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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, April 8, 2022

NVCOG Representatives: David Cassetti, Mayor, Ansonia (virtual); Gerry Smith, First Selectman, Michael Krenesky, Alternate, Beacon Falls (both virtual); Stephen Sordi, First Selectman, Bethlehem (virtual); Jeff Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol (in-person); Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby (in-person); Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury (in-person); Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck (virtual); George Temple, First Selectman, Kristyn Rosa, Alternate, Oxford (both virtual); Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth (in-person); Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect (virtual); Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour (virtual); Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton (in-person); Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston (in-person); Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury (in-person); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott (in-person); William Agresta, Alternate, Woodbury (virtual).

Guests/Other: John Field, DEMHS Region 5; Grayson Wright, CTDOT; Jameson Foulke, Office of Senator Chris Murphy; Hedy Ayers, Eversource; April Chaplin, The Kennedy Center; Joe Violette, Greater Waterbury Chamber, Tom Hyde, NVRDC (all virtual).

Staff: Rick Dunne (in-person); Mark Nielsen (in-person); Aaron Budris (virtual); Joanna Rogalski (virtual); Lauren Rizzo (in-person); John DiCarlo (in-person); Karen Svetz (virtual); Mike Szpryngel (in-person); Richard Crowther, Jr. (in-person); Christine O'Neill (in-person); Josh Lecar (in-person); Richard Donovan (virtual); Desira Blanchard (in-person); Kevin Ellis (in-person); Kate Minutillo (in-person).

- 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. There was no public comment.
- 2. **CNVMPO Meeting** (Voting members for these items are limited to the 15 CEOs in the CNVMPO area)
 - a. Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2022-10 TIP Amendments
 - i. Project No. 0400-XXXX CT Zero Emission Bus Program Kevin Ellis said this project includes a statewide purchase of 12 battery electric buses.
 - ii. Project No. 0400-XXXX Statewide Bus Replacement Mr. Ellis said the bus replacements will be for CTTransit Divisions Hartford, New Britain, Stamford, and Waterbury and includes transit operators such as GBT.
 - iii. Project No. 0400-XXXX Systemwide Admin Capitol, Miscellaneous Support, Facility Improvements – Mr. Ellis said this project will consist of the purchase of miscellaneous capital and support equipment and includes facility improvements for CTTransit Divisions Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and Waterbury.
 - iv. Project No. 0170-3625 Statewide TDM (NY-NJ-CT Moderate) Mr. Ellis said CTDOT will market, educate, and provide outreach to individuals and employers, including teleworking resources, in support of CTDOT's Transportation Demand

- Management program in southwest CT, Danbury, Bridgeport, Greater New Haven, and Waterbury areas of the state under the brand name CTrides
- v. Project No. 0170-3635 Statewide TDM (Greater CT Moderate) Mr. Ellis said this transportation demand management program will market, educate, and provide outreach to individuals and employers, including teleworking resources, in support of CTDOT's statewide TDM program in the Greater Hartford and New London areas of the state under the brand name CTrides. The program will assist in the creation and long-term viability of carpools and vanpools, which will reduce the number of employee work trips, decreasing traffic congestion, energy consumption and air pollution.
- vi. Project No. 0171-XXXX CTFastrak Infrastructure, Station, and Facility Improvements Mr. Ellis said this project will support ongoing facility improvements and upgrades for the electrification of the CTTransit Hartford H2 building. These upgrades will help facilitate the rollout of electric buses and the deployment of the autonomous bus pilot program for CTFastrak between New Britain and Hartford.
- vii. Project No. 0300-XXXX New Haven Line Track Program Mr. Ellis said this program consists of the purchase and installation of ties, turnouts, and continuous welded rail, as well as surfacing track miles.
- viii. Project No. 0300-XXXX Bridge Replacement Program Mr. Ellis said CTDOT is removing from the TIP the Bridge Replacement Program. CTDOT will not be applying for Bridge Replacement Program funding this year. This funding will be used for the New Haven Line Track Program instead.

