



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

Hybrid Meeting

NVCOG Conference Room

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor

Waterbury, CT 06702

10 a.m., Friday, February 17, 2023

NVCOG Representatives: 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 (in-person); George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford (in-person); Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth (in-person); Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect (virtual); Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton (in-person); Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston (in-person); Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury (in-person); Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown (in-person); Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury (virtual).

Guests/Other: Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works, Watertown (in-person); Jessica LeClair, Sustainable CT (virtual); David Lukens, OPM (virtual); Jennine Lupo, Office of Rep. Jahana Hayes (virtual); Kevin Tedesco, CTDOT (in-person); Ellen Graham, Office of Senator Richard Blumenthal (virtual); Tommy Hyde, NVRDC (virtual); John Field, DEMHS Region 5 (in-person); Daniel Davis, Eversource (in-person); Antonietta Cotton, Avangrid (virtual); Meg Hafner, The Kennedy Collective (virtual); Betty Bajak, GWTD (virtual); Mackenzie Smillie, Eversource (in-person); Attorney Chris Antonacci, USA Recycling (virtual); Ed Spinella, USA Recycling (virtual); Kevin Pisacich, CT DEEP (virtual); Niki Dykstra, CT Dept. of Labor (in-person); John Wardzala, The Kennedy Collective (in-person).

Staff: Mark Nielsen (in-person); Aaron Budris (virtual); Joanna Rogalski (in-person); Lauren Rizzo (in-person); Richard Crowther, Jr. (in-person); Ricardo Rodriguez (in-person); Josh Lecar (in-person); Richard Donovan (virtual); Desira Blanchard (in-person); Steven Perry (in-person); Elliot Wareham (virtual); Savannah-Nicole Villalba (in-person); Drew Baklik (in-person); Eyitayo Olaleye (in-person).

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a presentation by Jessica LeClair of Sustainable CT concerning Sustainable CT's services and certification levels. Also prior to the start of the meeting there was a talk by Attorney Chris Antonacci and Ed Spinella of USA Recycling voicing opposition to Governor's Bill HB 6664 concerning managing waste and creating a waste authority. Additionally, First Selectman George Temple introduced Niki Dykstra from the CT Dept. of Labor. Ms. Dykstra explained that she works in veterans' employment services. The services provided are free and she invited those in attendance to contact her directly for additional information.

1. Commencement of Meeting

Chairman Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. There was no public comment. Chairman O'Leary recognized Daniel Davis of Eversource. Mr. Davis introduced himself as the new rep for community relations in the Waterbury area.

2. CNVMPO Meeting

- a. *Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2023-08, TIP Amendments – Project No. 0153-0125, Project No. 0017-0195, Project No. 0170-3649, Project No. 0170-3650, Project No. 0170-3651, and Project No. 0170-3652* – Mark Nielsen said most of the TIP amendments cover three main projects. The first is to add funding to the Steele Brook Greenway multi-use trail in Watertown, the second is a project to modernize traffic signals at six intersections along North Main Street, South Street, and Route 72 in downtown Bristol,

and the third set of amendments adds funding related to statewide pavement markings. One additional TIP amendment adds a project to realign the I-84 Exit 14 westbound off-ramp in Southbury, reconstruct CT Route 72 in the vicinity of the interchange, and improve the Route 72/Main Street South intersection. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2023-08.

3. **NVCOG Administrative Items**

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the January 13, 2023 CNVMPO and NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Pete Hess, with Bob Chatfield abstaining, it was

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the January 13, 2023 CNVMPO and NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 1/31/23* – Mark Nielsen reviewed the financial report. NVCOG is still operating on-track with a balanced budget expected by the end of the fiscal year. The net position is \$143,762. There have been no unexpected funding cuts or significant expenses. Reimbursement for Kinneytown Dam legal expenses is expected to come from a NOAA grant. On a motion by Joe Kilduff, seconded by Jeff Caggiano, it was unanimously

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

- c. *Review of FY 2022 Audit Report* – In the absence of the NVCOG financial director, this item was tabled.
- d. *Approval of FY 2023 Mid-Year Budget Adjustments* – In the absence of the financial director, this item was tabled.
- e. *Approval of FY 2024 Preliminary Budget Estimates* – In the absence of the financial director, this item was tabled.
- f. *Director's Report*
 - Legislative Update – Drew Baklik said public hearings and committee meetings are being watched. He is working with CCM and COST on behalf of the NVCOG municipalities and tracking legislation. If any CEO has an interest in tracking a particular bill, they should contact him. Mr. Baklik was asked to keep an eye on the CMERS mandate bill and a bill concerning firefighters and cancer presumption.

In addition, Mark Nielsen provided an update on Executive Director Rick Dunne's recovery from a surgical procedure. Mr. Nielsen also introduced new NVCOG transportation planner Tayo Olaleye.

4. **Emergency Management**

- a. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – Joanna Rogalski said CCM is having an emergency management conference as a one-day statewide municipal event.

- b. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski said the Waterbury Dept of Health is considering a CERT that will be affiliated with the city. CERT training sessions will be held in March and October. The next quarterly statewide meeting is on April 20.

