

## MINUTES

### Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

COGCNV Conference Room

49 Leavenworth Street, Suite 303

Waterbury, CT 06702

12:00 Noon, Friday, November 14, 2014

**COGCNV Members:** Chris Bielik, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Leonard Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Jerry Sitko, Alternate, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Bob Mezzo, Mayor, Naugatuck; Joanne Pelton (by phone), Alternate, Oxford; Tom Galvin, Alternate, Prospect; Ed Edelson, First Selectman, John Monteleone, Alternate, Southbury; Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Kevin DelGobbo, Alternate, Waterbury; Roy Cavanaugh, Alternate, Watertown; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Bill Butterly, First Selectman, Woodbury.

**Speakers and Guest:** Susan Doscow, member of the public; Edgar Wynkoop, CTDOT; Kevin Maloney, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities; Mark Massaro, Northeast Utilities; Peter Burns, NVCOG Interim Management Consultant; Sean Kellerher, Valley COG; Darlene Kish-Thomson, Lori Cheever, eBenefits Group; Darin Offerdahl, Michaud, Accavallo, Woodbridge & Cusano, LLC.

**Staff:** Samuel Gold, AICP, Executive Director; Pat Gallagher, Senior Planner; Glenda Prentiss, GIS Coordinator; Aaron Budris, Regional Planner/GIS Specialist; Joanna Rogalski, Regional Planner; Virginia Mason, Consulting Assistant Director; Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Assistant.

#### 1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, and Public Comment

Chairman Ed Edelson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was taken. There was no public comment.

#### 2. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the October 10, 2014 meeting
- b. Financial Report
- c. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
  - i. FY15 – Improvements at Interchange 17, Preliminary Design, STP-O Funds (proj. 080-0128)
  - ii. FY15 – Improvements at Interchange 17, Preliminary Design, IMD Funds (proj. 080-0128)
- d. Endorsement of Southbury Agriculture Viability Grant Application for Southbury Farmers Market
- e. Correspondence

On a motion by Bill Butterly, seconded by Chris Bielik, is was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the consent agenda.

#### 3. Central Naugatuck Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CNVR MPO)

- a. *Transfer of CNVR MPO Hosting from COGCNV to NVCOG Effective January 1, 2015 –*  
Samuel Gold explained that COGCNV is both the region's regional planning organization and metropolitan planning organization (MPO). An MPO is a federal designation that gives responsibility for programming federal transportation funds. On 1/1/15, COGCNV

will no longer be operational and NVCOG will assume all activities and responsibilities. A vote is needed to transfer the hosting of the Central Naugatuck Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (CNVR MPO) to NVCOG effective 1/1/15. He also said that effective 1/1/15, the 13 chief elected officials of the Central Naugatuck Valley Region will still be the ones to vote on business regarding the MPO. Work will be done to merge three different MPOs together, but immediately, for approximately six months, there may be separate items on the NVCOG agenda for CNVR MPO business.

- b. *Redesignation of the CNVR MPO to Include All Current Municipalities and the City of Bristol and Town of Plymouth Upon the Dissolution of the Central CT MPO* – Mr. Gold said the Central Connecticut Metropolitan Planning Organization (CC MPO) is expected to dissolve on 6/30/15. Bristol and Plymouth are members of CC MPO and are expected to join the CNVR MPO on 7/1/15. A vote of the existing CNVR MPO is required to redesignate the boundaries of the CNVR MPO to include new municipalities. Federal regulations require an affirmative vote of the chief elected officials representing at least 75% of the population of the existing MPO, including Waterbury as the largest municipality, to approve an MPO redesignation. A similar process would be repeated when, or if, the Greater Bridgeport Valley MPO is dissolved and the four Valley municipalities join the CNVR MPO to create a coterminous Naugatuck Valley MPO.

Action taken today would proactively accept the municipalities of Bristol and Plymouth into CNVR MPO effective 7/1/15.