On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2022-10, approving the above listed TIP amendments.

b. Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2022-11, Air Quality Conformity for Greater CT Ozone Nonattainment Zone; CNVMPO Resolution 2022-12, Air Quality Conformity for CT Portion of NY-NH-LI Ozone Nonattainment Zone; and CNVMPO Resolution 2022-13, Air Quality Conformity for CT PM2.5 Nonattainment Zone – Richard Donovan said each MPO is required to submit an air quality conformity statement to the Federal Highway Administration and to the US Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with 40 CFR 51 and 93. In Connecticut, the conformity determination process is completed by CTDOT. CTDOT staff model expected emissions related to the state's three nonattainment areas. The Naugatuck Valley Planning Region includes municipalities located in the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island eight-hour Ozone Moderate Nonattainment Area, Greater Connecticut eight-hour Ozone Moderate Nonattainment Area, and the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut PM2.5 Attainment/Maintenance Area. In areas that do not meet ambient air quality standards, proposed transportation projects must demonstrate that they will not increase existing levels of non-conformity. The most recent release of this analysis, in February 2022, shows steadily declining emissions from transportation to levels well within the federal standards for each nonattainment area. On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Jeff Caggiano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolutions 2022-11, 2022-12, and 2022-13.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

a. Approval of the Minutes of the March 11, 2022 NVCOG & CNVMPO Meeting – On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Jeff Caggiano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 11, 2022 NVCOG and CNVMPO meeting.

b. Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 2/28/22 – Michael Szpryngel reported that NVCOG is 66% through the fiscal year. The net position is \$167,000 to the surplus. He projects a \$20,000 - \$30,000 surplus at the end of the year. There was unanticipated revenue from the Regional Performance Incentive Program. There were no unanticipated expenses. On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Jeff Caggiano, it was unanimously

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

c. Director's Report

- i. Legislative Discussion Rick Dunne said there is concern about Senate Bill 4, An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act. Rich Donovan said the potential concern is the way that Section 18 is written, which requires project sponsors to do an analysis and potentially an offset project for future emissions from transportation projects. The language may require municipalities or the COGs to be responsible for the air quality analysis and possible offset project.
- ii. NVCOG Budget Mr. Dunne said no substantive changes have been made to the draft budget. A presentation will be made to the Executive Committee to review the final parts of the budget and it is expected to be brought before the full board at the May 13 meeting.

Mr. Dunne also said there is a process for congressionally directed expenditures. Two NVCOG staff members attended training April 10 with Senator Murphy's DC staff, and NVCOG is also in touch with the offices of Representatives Himes, DeLauro, and Hayes. If a municipality is asking for a transportation project, it needs to be brought to NVCOG because it must be on the TIP to be eligible under current congressional rules. NVCOG has a list of the transportation projects and is assembling a list of non-transportation projects to be distributed to the CEOs. These items may also be obtained directly from congressional members. A regional impact project would benefit by working with fellow chief elected officials and submitting it in multiple places.

4. Municipal Shared Services

a. Sustainable Materials Management Grant Program – John DiCarlo said five NVCOG towns (Ansonia, Bethlehem, Shelton, Wolcott, and Woodbury) as well as NVCOG itself, submitted applications to the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Grant Program run by DEEP. Mr. DiCarlo noted that at the close of business on the due date for the grant applications, DEEP announced it would extend the application deadline to early May, just after the legislative session ends. This is related to a bill before the legislature

that would provide additional funds for the program. Additionally, Mr. DiCarlo said NVCOG would like to pursue state funding to create a regional composting facility. Interested municipalities should contact him within the next week.

Also, the first of three 2022 household hazardous waste event will be held on April 16 in Ansonia.