John Field said there is a new local emergency operations template for emergency management. Completion of the template is due by January 1, 2024 and will garner each municipality \$5,000. He also said migrant planning is taking place among a variety of agencies. Planning activities will include a tabletop exercise. REPT legal questions are being worked on by attorneys. He noted that Eversource has a number of new liaisons who will be reaching out to the municipalities. A regional strategic training plan is being created.

5. **NVCOG Planning/Transportation**

- a. *Presentation by David Lukens of OPM regarding Statewide Broadband* – Mr. Lukens said he is the broadband mapping coordination at OPM in the GIS office, and his department has been tasked with data collection and mapping of broadband. He introduced Kevin Pisacich from CT DEEP. Mr. Lukens said OPM has completed two rounds of ISP data collection and has published availability and adoption data. OPM estimates approximately 361 out of some 167,000 locations in the NVCOG region are underserved. The region is served by Altice, Charter, Comcast, GoNetSpeed, and Frontier in various locations. Like most of the state, the NVCOG region has remote locations with no availability, but suffers more from a lack of adoption than a lack of availability. Approximately 350 locations in the region lack access to broadband service, but over 30,000 locations lack a broadband subscription, satellite and fixed wireless not included. In some instances, this may mean that a higher speed level is not needed or desired, but when it has to do with education, Mr. Lukens said this should be managed between the state and the localities. Affordability is also a key component, and he noted the Affordable Connectivity program is available. Details about this program can be found on the OPM website. He also said that OPM's data on broadband does not "square" with data from the FCC and he would appreciate help in reporting problem areas, locations with unreliable service, and locations not accurately represented on the FCC map.
- b. *MTP Update* – Rich Donovan said the MTP will be placed on the agenda for adoption at the March CNVMPO/NVCOG meeting which aligns with the end of the public comment period. The first public information meeting for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan was held on February 16. A series of other events are also planned and may be viewed on the NVCOG website. The entire draft MTP is also available on the NVCOG website. Mr. Donovan said NVCOG welcomes any comments from residents or other interested parties and asked for the assistance of the CEOs in helping to publicize this.

6. **Environmental Planning**

- a. *Brownfields Project Update* – Ricardo Rodriguez said the RLF committee has provided supplemental funding for 359 Mill Street, Waterbury, and 0 Andrew Avenue, Naugatuck. The 70 North/59 Field Street, Torrington project and the 501 East Main Street, Ansonia project are in the underwriting phase. DECD has released a new funding round, it is a municipal grant program for remediation with limited assessment. In addition, the targeted brownfields development loan program from DECD offers a maximum of \$4

million per loan per project. NVCOG is available to assist the towns with grants and loans. EPA has also released a funding round. A meeting of the RLF board will be called to award the pending sites that were discussed in the last RLF meeting.

- b. *MSW Update* – Aaron Budris said the trash reduction pilot programs in Woodbury, Ansonia, and Seymour are now underway. NVCOG staff has been assisting the municipalities with outreach to residents. Planning for a 2023 composter and rain barrel sale is underway. Mr. Budris said CT DEEP has announced a grant program to help municipalities and regional organizations evaluate interest in expanding existing or creating new regional waste authorities. There is \$1.5 million statewide available. NVCOG staff has begun putting together an application that would fund a study to investigate the region’s needs and how a new or expanded regional waste authority could help support municipal efforts. The deadline is March 30. Mr. Budris said NVCOG would be happy to help Mayor O’Leary set up a forum on MSW to include discussion of a regional waste authority.
- c. *DEEP Recreational Trails Update* – The deadline for this funding round is March 1. NVCOG has been assisting members with applications for projects in Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethlehem, Bristol, Derby, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour, Thomaston, Waterbury, Watertown, and Wolcott.
- d. *Kinneytown Dam Update* – Mr. Budris said NOAA has announced that NVCOG will be receiving a grant for the removal of the dam. The scope has been negotiated with NOAA and all required paperwork has been submitted. A funding agreement is expected to be in place in March, with a project start date of April 1. Following the advice of the board, NVCOG has also filed for reimbursement of legal fees going back to September 1, which would allow NVCOG to recoup approximately \$60,000. Executive Director Rick Dunne signed a term sheet last month on behalf of the brownfield land bank that outlines terms of the proposed purchase of the Kinneytown Dam from Kinneytown Hydro. This was a non-binding agreement and NVCOG’s attorneys are now drafting a binding asset purchase agreement that will be executed as soon as possible. Mr. Budris does not expect the closing to take place before April, but design and engineering work will be able to start regardless of who holds the title.

Mayor Joe Kilduff thanked Mr. Budris for his prompt response in obtaining aerial photos of a private dam in Plymouth that had sprung a leak.

7. Other

- a. *NVCOG Year in Review* – In the absence of the executive director, this item was tabled.

8. Adjournment

At 11:52 a.m., on a motion by Mark Lauretti, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Assistant
For
Pete Hess, Secretary



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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RESOLUTION 2023-08

**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; and

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)*; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is requesting amendment of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP as shown in the attached page; and

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

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;

BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO approves the amendment of the FFY 2021-2024 TIP.

This resolution shall become effective as of February 17, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on February 17, 2023, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.



N. Warren Hess, III, Secretary

February 17, 2023
Date

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