



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and

Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

Virtual Video Conference Meeting (with limited in-person attendance)

10 a.m., Friday, February 12, 2021

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia; Gerry Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ray Rogozinski, Alternate, Bristol; Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Kristyn Rosa, Oxford; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury.

Guests/Other: John Field, DEMHS Region 5; Tommy Hyde, NVDC; George Logan; Jennine Lupo, Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' Office; April Chaplin, Kennedy Center; Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Office; Ellen Graham, Senator Richard Blumenthal's Office; State Rep. Kara Rochelle; State Rep. Mary Weland.

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Aaron Budris, Joanna Rogalski, Lauren Rizzo, Christian Meyer, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr.

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

Chairman Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called.

Public Comment: Bob Chatfield praised the tanker task force from Region 5 for their response during for a recent structure fire. George Logan spoke in support of the continued restoration of the Naugatuck River, of which Kinneytown Dam in an important location. As Vice President of the Housatonic Valley Association, Mr. Logan said the organization is willing to provide a letter of support to federal and state regulators for a study of conditions at the dam. Ed St. John offered his thanks to the City of Waterbury and the Waterbury Police Department for how well the vaccination event at Post University had been run.

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

- a. *GBVMPO Redesignation Update* – Mark Nielsen said the lower Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton continue to be part of the GBVMPO. There has been an effort for at least Ansonia, Derby and Seymour to separate from the GBVMPO and join the CNVMPO. There is still some resistance from Mayor Ganim of Bridgeport. NVCOG is working with MetroCOG to put together a technical memo to analyze the ramifications of the redesignation.

b. *Project Updates*

- i. *Derby-Shelton Bridge Renovation Project (Project No. 0126-0174)* – Mr. Nielsen said this project has been awarded for construction and is expected to break ground in April.
- ii. *Route 34 Reconstruction (Project No. 0036-0184)* – This project is expected to be under construction in September or October.

- iii. Route 67 Spot Improvements (Project No. 0124-0165) – Preliminary design is complete, and a public information meeting was held. It will be another year or two until this project is ready for construction.
- iv. Route 8/WRL TOD and Alternative Modes Assessment Project – A visualization of recommendations is expected by June.
- v. Route 229 Corridor Planning Study (Project No. 0017-0194) – This study is currently in the initial existing conditions phase.
- vi. West Main Street Corridor Planning Study (Project No. 0151-0339) – This corridor extends from the Waterbury Green to Route 8. There are numerous curb-cuts and intersections, and the project will develop a plan to address safety and traffic operations. The existing conditions phase of the project is currently being worked on.
- vii. Oxford Main Street Alternative Modes Study – Mr. Nielsen said this project will develop a plan for improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety along the Route 67 corridor. The consultant completed data collection and prepared an existing conditions report. In late January, the project team presented preliminary routing options for a multiuse path along Route 67 to the Oxford Main Street Committee. Based on feedback from the committee, options are being refined.

- c. *Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program* – Mr. Nielsen said NVCOG is working with the towns to solicit project proposals for CTDOT. The CMAQ program provides federal funds to implement transportation projects and programs that contribute to meeting national air quality standards. Eligible projects must demonstrate air quality benefits. Submissions to CTDOT are due in April.

3. **Election of an NVCOG At-Large Executive Committee Member to Fill Vacancy and Serve Until 12/31/21 (Nomination by Chairman Neil O’Leary)**

Chairman O’Leary nominated Ed St. John to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To elect Ed St. John as an at-large Executive Committee member to fill an existing vacancy and serve until 12/3/21.

4. **Appointment to EPA RLF Loan Committee (Appointment by Chairman Neil O’Leary)**

Chairman O’Leary appointed Rich Dziekan as a member of the EPA Revolving Loan Fund. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the appointment of Rich Dziekan as a member of the EPA Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

5. **NVCOG Administrative Items**

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the December 11, 2020 NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 11, 2020 NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for Period Ending 12/31/20* – Michael Szpryngel reported that NVCOG is 50% through the fiscal year with a bottom line

of \$83,000. There have been no significant changes in funding sources or expenditures. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Ray Rogozinski, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the agency financial reports and summaries for the period ending 12/31/20.