5. Emergency Management Update

a. COVID Response Update – John Field said DEMHS continues to monitor Covid and its variants. The PPE warehouse has been turned over to the state Department of Public Health. Joanna Rogalski said the last meeting of the long-term recovery committee was held on April 6. Due to the increase in the use of Covid home testing kits, there is now additional wastewater testing taking place to anticipate Covid surges. Housing continues to be a concern, as does childcare and mental health issues. Businesses are encountering problems in filling job openings.

FEMA Region 1 reported that 376 Connecticut projects were submitted through their portal in October 2021. Ms. Rogalski said the whole product of this effort is to create project resource guides for funding for those projects.

- b. Regional Emergency Planning Team Update The next regional steering committee meeting will take place on May 11.
- c. Community Emergency Response Team Update Ms. Rogalski said a change in the CERT activation process is being considered. Instead of submitting a roster for CERT personnel along with an activation request, there may instead be only a list of responding CERT members that will be submitted after the event. The Town of Manchester's CERT is serving as the net control operators for a new CERT amateur radio net. This is a linked radio system that will enable CERT teams across the state to communicate with each other regardless of internet or phone communications being disabled.

6. **NVCOG Planning/Transportation**

a. LOTCIP Financial Update – Mark Nielsen displayed a chart comparing LOTCIP funding to the estimated STBG since the inception of the program. When LOTCIP was created, it was intended to be a "swap" between federal aid dollars and state dollars, allowing the state to allocate federal aid dollars for their assets while still allowing the region to implement local projects. The chart showed that the LOTCIP allocation has not kept pace with what the federal aid would have been. The fair share amount that would have come to urbanized areas in this region has been increasing at the federal level, but the state has not increased the amount they provide under STBG. Mr. Nielsen displayed another chart comparing aggregate revenue against aggregate obligations. In 2023, NVCOG will find itself in a position for a few months where more money has been committed to projects than has been received from the state. Not all regions have programmed projects as aggressively as NVCOG has. This creates an issue because the legislature, looking from a statewide perspective, will see that all LOTCIP money has not been expended. While correct on a statewide basis, it is not true on a regional basis. Discussion with CTDOT will take place in June. Mr. Nielsen said NVCOG will not slow its efforts in getting LOTCIP projects initiated.

b. Regional Freight Plan – Request for Advisory Committee Members – Kevin Ellis said NVCOG is forming a committee to kick off a regional freight plan. Any municipalities interested in participating should let him know. Private industries interested in a regional freight plan are also welcome to participate. Mayors O'Leary and Hess expressed interest.

7. Environmental Planning

- a. Environmental Sustainability Forum MS4 Compliance April 20, 2022 Christine O'Neill announced that NVCOG will be hosting quarterly environmental sustainability forums. The first forum will be held on April 20 and focus on MS4 compliance. Municipal staff and officials are encouraged to attend.
- b. Composter Sale Aaron Budris said the online store for the composter and rain barrel sale in now open and will run to May 19. NVCOG will host events in Seymour and Bethlehem on May 21 for residents to pick up their orders.
- c. Kinneytown Dam Update Mr. Budris noted that this week marked the beginning of the 2022 fish migration, which will undoubtedly be impacted by the continued inaction of Hydroland at Kinneytown Dam. On March 14, Hydroland filed a progress report with FERC, placing blame for the company's continued license exemption non-compliance at Kinneytown Dam on personnel changes, Covid-19, global supply chain interruptions, and insufficient funding. They reported that efforts to dewater the fish ladder were underway to allow for an engineering assessment, and they continued to make progress on repairs to the generating unit. Hydroland also mentioned a "pending partnership" with an unnamed company, and an "influx of capital and technical capability" that it claimed will enable future progress towards compliance.

NVCOG staff visited Kinneytown on April 5 and observed that both generating facilities were still offline. The fish ladder has been completely de-watered, presumably to conduct an engineering inspection that was originally due to be completed in fall of 2021. At that time, USFWS was unable to take measurements because Hydroland was unable to stop the flow of water into the ladder.

