and the Naugatuck River Restoration Coalition partners will continue to monitor the facility and work with the resource agencies to ensure compliance and hold Hydroland accountable.

8. **Other**

There was no other business.

9. **Adjournment**

At 11:26 a.m., on a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Services Coordinator
for
Pete Hess, Secretary



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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

RESOLUTION 2022-07

**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 as shown in the attached page.

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 amendments of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP to allocate surface transportation program funding to the attached projects.

This resolution shall become effective as of February 11, 2022.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on February 11, 2022, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.

Neil O'Leary, Chairman

February 11, 2022

Date