



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, June 11, 2021

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia; Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, Bristol; Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; David Merchant, Mayor, Plymouth; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury; Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury

Guests/Other: David Murphy, SLR Consulting; Jennine Lupo, Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' Office; Sara Radacsi, CTDOT; Hedy Ayers, Eversource; April Chaplin, Kennedy Center

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Aaron Budris, Joanna Rogalski, Lauren Rizzo, John DiCarlo, Karen Svetz, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Gabriel Filer, Keith Rosenfeld, Christine O'Neill, Joshua Lecar, Richard Donovan, Savannah Nicole Villalba, Adrian Huq, Lauren Pawlowski

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

Chairman Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. For public comment, Hedy Ayers of Eversource gave an update on payment plans and service disconnections. Sheila O'Malley thanked Ms. Ayers and Samantha LaBonne for their efforts during a power outage in Ansonia.

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

a. *Approval of Amendments to the 2021-2024 CNVMPO TIP*

i. Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2021-18

1. Project No. – 0174-0448 Traffic Signal Replacement Program
2. Project No. – 0151-0313 Bridge Rehabilitation Program

On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2021-18.

- b. *Discussion of Public Act 21-28 Pedestrian Safety, Vision Zero* – Mark Nielsen said there are three parts to this act. A Vision Zero commission consisting of the Commissioner of DOT and the Commissioner of Public Safety will be created to look at highway safety and the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the state. Actions and recommendations will be made to reduce the number of fatality and severe injury accidents. Also included in Public Act 21-28 is protection for pedestrians in crosswalks. In addition, it allows municipalities to set speed limits on local roads without having to go through OSTA for approval.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the May 14, 2021 NVCOG & CNVMPO Meeting* – On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 14, 2021 NVCOG and CNVMPO meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 04/30/21* – Michael Szpryngel said NVCOG is 83% through the fiscal year. The current deficit is approximately \$88,000, however, NVCOG is still on track to reach its targeted deficit of approximately \$20,000. Part of the deficit is due to the Kinneytown Dam project. There are no other significant changes. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

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

- c. *Discussion of Year-End Projections* – Mr. Dunne affirmed that the budget is on target for the planned deficit of approximately \$20,000.

- d. *Approval of NVCOG FY 2022 Budget and Organizational Chart* – Rick Dunne said the NVCOG Executive Committee recently met and recommended approval of the budget for FY 2022. They also recommended approval of the organizational chart and the salary and benefit schedule. Mr. Dunne explained that legislation impacting anticipated funding for councils of governments did not receive final legislative approval, as it was tied to remote meeting provisions. The COGs will now revert to the FY 2016 formula that is in statute. NVCOG was anticipating an \$80,000 reduction under the new formula but is now anticipating an additional \$20,000 reduction. It is hoped this will be resolved in the special session, but NVCOG is adopting the budget with the low estimate. Michael Szpryngel said the proposed budget is 32% higher than the previous one, with the main reason for that being software and IT expenses. The new accounting software also has a \$36,000 implementation fee, which will not be a factor in following years. The professional services line item, which includes legal expenses, increased due to the Kinneytown Dam project and the hiring of a new auditor. Training and professional development also increased. Other expenses were trimmed where possible. On a motion by Rich Dziekan, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the recommendation of the Executive Board to adopt the FY 2022 dues schedule and the NVCOG FY 2022 budget as presented, including the organizational chart and salary and benefit schedule, as previously negotiated and adopted by the Executive Board.

- e. *Director's Report*

- a. *Staffing and Work Plan Update* – Rick Dunne said it was decided to continue with the current hybrid meeting setup, pending any legislation.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a program NVCOG is restaffing for. NVCOG will be forming a committee consisting of board and staff members with staff performing the work and board members weighing in on policy and direction.

Additionally, a meeting for the board members is being scheduled with the consultant who is doing future design work for the new Mixmaster project.

The NVision regional conference is being planned for the spring or summer of 2022.