Last year, although the ladder was running, all river flow was going over the spillway with the generating turbines inactive, and fish were attracted to the dam spillway instead of the ladder, resulting in minimal fish passage. With the fish ladder not operating, fish will not even be able to pass in the limited numbers seen in 2021. Significant passage will only be restored with both generating units restored to service to minimize flow over the spillway, and with a complete overhaul of passage facilities as informed by an engineering study and guided by the resource agencies (DTDEEP and USFWS).

CTDEEP and USFWS staff met with Hydroland officials on March 22 to discuss the continuing issues at the dam and will be meeting again to discuss details of fish passage.

Several chief elected officials indicated their interest in taking part in meetings with Hydroland.

8. Other

Mayor Rich Dziekan raised concerns about flooding in an area of about 25 houses located on the Housatonic River, downstream from Lake Zoar. Mayor Dziekan believes that if FirstLight, the dam operator, were to lower the Lake, it would alleviate the flooding problem. Mayor Lauretti noted capacity issues and the impact manually operated dams. First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis said she had spoken with FirstLight earlier in the morning and recommended the CEOs work with them as a team.

Mayor O'Leary recognized NVCOG, in particular Mark Nielsen, for his assistance in putting together Waterbury's RAISE grant.

Ed Mone said it was noted at a recent CCM legislative meeting that OPM has some concerns about federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding being allocated collaboratively through the COGs. Mr. Mone felt that, as local leaders, the CEOs should make their legislators know that they prefer to utilize the originally proposed plan (the Governor's plan) to cycle things through DRS and Commissioner Boughton and would rather not have OPM intervene or alter the existing process.

Mayor O'Leary said he would be meeting with legislators soon concerning the opioid settlement.

Ed St. John thanked Mayor O'Leary and Waterbury's Chief of Police for their leadership on efforts on addressing crime and in particular juvenile justice issues.

9. Adjournment

At 11:43 a.m., on a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Jeff Caggiano, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

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

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 April 8, 2022.

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Neil O'Leary, Chairman	Date

RESOLUTION ON CONFORMITY WITH THE CLEAN AIR ACT GREATER CONNECTICUT OZONE NONATTAINMENT ZONE CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is required to submit an Air Quality Conformity Statement to the US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the final conformity rule promulgated by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93) when adopting an annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or when effecting a significant revision of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); and

WHEREAS, Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) states that conformity of transportation plans and programs will be demonstrated if:

- 1. the plans and programs are consistent with recent estimates of mobile source emissions;
- 2. the plans and programs provide for the expeditious implementation of certain transportation control measures;
- the plans and programs contribute to annual emissions reductions consistent with the Clean Air Act of 1977, as amended; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO that the plans and programs approved today, April 4, 2022, and submitted to FHWA and EPA conform to the requirements of Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) as interpreted by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93); and

WHEREAS, The State of Connecticut has elected to assess conformity in the Greater Connecticut Ozone Nonattainment area (Litchfield, Hartford, Tolland, New London and Windham Counties) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation has jointly assessed the impact of all transportation plans and programs in this Ozone Nonattainment area (Ozone and PM2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination February 2022); and

WHEREAS, The Connecticut Department of Transportation's assessment (above) has found that plans and programs jointly meet mobile source emission's guidelines advanced by EPA pursuant to Section 7506 (3) (A).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO finds that the 2019-2045 MTP and the FFY 2021-2024 TIP and all Amendments conform to air quality

BEACON FALLS - BETHLEHEM - BRISTOL - CHESHIRE - MIDDLEBURY - NAUGATUCK - OXFORD - PLYMOUTH PROSPECT - SOUTHBURY - THOMASTON - WATERBURY - WATERTOWN - WOLCOTT - WOODBURY

requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (40 CFR 51 and 93), related U.S. Department if Transportation guidelines (23 CFR 450) and with Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) and hereby approves the existing Ozone and PM2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination dated February 2022, contingent upon no major adverse comments are received during said period.

This resolution shall become effective as of April 08, 2022.

