



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Hybrid Meeting

NVCOG Conference Room

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor

Waterbury, CT 06702

10 a.m., Friday, October 14, 2022

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia (virtual); Stephen Sordi, First Selectman, Bethlehem (virtual); Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby (in-person); Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury (in-person); Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck (virtual); George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford (in-person); Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth (in-person); Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect (virtual); Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour (virtual); Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury (virtual); Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston (in-person); Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury (virtual); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott (in-person); William Agresta, Alternate, Woodbury (virtual).

Guests/Other: Noah Slovin, Haley Binn, Elizabeth McCarthy, SLR Consulting; Jameson Foulke, Senator Chris Murphy's Office; Sara Radacsi, CTDOT; April Chaplin, Margaret Haffner, The Kennedy Center; Joe Violette, Greater Waterbury Chamber; Betty Bajak, Greater Waterbury Transit District (all virtual); Sarah Wall, Avangrid (in-person).

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Joanna Rogalski, Lauren Rizzo, Karen Svetz, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Ricardo Rodriguez, Christine O'Neill, Josh Lecar, Desira Blanchard, Kevin Ellis, Elliot Wareham, Katie Schlick (all in-person); Aaron Budris, Faith Thurmond, Richard Donovan (all virtual).

1. Commencement of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. A moment of silence was observed for the fallen Bristol police officers. For public comment, April Chaplin announced that she would be starting a position as a transportation planner at CTDOT on November 4.

2. CNVMPO Meeting

- a. *Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2023-01 TIP Amendments – Project No. 0171-0493, Project No. 0304-XXXX, and Project No. 0170-3629* – Kevin Ellis said CTDOT is requesting a change to the CNVMPO 2021-24 TIP. This includes the addition of three new projects. Project No. 0170-3629 will utilize federal CMAQ funds to install electric vehicle chargers at three CTDOT District Headquarters buildings. Project No. 0171-0493 is for signal equipment replacement or upgrades at various intersections within District 1; in the CNVMPO region, these upgrades are all in Bristol. Project No. 0304-XXXX concerns the Waterbury Branch Line ADA accessibility and will utilize potential funding awarded under the All Stations Accessibility Program to design and construct ADA qualifying platforms at the Beacon Falls, Seymour, and Ansonia train stations, including amenities like ticketing, real time arrival information, and overhead canopies. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2023-01 approving the above listed TIP amendments.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the September 9, 2022 CNVMPO and NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the September 9, 2022 CNVMPO and NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 8/31/22* – Michael Szpryngel reviewed the financial report. The board adopted a balanced budget in June, but the current fund balance is \$85,392, which is normal for the timeframe due to the revenue from municipal and brownfields dues but will revert to a more balanced budget as the year progresses. There have been no reductions in funding sources. Legal expenses are over budget due to the Kinneytown Dam. NVCOG has submitted two NOAA grant applications. If awarded the grants, Mr. Szpryngel estimates this will take place in December. Mr. Szpryngel will present a revised budget in January 2023 as there are a couple of other funding sources that were unanticipated. This will allow him to refigure the budget and account for the uptick in legal expenses. On a motion by Rich Dziekan, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

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

- c. *Director's Report* – Rick Dunne introduced two new NVCOG employees, Elliot Wareham is a transportation planner and Katie Schlick is an environmental planner. The annual Regional Brownfields Partnership meeting will take place on November 30 at the Mattatuck Museum. Also, NVCOG issued an RFQ for LEPs in order to update the current LEP shortlist for brownfields activities.

4. Emergency Management

- a. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – Joanna Rogalski said the next REPT Steering Committee meeting for Region 5 will take place on October 17. There will be a CEO crisis leadership seminar on November 15.
- b. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski said the CERT training day will take place on November 5.

Additionally, Ms. Rogalski said there is a new organizational chart at the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Director is William Turner. Basic web Emergency Operating Center training classes will take place over the next few weeks. The next one is on October 19.

5. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *Update on Transportation Planning Studies*
 - i. Route 229, Bristol-Southington – Rich Donovan said this study aimed to identify improvements for non-motorized users as well as safety improvements on the corridor. A few of the issues identified were residential areas with high speeds and high volume. The existing data was analyzed and recommendations for intersection improvements, including the addition of turn lanes, crosswalks, signals and signal timing were made where appropriate. A proposed multi-use

path would provide a facility for both pedestrians and cyclists. Now that the study is complete, NVCOG has been looking at funding sources for construction. The full study is available on the NVCOG website.

- ii. *West Main Street, Waterbury* – Josh Lecar said this study’s public comment period ended in late September. The study’s full report is available on the NVCOG website. The study area is from the interchange with Route 8 along West Main Street, eastward towards the Waterbury Green. Fundamental challenges of the study were to respond to the downtown, enhance the urban environment, and improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and transit riders. Roadway recommendations include a road diet, narrow lane widths, street trees, and medians and textured pavement. Pedestrian/bicycle recommendations include crosswalks, wider sidewalks, ADA compliant sidewalk ramps, pedestrian actuated crossing devices, and bike lanes/shared use. Next steps include the RAISE Grant awarded for design and construction, a revision of the Waterbury Area Transit Study, a walk audit, and economic development initiatives.
- b. *Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update* – Rich Donovan said the Metropolitan Transportation Plan is a federally required long term vision for regional transportation. It must look at a 20-year period, at minimum. The 2023 update for NVCOG will look out to 2050. Every four years updates for the plan must be submitted including new priorities and an updated project list. In February 2023, the board will be asked to approve the updated plan. A strong public outreach effort has been made. An online survey is available on the NVCOG website for individuals to share their thoughts on transportation in the Greater Bridgeport and Naugatuck Valley regions. A public draft document is expected to be ready in December, allowing time for public comment and incorporation of those comments into the final plan update.
- c. *State Rail Plan Comment Period* – Mark Nielsen said CTDOT released a draft of the 2022-2026 Statewide Rail Plan for comment by the public and stakeholders. CTDOT is requesting all feedback be received by October 30, 2022. NVCOG staff has reviewed the plan and prepared comments for the region. Staff is also available to assist any municipality that would like to prepare comments. A few of the critical points within the plan that NVCOG has identified for comment are: CTDOT has proposed extending Waterbury Line service to connect with the Hartford Line, the plan references electrifying all passenger service across the state, the plan does not reference the Route 8 and Waterbury Branch Line Corridor Transit-Oriented Development & Alternative Modes Assessment Project, the plan mentions the ongoing Waterbury Line Master Plan, which NVCOG and the region have yet to be engaged in, the plan does not mention several freight improvement projects envisioned for the region, and the plan does not include construction of a transfer station in the Devon section of Milford that would allow Waterbury Line trains to operate without needing to enter the Main Line.
- d. *State Freight Plan Comment Period* – Kevin Ellis reported that CTDOT notified NVCOG in late September that a draft of the updated Statewide Freight Plan was released for public review and comment. A copy is available on the NVCOG website. Comments are

requested by October 24, 2022. Mr. Ellis said that much like the rail plan, a number of projects are missing in the freight plan. While the freight plan is focused on truck traffic, there is no mention of improving other modes of transport of freight around the state. NVCOG encourages each community to review the plan and provide comments of support or suggested alterations based on the need of the municipality. While the freight plan is a high-level vision for the state, the goals and proposed improvements should align with local needs. NVCOG staff members are available for assistance as needed.