- c. *Publication of FY 20 Audit Report* – Mr. Szpryngel said the FY 20 audit report was completed at the end of January. The report has been publicized and all board members received a copy. The auditor found no material misstatements or deficiencies in internal control. Net assets increased by about \$136,000. Ed Mone asked for confirmation on an undesignated fund balance of \$752,000, representing over 17% of expenditures. Rick Dunne said it was substantially correct, as the budget varies from year to year due to projects. Mr. Mone said he had wanted to make note of it as upcoming budgets are finalized. He expressed concerns about receiving proper revenue from the state. He said he had wanted to note this item in light of letters recently received, as this might be able to negate any increase in town contributions.
- d. *Director's Report* – Rick Dunne said he has parking passes that were provided courtesy of the Waterbury Mayor's Office and the Waterbury Police Department. The city has requested return of the prior year's pass upon issuance of a new one.
- e. *2021-2022 Preliminary Budget Estimates & Dues Notice* – Michael Szpryngel said the executive board had approved the 2021-2022 preliminary budget estimates and dues notice at its January 29 meeting. The preliminary budget estimate includes an 8% increase in the cost of health insurance and a more robust staffing plan. Chairman O'Leary would like to see cost comparisons for other health insurance plans the broker considered.

6. **Emergency Management Update**

- a. *COVID-19 Response Update* -
 - *Long Term Recovery Update* – John Field spoke about application briefs for Tropical Storm Isaias. The PURA review of the utility companies' response to the storm is being monitored. FEMA reimbursements for COVID are also being monitored. Mr. Field spoke about federal programs and outreach to various populations regarding COVID testing and vaccinations. Joanna Rogalski spoke about the long term recovery steering committees' efforts to make sure all unmet needs due to COVID are being addressed. As the focus shifts from immediate response, long term recovery needs are being looked at.
- b. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski said Region 5 is focusing on philanthropy, finance, and health and human services, among other issues. The next meeting will be held on March 10.
- c. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski said the CERT annual reports are due next week.

7. **NVCOG Planning/Transportation**

Before Christian Meyer gave the LOTCIP update, Rick Dunne announced that this would be Mr. Meyer's last meeting, as he had accepted a position with a regional planning agency in Vermont.

Mr. Dunne thanked Mr. Meyer for the excellent job he had done during his time at NVCOG. Ray Rogozinski also expressed his appreciation for the work Mr. Meyer had done with TTAC. Chairman O’Leary also thanked Mr. Meyer and wished him well.

a. *LOTICIP*

- Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2021-12 – New Project: Divinity Road Culvert Reconstruction, Bristol
- Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2021-13 – New Project: Burton Road Reconstruction, Beacon Falls

Mr. Meyer described both of these new projects, as outlined in Memo 202102-12-LOTICIP-NewProject. On a motion by Ray Rogozinski, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse NVCOG Resolution 2021-12 committing regionally apportioned LOTICIP funds to the culvert reconstruction project in the City of Bristol and NVCOG Resolution 2021-13, committing regionally apportioned LOTICIP funds and the roadway reconstruction project in the Town of Beacon Falls.

- Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2021-14 – Revised Project Cost: Bungay, Botsford and West Church Road Reconstruction, Seymour
- Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2021-15 – Revised Project Cost: ADA Compliant Curb Ramps, Watertown

Mr. Meyer described the cost increases for both projects, as outlined in Memo 2021-0212-LOTICIP-Costs. On a motion by Ray Rogozinski, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt NVCOG Resolution 2021-14 approving the revised construction cost estimates for project number L124-0002, the reconstruction of Bungay, Botsford and West Church Road in Seymour, and to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2021-15 for project L153-XXXX, ADA Compliance – Various Locations in Watertown.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman O’Leary left and turned the chair over to Vice Chairman Lauretti.