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Neil O'Leary, Chairman	Date
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RESOLUTION ON CONFORMITY WITH THE CLEAN AIR ACT CONNECTICUT PORTION OF THE NY-NJ-CT OZONE NONATTAINMENT ZONE CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is required to submit an Air Quality Conformity Statement to the US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the final conformity rule promulgated by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93) when adopting an annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or when effecting a significant revision of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); and

WHEREAS, Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) states that conformity of transportation plans and programs will be demonstrated if:

- 1. the plans and programs are consistent with recent estimates of mobile source emissions;
- the plans and programs provide for the expeditious implementation of certain transportation control measures;
- the plans and programs contribute to annual emissions reductions consistent with the Clean Air Act of 1977, as amended; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO that the plans and programs approved today, April 4, 2022, and submitted to FHWA and EPA conform to the requirements of Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) as interpreted by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93); and

WHEREAS, The State of Connecticut has elected to assess conformity in the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT Ozone Nonattainment area (Fairfield, New Haven and Middlesex Counties) and the Connecticut Department of Transportation has jointly assessed the impact of all transportation plans and programs in this Nonattainment area (Ozone and PM2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination February 2022); and

WHEREAS, The Connecticut Department of Transportation's assessment (above) has found that plans and programs jointly meet mobile source emission's guidelines advanced by EPA pursuant to Section 7506 (3) (A).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO finds that the

BEACON FALLS - BETHLEHEM - BRISTOL - CHESHIRE - MIDDLEBURY - NAUGATUCK - OXFORD - PLYMOUTH PROSPECT - SOUTHBURY - THOMASTON - WATERBURY - WATERTOWN - WOLCOTT - WOODBURY

2019-2045 MTP and the FFY 2021-2024 TIP and all Amendments conform to air quality requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (40 CFR 51 and 93), related U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines (23 CFR 450) and with Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) and hereby approves the existing Ozone and PM2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination dated February 2022, contingent upon no major adverse comments are received during said period.

This resolution shall become effective as of April 08, 2022.

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howan	April 08, 2022	
Neil O'Leary, Chairman	Date	

RESOLUTION ON CONFORMITY WITH THE CLEAN AIR ACT CONNECTICUT PM2.5 NONATTAINMENT ZONE CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is required to submit an Air Quality Conformity Statement to the US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in accordance with the final conformity rule promulgated by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93) when adopting an annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or when effecting a significant revision of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); and

WHEREAS, Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) states that conformity of transportation plans and programs will be demonstrated if:

- 1. the plans and programs are consistent with recent estimates of mobile source emissions;
- the plans and programs provide for the expeditious implementation of certain transportation control measures;
- the plans and programs contribute to annual emissions reductions consistent with the Clean Air Act of 1977, as amended; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO that the plans and programs approved today, April 4, 2022, and submitted to FHWA and EPA conform to the requirements of Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) as interpreted by EPA (40 CFR 51 and 93); and

WHEREAS, The Connecticut portion of the New York – Northern New Jersey – Long Island, NY-NJ-CT area is designated a PM 2.5 attainment/maintenance area; and

WHEREAS, The State of Connecticut has elected to jointly assess conformity in all PM 2.5 attainment/maintenance areas in Connecticut (Fairfield County and New Haven County) and

WHEREAS, The results of the required emissions analysis performed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation on the 2019-2045 MTP and the FFY 2021-2024 TIP and Amendments show that the implementation of the projects contained therein will result in emissions of PM2.5 in each analysis year that are less that the emissions of the baseline year; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO finds that the 2019-2045 MTP and the FFY 2021-2024 TIP and all Amendments conform to air quality requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (40 CFR 51 and 93), related U.S. Department if Transportation guidelines (23 CFR 450) and with Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) and hereby approves the existing Ozone and PM2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination dated February 2022, contingent upon no major adverse comments are received during said period.

This resolution shall become effective as of April 08, 2022.

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Neil O'Leary, Chairman	Date