4. Municipal Shared Services Update

John DiCarlo said NVCOG CEOs have expressed interest in pursuing opportunities to address issues that will be caused by the closing of the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority's (MIRA) Hartford Trash to Energy Plant in July 2022. NVCOG recognizes that a statewide approach is necessary to address many of the issues involving disposal costs impacted by DEEP policies that have led to the scheduled closing of the MIRA facility. Towards this end, NVCOG represents its members on the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities' (CCM) Solid Waste Management Working Group. NVCOG staff is proposing the formation of a regional Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) and Recycling Working Group to serve as a forum for municipal officials to explore potential solutions. The group will also assist NVCOG staff in investigating potential regional programs, assistance and shared services that can be implemented to assist members. Any municipality interested in participating should email Mr. DiCarlo by June 18 with its designee's contact information. Recycling Coordinators or Public Works staff that regularly deal with MSW or recycling issues are likely candidates to serve as municipal designees. The working group will meet bi-monthly.

5. Sustainable CT Update

Joanna Rogalski said Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program for municipalities, promoting local municipal actions towards sustainability. It is funded through a group of foundations. In the NVCOG region, Cheshire, Waterbury, and Wolcott have achieved bronze status and Bristol has attained silver. Ms. Rogalski introduced the Sustainable CT fellows that will be working at NVCOG this summer, Adrian Huq and Lauren Pawlowski.

6. Emergency Management Update

- a. *COVID-19 Response Update* – Joanna Rogalski said there have been no new unmet needs identified through official forms, but food security continues to be an issue.
 - Long Term Recovery Update – Ms. Rogalski said the steering committees are shifting their focus from immediate response to long term economic recovery. NVCOG will be involved in this process through June 2022.
- b. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – Region 5 and Region 2 are determining how to spend the Homeland Security grant program budget. The next meeting for REPT Region 2 is June 18. The next CEO meeting for Region 5 is August 16.
- c. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski said the statewide CERT council is meeting on June 17. Since January, the Bristol CERT team has had 1,351 hours of community service.

7. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *LOTCHIP*
 - i. Adoption of NVCOG Resolution 2021-19 Authorizing AI Engineers to Perform a Third-Party Review for the Rubber Avenue Reconstruction Project in Naugatuck –

Karen Svetz said NVCOG staff reviewed the proposal and recommends this third-party review be awarded to AI Engineers. On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt NVCOG Resolution 2021-19 authorizing AI Engineers to perform a third-party review for the Rubber Avenue Reconstruction Project in Naugatuck.

- b. *Adoption of Naugatuck Valley Regional Transportation Safety Plan* – Mark Nielsen explained that CTDOT engaged VN Engineers to conduct regional safety assessments and prepare safety plans for each region. The draft plan was completed in July 2020 and was circulated to all member municipalities for review and comment. Based on NVCOG internal review and comments from stakeholders, the draft plan was revised and the final version provided in November 2020. The Regional Transportation Plan will serve as a road map and strategy to help the Naugatuck Valley planning region and its 19 municipalities collaborate with CTDOT in reducing fatal and injury crashes. It will also serve to increase safety awareness and allow the member towns, cities, and the region to focus on their transportation safety issues. The plan is data-driven, multimodal and multidisciplinary. It identifies the region's high frequency crash locations and outlines effective countermeasures and strategies to reduce crashes. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt NVCOG Resolution 2021-20, Regional Transportation Safety Plan.

- c. *Update of Mixmaster Alternatives Assessment Project* – Mark Nielsen said staff met with CTDOT and HNTB, the consulting engineer for this project. Approximately four years ago, the state started reexamining the full project, replacing and destacking the Mixmaster, and looking at alternative alignment assessments. The project team has been collecting and analyzing existing conditions. This phase identified the principal bridge, geometric and local road deficiencies. A critical goal of the project is to maintain Waterbury's development goals and economic growth opportunities. The project team will be restarting its public outreach and stakeholder engagement in the next couple of months. In advance of this effort, they will hold a special meeting with the NVCOG board to present the information and data collected to date and discuss the timeline for the reconstruction project. The board will have the opportunity to engage CTDOT and HNTB directly and ask questions about the project. The meeting is being scheduled and will accommodate as many members as possible.

