



**COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS  
CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY**

49 Leavenworth Street, Suite 303, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • cogcnv.org

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Regional Planning Commission  
of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley**

COGCV Conference Room  
49 Leavenworth Street, Ste. 303  
Waterbury, CT  
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 18, 2013

**Attendance:** Ken Long, Middlebury; Harold Cosgrove, Oxford; Nancy Clark and Leslie Kane, Southbury; Dennis Casey, Waterbury; Joel Serota, Woodbury.

**On the phone:** Dave Chadderton, Beacon Falls; Ruth Mulcahy, Watertown.

**Guests:** Don Antilla, Southbury Planning Commission; Deloris Curtis, Planner, Town of Southbury; Jen Sweeney, Andy Fesenmeyer, CTDOT; Alan Nafis, Consultant Engineer.

**Staff:** Samuel Gold, Executive Director; Joe Perrelli, Senior Planner; Pat Gallagher, Regional Planner; Aaron Budris, Regional Planner – GIS Specialist.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Introductions**

The meeting opened at 7:04 p.m. with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

**2. Administrative Items**

a. *Approval of November 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes* — Chair Ken Long tabled the approval of the minutes until the next RPC meeting.

b. *Correspondence* — Samuel Gold summarized recent correspondence:

11/15/2013      Email from Samuel Gold to COGCV's CEOs describing the Nutmeg Network and inviting interested parties to an information session on 11/25.

11/20/2013      Email from Tom Masiarz, CTDOT, transmitting a proposal to refocus efforts on I-84 West of Waterbury in order to advance interchange improvements in the near term.

11/27/13        Email from Samuel Gold to COGCV CEOs and Alternates with an update on the Nutmeg Network information session held on 11/23, along with PowerPoint attachments of the presentation.

12/5/2013      Letter from Pat Gallagher to Lisa Rivers, CTDOT, commenting on the CT Fastrak Service Plan and addressing projects and developments that may impact express bus service to Waterbury and Cheshire beginning in 2015.

12/10/2013     Presentation to Connecticut's Regional Planning Organization about COGCV's traffic tracking and analysis using Google Maps.

- 12/11/2013 Letter from Samuel Gold to OPM's RPI Program Director Sandra Huber, requesting that COGCNV's 2012 RPIP proposal be considered for funding under the 2013 OPM Regional Performance Incentive Program.
- 12/17/2013 Email from Valley COG Executive Director to OPM Undersecretary Dave LeVasseur transmitting Valley COG and COGCNV's petition to be consolidated into a single planning region and COG.

### **3. I-84 Interchange Projects in Southbury (Exits 14, 15, and 16)**

Andy Fesenmeyer and Alan Nafis gave an overview of Project 130-173, which covers improvements in the vicinity of I-84, Exits 14-16. The improvements affect many of the intersections around the interchanges. The project was the result of the I-84 West of Waterbury Study that was completed in 2001. It recommended adding a lane on I-84 in both directions and making improvements to intersections off of the highway to improve traffic flow. Discussion followed the presentation about the need for the improvements, design revisions that the town has requested, and CTDOT's estimate of traffic volumes and congestion in the future. The primary focus was on Exit 15, where the plans call for an additional left turn lane on Route 6/67 NB at the intersection of Main Street South. The town's Planning Commission voted on a series of recommendations related to the overall project last week and asked that the plans for Exit 15 be removed from the project due to the impact the impact on Main Street South. Southbury's Board of Selectmen will consider their recommendations tomorrow evening.

Following discussion, Chair Ken Long tabled any motion on this issue until the next meeting to provide those members on the phone time to review the project plans.

### **4. Regional Highway Funding Program Priorities**

- a. Surface Transportation Program—Urban (STP-U) – Joe Perrelli addressed the issue of unprogrammed funding in the region's STP-Urban program that can be used towards other priorities in the region. In the interest of obligating the funds this fiscal year, staff met with officials from CTDOT to review high-priority projects on the state-owned highway network where the funds can be used. Staff recommends applying the unprogrammed funds towards one project from the region's STP-Urban schedule: the Waterbury Bus Operations and Needs Study. The remaining funds should be applied towards the design of Project 174-309, Improvements at I-84, Exit 17 including the intersection of Routes 63/64. Mr. Perrelli asked that the RPC consider the recommendation and vote on the staff recommendation at their January meeting.
- b. State Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) – Joe Perrelli reported that the COGCNV voted on December 13<sup>th</sup> to support an application for the River Road Bridge over the Pomperaug River in Southbury for the LOTICIP program in FY 2014. The new program went into effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>. CTDOT asked the region's to consider shovel-ready projects that could move forward expeditiously as a means of obligating FY 2014 funds. The River Road bridge project is in design and is listed as a high priority in the region's STP-Urban schedule

### **5. RPO Consolidation Update**

Samuel Gold reported that the Undersecretary of OPM met with COGCNV on December 9. The Undersecretary told the COGCNV that it was not planning to include our region into a larger region with Greater Bridgeport, which has been a concern for our Chief Elected Officials. OPM supports the merger of the CNVR with the Valley Region. The Undersecretary also stated that the Central CT region will be breaking apart. It is likely that at least two towns from that region will petition to join our region: Bristol and Plymouth. The Valley COG voted yesterday to approve a merger with our region, so we can now send in a joint petition to the state to redraw our boundary. We will start working with their towns in the new year on the new merger in conjunction with any other towns that petition to join us.

## **6. Points of Interest / Local Activities**

Chair Ken Long tabled the Points of Interest until the next RPC meeting. Harold Cosgrove asked if he could make one comment.

*Oxford – Harold Cosgrove reported that*

- The sign at Exit 21 on Route 8 northbound directs motorists through a residential neighborhood to get to Route 67 in Oxford when Exit 22 would be a better exit to use. He asked if there was someone at CTDOT who could correct this problem.

## **7. Other**

- a. Bus Ridership Count – Pat Gallagher provided an update on the Bus Ridership Counts. They were completed earlier in December and show an across-the-board increase in ridership.
- b. Bike Share Feasibility Study – Sam Gold reported that he is working in conjunction with the RPO and other groups in Hartford on planning for the feasibility study. The next step will be identifying a consultant for the project.

## **8. Adjournment**

On a motion by Dennis Casey, seconded by Harold Cosgrove it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Submitted by  
Joe Perrelli  
Senior Planner  
for  
Gil Graveline  
RPC Secretary