



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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

MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

and

Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

Virtual Video Conference Meeting

10 a.m., Friday, June 12, 2020

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia; Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Kristyn Rosa, Alternate; Oxford; Dave Merchant, Mayor, Plymouth; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Seymour; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Guests/Other: Melissa Kaplan-Macey, Kas Tebbets, Regional Plan Association; Senator George Logan; Sara Radacsi, CTDOT; Ellen Graham, Office of Senator Richard Blumenthal; Lou Mangini, Office of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro; Dan Pesce, Zachary Keith, Waterbury Development Corporation; Samantha LaBonne, Eversource, April Chaplin, The Kennedy Center; Tony Ciriello, Suzanne Schore, Milone & MacBroom, Anthony Simpatico, Hope Marino, Sustainable CT.

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Joanna Rogalski, Lauren Rizzo, Christian Meyer, John DiCarlo, Karen Svetz, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Gabriel Filer, Aaron Budris, Glenda Prentiss.

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a presentation on the CT DOH Affordable Housing Plan & Process Guidebook by Melissa Kaplan-Macey, Vice President, State Programs & Connecticut Director, Regional Plan Association.

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

Vice Chair Mark Lauretti called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called.

Public Comment: April Chaplin of The Kennedy Center noted that personal protective equipment is available at the Palm and Able online store. Samantha LaBonne of Eversource spoke about the utility's special payment arrangements to assist those facing financial hardship due to the pandemic. Additionally, Eversource is offering municipal customers no cost access to online building operator certification training.

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

a. Approval of Amendments to the 2018-2021 CNVMPO TIP

- i. Add Project No. 0130-0184: Buck Hill Road Bridge Rehabilitation (Southbury)
Gabriel Filer explained that this project involves rehabilitating bridge number 01157 along Buck Hill Road in Southbury, which crosses Interstate 84. The existing bridge needs replacement due to structural deficiency.
- ii. Amendment to Project No. 0151-0334: Route 8 Bridge Rehabilitation (Waterbury)
Mr. Filer explained that the construction phase of this project is being accelerated into FFY 2020, with work expected to start in the spring of 2021. The project

involves rehabilitating bridge number 03178 along Route 8 near the Metro North railroad in Waterbury.

On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve CNVMPO Resolution 2020-07 for Project No. 0130-0184: Buck Hill Road Bridge Rehabilitation (Southbury) and to approve CNVMPO Resolution 2020-08 for Project No. 0151-0334: Route 8 Bridge Rehabilitation (Waterbury).

- b. *Safety Performance Measures Update* – Mark Nielsen said CTDOT is federally required to set performance targets for five safety measures. CTDOT is looking at how they set the targets and may start using a regression methodology that will better account for recent trends. The change in methodology will be addressed at a future meeting.

3. **NVCOG Administrative Items**

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the May 8, 2020 NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve, as presented, the minutes of the May 8, 2020 NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for Period Ending 4/30/20* – Michael Szpryngel reviewed Memorandum 06122020-FIN-01 and said NVCOG is 83% through the fiscal year, with a bottom line of \$113,485. There were no unexpected reductions in NVCOG's funding sources and NVCOG received two new grants. Ed Mone had a question concerning line items that were over or under budget, and Rick Dunne and Mr. Szpryngel responded. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the agency financial reports and summaries for the period ending 4/30/20.

c. *Director's Report*

- Connecticut Brownfields (CTBLB) Land Bank Update – Rick Dunne reported that the MOU with CTBLB was moving forward. Once complete, the bylaws of the Land Bank will change. Following that, the need for NVCOG to appoint the majority of members to the land bank board will be addressed. Sheila O'Malley, a current Land Bank board member, said the Land Bank board is looking forward to a strong relationship with NVCOG. Mr. Dunne added that he was appointed by that board as President of the Land Bank and will function as the Executive Director of NVCOG and as President of the Land Bank.

Mr. Dunne added that the salary schedule had been approved by the executive board last week and was within the parameters of the adopted budget. Reserve funds are available and town dues were not raised in the budget. NVCOG will, however, be advertising for a few positions to fill out staff, but will be working fully within available resources.

4. Regional and Municipal Shared Services

- a. *Household Hazardous Waste Update* – John DiCarlo said 15 NVCOG municipalities participate in the household hazardous waste program. Three events are scheduled per year, but due to public gathering restrictions, the first event in 2020 was canceled. With strict COVID-19 restrictions in place, the second event will occur on July 18 at Crosby High School in Waterbury. Protocols will include limited interaction between the vendor and residents. He added that because the Town of Cheshire had just recently left the household hazardous waste program, arrangements were made with the town to accept materials from Cheshire residents for this event.

5. Discussion of Sustainable CT Certification Program & Summer Fellows at NVCOG

Joanna Rogalski explained that Sustainable CT is a voluntary program for municipalities to receive credit for sustainable actions already done and to get ideas for future sustainable actions. Nine NVCOG towns are registered with the program. Ms. Rogalski said two Sustainable CT fellows will once again be available at NVCOG to assist any municipality interested in participating in the certification program. She then introduced the fellows, Hope Marino and Anthony Simpatico.

6. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *LOTICIP: Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2020-17 – Exchange Place Revitalization Project* – Christian Meyer explained that the concept plans for this project had been endorsed at the September 13, 2019 meeting. The project includes the reconstruction of East Main Street, South Main Street and Bank Street. The City is proposing extending the project scope to include North Main Street. Additionally, as the design plans evolved for work along Bank Street, expanded pedestrian and transit friendly improvements are being recommended at 210 Bank Street where the intercity bus terminal is located. The preliminary estimate has been reviewed by NVCOG staff and will be reviewed by CTDOT. The project scope as it stands is intended to fully leverage grants being used to undertake improvements to utilities and drainage in the downtown. Upon initial review, the proposed improvements meet the specified purpose and need of LOTICIP. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse NVCOG Resolution 2020-17.

- b. *LOTICIP Update* – Mr. Meyer said that through state fiscal year 2020, NVCOG has committed 96% of allocated funds for the region. Of the funds allocated, 40% have been expended. NVCOG expects at least five of the projects currently classified as under design to advance to construction before the close of this construction season at a combined value of roughly \$22 million.

7. Emergency Management

- a. *Discussion: Long Term Recovery Committees and Local Recovery Coordinators* – Joanna Rogalski said the State of Connecticut is beginning to move from a response to a recovery action as the public health emergency hopefully begins to decline. Ms. Rogalski explained that as part of its emergency operations plans, towns were to identify local recovery coordinators to assist in local recovery efforts after an emergency had passed. All NVCOG towns have such coordinators. Long Term Recovery Committees will understand unmet needs and the role of the COGs would be to help those communities find the necessary resources at a local or regional level.

- b. *Discussion: LTR Regional Steering Committee; COG Duties and Oversight* – Ms. Rogalski said Long Term Regional Steering Committees are being organized by the DEMHS Regional Emergency Management Planning Team Regions. Local Long Term Recovery Committees will work with Regional Steering Committees. Ms. Rogalski will reach out to local coordinators.

8. COVID-19 Update

Adding to Ms. Rogalski's comments, Mr. Dunne said that although the regional steering committee falls under the DEMHS coordinator in the Homeland Security Regions, it is the COGs who will be assembling the participants. The plan is to get people working in sub-groups in the areas of labor, education, community and economic development, cultural and recreational activities, and items of governance. Unmet needs will be addressed first, and concerns of Connecticut small businesses will be addressed in both the short and long term.

- a. *Discussion: Reimbursement for COVID-19 Related Expenses* – Mr. Dunne said NVCOG is anticipating being compensated for COVID related expenses under the same block grant that will be available to municipalities. He noted the costs incurred by the state for COVID testing and contact tracing. He also noted that cost recovery for lost revenue is ruled out under federal rules.

At this point, Vice Chairman Lauretti left the meeting and the remainder of the meeting was chaired by Secretary Ed Mone.

- b. *Roundtable: COVID Recovery & Reopening Issues* – Ed St. John suggested NVCOG put together a subcommittee to see how improved response could be made for future emergencies. He is concerned about the financial condition of the state and advised NVCOG and the municipalities to be prepared. He also suggested subcommittees be formed to address how to better perform police functions.

9. Other

Richard Crowther provided an update on the 2020 census. The census deadline has been extended to October 31, 2020. Enumerators will most likely start door-to-door work in mid-August. Any municipality wishing assistance with the census by way of flyers, brochures, or social media should contact him. There are also resources on NVCOG's website. Mr. Crowther can provide assistance with custom flyers to go out with tax bills.

10. Adjournment

At 11:01 a.m., on a motion by Len Assard, seconded by Barbara Perkinson, 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

RESOLUTION 2020-07

**AMENDMENT
FFY 2018-2021 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 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region (TIP)* at its June 9, 2017, meeting; and the US Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) have approved the *State FFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*.

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is requesting amendment of the FFY 2018-2021 TIP to allocate National Highway Performance Program – Bridge on System grant funds for project 0130-0184.

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 2018-2021 TIP to allocate federal aid funds as listed and described in the attachment to this resolution.

This resolution shall become effective as of June 12, 2020.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on June 12, 2020, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.

Ed Mone, Secretary

June 12, 2020

Date

BEACON FALLS • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESHIRE • MIDDLEBURY • NAUGATUCK • OXFORD • PLYMOUTH
PROSPECT • SOUTHURBY • THOMASTON • WATERBURY • WATERTOWN • WOLCOTT • WOODBURY



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RESOLUTION 2020-08

AMENDMENT

**FFY 2018-2021 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 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region (TIP)* at its June 9, 2017, meeting; and the US Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) have approved the *State FFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*.

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is requesting amendment of the FFY 2018-2021 TIP to allocate National Highway Performance Program – Bridge on System grant funds for projects 0151-0334.

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 2018-2021 TIP to allocate federal aid funds as listed and described in the attachment to this resolution.

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Ed Mone, Secretary

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RESOLUTION 2020-17

LOTICIP

ENDORSEMENT OF REVISED SCOPE AND PROJECT COST ESTIMATES

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on June 12, 2020, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, The NVCOG is responsible for selecting and distributing funds to member municipalities under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program ("Program").

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments approves the allocation of \$8.2 million in Program funds attributable to the Naugatuck Valley planning region to fully fund the Exchange Place Revitalization Project as described and modified in Memorandum 20200612-LOTICIP-WTBY.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on June 12, 2020

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed

Ed Mone, Secretary

ANSANIA • BRIDGE FALLS • BENJAMIN • BRISTOL • CHESHIRE • CERRA • MIDDLETOWN • NAUGATUCK • GRAFTON • FLYING BUTTE
HARTFORD • SHREVEPORT • SHELTON • SOUTH BRITAIN • THUNDERBOLT • WATERBURY • WEST HARTFORD • WOODBURY