8. Environmental Planning

- a. *Resilient CT Update* – David Murphy of SLR Consulting provided an update on Resilient CT Phase II. The project is finding the intersections of heat, flood vulnerabilities, and transit-oriented development. Potential regional adaptation/resilience opportunity areas were identified. Phase III will include looking at concept designs. Mayors and First Selectman should contact Mr. Murphy for more information.
- b. *Kinneytown Dam Update* – Rick Dunne said the Executive Board continues to meet with the attorney about actions to be taken. DEEP and Fish and Wildlife conducted a field visit, which DEEP detailed as very disappointing in its May 25th letter to FERC. The power plant

in Ansonia has been offline since probably 2010, possibly 2012. The power plant on the Seymour side has now been offline since at least October. No fish are passing. Aaron Budris said that when water is flowing over the dam, the fish ladder does not operate at all. Documentation has been made of fish below the dam. Mr. Dunne said that previous orders given by FERC to Hydroland have met with inaction on their part. NVCOG will continue to meet in executive session to discuss legal strategies and other actions that may be undertaken.

9. Other

Chairman Neil O'Leary recognized NVCOG Regional Environmental Planner Ricardo Rodriguez for his efforts in brownfield remediation. He also recognized and welcomed Watertown Town Manager Mark Raimo. Additionally, Mr. O'Leary noted that the Naugatuck Valley Regional Development Corp. has received legislative approval.

Rick Dunne said the composter and rain barrel sale pick-up day is Saturday, June 19. He stated that a regular NVCOG meeting is scheduled for July 9, but unless TIP amendments that must be passed are received from the state, the July meeting is traditionally canceled. There is no scheduled meeting for August, so it is likely the next regular meeting will be September 10. He also reminded everyone of the consultant-led meeting that will be scheduled concerning future design work for the new Mixmaster project.

Jennine Lupo of Congresswoman Jahana Hayes' office said the Appropriations Committee is finalizing clarifications for community projects funding requests. Five out of six member designated transportation projects that were recommended by Congresswoman Hayes have been included in the overall bill that has gone to committee for markup. The five projects remained in the bill and will be going to the floor for a full house vote.

10. Adjournment

At 11:14 a.m., on a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Ed St. John, 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 2021-18

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) and National Highway Performance Program – Bridge on Systems Program (NHPP-BRX) grant funds for projects 0174-0448 and 0151-0313.

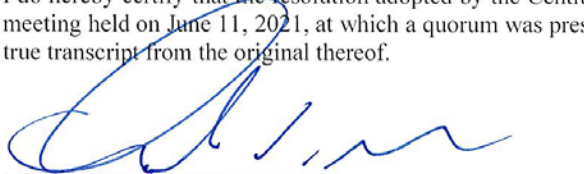
WHEREAS, the proposed projects do not necessitate a new Air Quality Conformity Determination.

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 June 11, 2021.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on June 11, 2021, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.


Ed Mone, Secretary

June 11, 2021
Date



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**RESOLUTION 2021-19
LOTICIP
PROFESSIONAL DESIGN REVIEW SERVICES**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on June 11, 2021 in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments receives funds from the Connecticut Department of Transportation under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) to administer the program and conduct professional review of design plans and specifications prepared by local project sponsors.

WHEREAS, the NVCOG conducted a qualifications-based selection process to create an on-call consultant list to conduct the professional review of design plans and specifications submitted by LOTICIP project sponsors.

WHEREAS, the NVCOG solicited requests for proposals and bids from the consultants on the approved on-call list to conduct the professional design review for the final design plans for the Rubber Avenue Reconstruction Project in the Borough of Naugatuck.

WHEREAS, the lowest qualified bid received, at a cost not-to-exceed \$9,500 was submitted by AI Engineers.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG endorses the selection of AI Engineers from the NVCOG on-call consultant list to conduct the professional design review for the Rubber Avenue Reconstruction Project and authorizes the Executive Director to execute any and all agreements with AI Engineers related to the professional design review of the Rubber Avenue Reconstruction Project.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on June 11, 2021
Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed _____

Ed Mone, Secretary



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RESOLUTION 2021-20

**ENDORSE
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its virtual meeting on June 11, 2021, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, The VN Engineers, under contract with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, prepared a Regional Transportation Safety Plan for the Naugatuck Valley planning region consistent with the State Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

WHEREAS, the NVCOG presented the draft RTSP to the TTAC at its December 1, 2020 meeting and conducted an internal review and circulated the plan to municipal stakeholders for review and comment.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG endorses the Regional Transportation Safety Plan presented at the NVCOG Board meeting on June 11, 2021, as the region's transportation plan.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on June 11, 2021

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed

Ed Mone, Secretary