- e. *NRG Trail Design and Management Guide* – Aaron Budris said that NVCOG staff, in conjunction with the Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee, has completed this trail design and management guide. A draft version was presented to the board earlier in the year. The guide was endorsed by the NRG Steering Committee in August and is published on the NVCOG website. The information is designed to present information and best practices to assist municipalities with their decision making as they develop and manage sections of the Naugatuck River Greenway. A visual design guide is also included.
- f. *DBE Goal Update* – Desira Blanchard said the purpose of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal is to create a level playing field in which DBEs can compete fairly for contracting opportunities. DBEs are usually certified by a USDOT, a recognized Unified Certification Program (UCP). NVCOG maintains a policy to award a fair share of contract opportunities to DBEs. This is a federal regulation which requires NVCOG to monitor and enforce its policy, create an overall three-year goal of expected DBE participation and report on its progress semi-annually. NVCOG's current DBE goal is 4%. The full text of the current goal and its methodology is available on the NVCOG website.

Rick Dunne complimented Ms. Blanchard and thanked her for the work she put in to create the best and most compliant plan NVCOG has had.

6. Environmental Planning

- a. *Hazard Mitigation Plan Implementation Update* – Noah Slovin of SLR Consulting provided recommendations on how the hazard mitigation plan could benefit municipalities. These recommendations included integrating it into Plans of Conservation and Development, incorporating actions into Capital Improvement Plans, and using it to pursue funding opportunities. For some funding sources, a local match may be required. He urged everyone to review the multi-jurisdiction document as well as the municipal annexes that are specific to each town or city. He invited anyone with specific questions to contact him directly.
- b. *CT DEEP Climate Resilience Fund* – Aaron Budris said CT DEEP has announced a new climate resilience fund grant program. It is intended to create a pipeline of resilience projects. There are two tracks in the program, track one will fund new resilience planning and community engagement and track two will fund preliminary design, engineering studies, analysis, costing, public outreach, etc., for resilience projects that have been identified in existing resilience plans, such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The program will not fund design or construction but will fund all steps following project identification that are needed to make a successful application for federal grants.

Resilience projects that are eligible under track two have already been identified in the newly published Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan previously discussed. They are listed as actions in the municipal annexes. NVCOG staff has gone through the plan and identified existing projects focusing on drainage-related issues and shared this information with municipalities over the last few weeks. NVCOG staff is available to assist in municipal applications and is also interested in potentially packaging several smaller projects into a regional application. NVCOG will hold a virtual information session on October 19. Invitations to the session were sent to all municipalities.

- c. *Household Hazardous Waste Update* – Christine O’Neill said September marked the conclusion of another successful year of the household hazardous waste program. A combined total of 1,447 vehicles were served at the events. This year’s program will be reviewed, and decisions made about next year’s program at the annual household hazardous waste meeting tentatively scheduled to be held on December 5. The contract with the current household hazardous waste vendor is expiring and a new RFP has been issued.
 - d. *Kinneytown Dam Update* – Rick Dunne said NVCOG is very close to facilitating the acquisition of the facility by the Connecticut Brownfields Land Bank. NVCOG has absorbed most of the legal costs of carrying this project through for the past couple of years. It was known from the beginning that this may end up as a deficit spend, and Mr. Dunne will keep the board apprised. NVCOG will be working with the Land Bank board on this matter and eventually Kinneytown will be off the NVCOG agenda as a formal item. Responding to a budget question from George Temple, Mr. Dunne said DEEP has committed \$1.6 million to the project and NVCOG has applied for over \$30 million in federal funds to affect the project. NVCOG will seek reimbursement for any eligible expenses it has incurred.
7. **Other**
Rick Dunne noted that a Brownfields Project Status report was included in the agenda packet but, in the interest of time, had not been placed on the agenda.

8. **Adjournment**

At 11:22 a.m., on a motion by Joe Kilduff, seconded by George Temple, 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**

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RESOLUTION 2023-01

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 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, CMAQ, and ASAP discretionary funding to the attached projects.

This resolution shall become effective as of October 14, 2022.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on October 14, 2022, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.

Ed Mone, Treasurer

October 14, 2022

Date