8. **Environmental Planning**

- a. *Kinneytown Dam Update* – Rick Dunne acknowledged congressional staff who have been assisting with this project. NVCOG created a website page www.nvcogct.gov/kinneytown for updates. A second letter has been sent to FERC, a briefing was held with congressional staff, Senator Blumenthal held a press event at the Kinneytown site, there was a meeting held with the DEEP Deputy Commissioner, and another meeting held with Fish and Wildlife staff. Another meeting, with additional participants, will be held with the DEEP Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. NVCOG has requested confidential information about the dam and dam safety. NVCOG generated a letter on behalf of the board, asking DEEP to take a more active role in the regulatory process with FERC.

- b. *Discussion: Proposed Regional Residential Composter and Rain Barrel Sale* – Aaron Budris said staff was contacted by Brand Builders concerning a regional residential composter and rain barrel sale. They have worked with other Connecticut COGs. Brand Builders will set up a regional online store featuring composters and rain barrels at discounted prices. Residents would order from the online store and select from prearranged pick-up times and locations. Brand Builders would handle delivery and distribution with the help of NVCOG staff and volunteers. Mr. Budris said this was brought to the board to address any questions or concerns before proceeding further. Mr. Dunne noted that Brand Builders is a for profit company. NVCOG’s participation would involve sponsoring a site where the items could be dropped off. Mr. Budris added that Brand Builders would take care of all sales and logistics. Ed Mone asked about any additional costs to the towns or NVCOG. Mr. Dunne answered the only cost would be for time of staff members to facilitate distribution and it would be direct sales. Mr. Budris noted town facilities, such as schools or public works locations would be used for distribution purposes. The event would be held on Earth Day. NVCOG and the towns would do promotion on their websites and social media. Mr. Dunne said this item did not need to be voted on, but would proceed if there were no objections, with full information to be provided to the towns. No objections were noted.

9. Other

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

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



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RESOLUTION 2021-12

LOTICIP

ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR
DIVINITY STREET CULVERT RECONSTRUCTION, BRISTOL

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its virtual meeting on February 12, 2021, 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 NVCOG approves the allocation of \$360,000 in Program funds attributable to the Naugatuck Valley planning region to fully fund the Divinity Street Culvert Reconstruction project as described and modified in Memorandum 20210212-LOTCP-New Project.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on February 12, 2021

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed

Ed Mane, Secretary

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RESOLUTION 2021-13

**LOTCP
ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR
BURTON ROAD RECONSTRUCTION, BEACON FALLS**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its virtual meeting on February 12, 2021, at which a quorum was present.

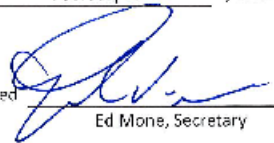
WHEREAS, The NVCOG is responsible for selecting and distributing funds to member municipalities under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program ("Program").

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG approves the allocation of \$3,600,000 in Program funds attributable to the Naugatuck Valley planning region to fully fund the Burton Road Reconstruction project as described and modified in Memorandum 20210212-LOTCP-New Project.

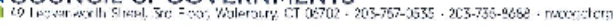
Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on February 12, 2021

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed


Ed Mone, Secretary

ANDOVER • BEACON FALLS • BRITAIN • CANTON • CHESTER • GARY • MIDDLETOWN • NAUGATUCK • GRAFTON • PLIMMOUTH
PROVIDENCE • SHREVEPORT • SHELTON • SOUTHBRIDGE • THORNTON • WATERBURY • WATERFORD • WILMINGTON • WINDHAM





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RESOLUTION 2021-15

LOTICIP

ENDORSEMENT OF REVISED PROJECT COST ESTIMATE

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its virtual meeting on February 12, 2021, 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").

WHEREAS, Program guidelines stipulate that changes in cost greater than 20% require review and approval by the Council of Governments.

WHEREAS, the current cost estimate for the proposed project to build ADA Compliant Curb Ramps in Watertown, Connecticut, funded under the Program, has increased by greater than 20% since endorsed by the NVCOG.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments approves the revised construction cost estimate as enumerated and described in Memorandum 20210212-LOTICIP-Costs.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on February 12, 2021.

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed:

Ed Mone, Secretary

BRIDGE • BROOKFIELD • BRIDGEVILLE • BRIDGEVILLE • BRIDGEVILLE • BRIDGEVILLE • BRIDGEVILLE • BRIDGEVILLE • BRIDGEVILLE • BRIDGEVILLE
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