- c. *Authorization of NVCOG Executive Director to Sign TIP Actions on the Behalf of CNVR MPO* – Mr. Gold also stated that as the COG and the MPO would no longer be synonymous and would contain two different geographies, the new director of NVCOG would need authority to sign authorizations on behalf of the MPO. Currently, when minor changes to a project occur, CTDOT sends the project to COGCVN who contacts the affected municipalities and confirms their acceptance of the TIP action before approval. A similar protocol is recommended for NVCOG hosting of the CNVR MPO.
- d. *CNVR Metropolitan Planning Organization Self-Certification* – Mr. Gold said the U.S. Department of Transportation requires COGCVN to certify on an annual basis that the terms and provisions of the metropolitan transportation planning regulations are satisfied. In addition, COGCVN must demonstrate that the provisions relative to involvement of public and private providers for mass transit, civil rights, involvement in minority business enterprises, special efforts for elderly and disabled persons, the Clean Air Act, 23 U.S.C. and 49 U.S.C. have also been satisfied.

As the preference of the members was to vote on these MPO items with one vote, on a motion by Chris Bielik, seconded by Bob Mezzo, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve all four items outlined above and identified in the agenda packets as 3a, b & c; and 3d, and as discussed. (Memos regarding these items are both

labeled as Memorandum 110614 and may be differentiated by their subject lines.)

4. **Naugatuck River Greenway Signage Project – Recreational Trails Grant Authorization**

Samuel Gold said COGCNV had applied on behalf of 11 towns on the Naugatuck River for a grant to fund uniform signs for sections of the Naugatuck River Greenway and access points to the river from Torrington to Derby. CT DEEP is requiring the grant paperwork remain for the time being in the name of COGCNV. It will be transferred over to NVCOG at a future date.

On a motion by Bill Butterly, seconded by Neil O’Leary, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize COGCNV Chairman Ed Edelson to enter into and sign contracts with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on behalf of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley with regard to the Naugatuck River Greenway Signage Project – Recreational Trails Grant Program.

5. **COGCNV Staffing**

a. *Approval of ConnectiCare 12 Flex POS Plan HSA Health Insurance Plan* – Samuel Gold explained that COGCNV’s current health insurance expires on 11/30/14 and Aetna has dropped the plan under which COGCNV employees are covered. Mr. Gold said Darlene Kish-Thomson of eBenefits had come up with a comparable plan, still a high deductible health savings account plan, offered by ConnectiCare. Mr. Gold proposed that, at least for the month of December, unless there had been some other discussion, to start with the ConnectiCare plan effective 12/1, and then for it to be succeeded by a future Naugatuck Valley COG employee plan. Mr. Gold said that in the COGCNV budget from the spring, he had budgeted a 4% increase for health insurance costs, and ConnectiCare came in a 0.3% increase.

On a motion by Neil O’Leary, seconded by Bill Butterly, it was unanimously

VOTED: To Approve the CT Care 12 FLEX POS Plan as COGCNV’s healthcare plan, coupled with COGCNV’s existing Health Savings Account through Thomaston Savings, and to authorize Executive Director Samuel Gold to execute policy documents concerning the plan with CT Care.

Mr. Edelson noted that the increase was well within the budget and something that should be done on behalf of the employees. Ed St. John noted that it was difficult for a small group to have leverage when negotiating, and that at some point, it might be a good idea to become part of a larger group, as there is efficiency in numbers.

Mr. Gold said COGCNV’s insurance broker, Darlene Kish-Thomson of eBenefits, had done exactly that for other COGs throughout the state and that she would be speaking at the NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Hiring of a New Planner* – Samuel Gold said candidates had recently been interviewed for the position left open when Joe Perrelli resigned. He reported that upon completion of a reference check, he believed an offer would be made to a candidate next week.

6. **Waterbury Area Transit Study**

Pat Gallagher reported that public outreach for this project has begun. The study is expected to be completed in fall of 2015.

7. **Other**

Virginia Mason provided an update on emergency planning activities. She reported she had attended a recent REPT meeting and that nine COGCNV towns have not yet completed the 2014 resolution and MOA. A memo from Ms. Mason and informational packet was distributed at the meeting to assist the nine towns, with one memo/packet to be mailed. There is a December 1 deadline for these items.

8. **Adjournment**

At 12:16 p.m., on a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Tom Galvin, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by  
Lauren Rizzo  
Administrative Assistant  
for  
Tom Dunn  
Secretary