



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 · 203-757-0535 · 203-735-8688 · nvcogct.org

MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

and

Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

NVCOG Conference Room

49 Leavenworth St., 3rd Floor

Waterbury, CT

10 a.m., Friday, October 11, 2019

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia; Chris Bielik, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ray Rogozinski, Alternate, Bristol; Rich Dzieken, Mayor, Derby; Kristyn Rosa, Proxy, Oxford; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Seymour; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Guests/Other: Michael Burke, U.S. Census Bureau; Kevin Budris, Attorney, Conservation Law Foundation; Hedy Ayers, Samantha LaBonne, Eversource; David Krechevsky, Waterbury Regional Chamber; Lou Mangini, Rosa DeLauro's Office; members of the public.

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Aaron Budris, Joanna Rogalski, Glenda Prentiss, Trish Bauer, Lauren Rizzo, Christian Meyer, John DiCarlo, Karen Svetz, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Gabriel Filer, Keith Rosenfeld, Olivia Brandi, Ricardo Rodriguez, Lesley Barewin.

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a presentation on Complete Counts for the 2020 Census by Mike Burke of the U.S. Census Bureau.

1. **Commencement of Meeting (Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment)**

Chairman Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called.

For public comment, Samantha LaBonne of Eversource said Eversource's Home Energy Solutions program has been reduced in price. Hedy Ayers of Eversource said there has been a reduction in the number and duration of power outages, and she distributed a storm safety checklist.

2. **CNVMPPO Meeting (Voting members for these items are limited to the 15 CEOs in the CNVMPO area)**

a. *Approval of Amendments to the 2018-2021 CNVMPO TIP*

- i. Add State Project No. 0170-3548 Bridge Maintenance Statewide – Christian Meyer said this project will address pin and hanger assemblies for six fracture critical bridges along I-84 and I-91 that have been identified as a high priority for the Statewide Pin and Hanger Program. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve CNVMPO Resolution 2020-02, adding State Project No. 0170-3548 Bridge Maintenance Statewide to the 2018-2021 CNVMPO TIP.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the September 13, 2019 NVCOG and CNVMPO Meeting* - On a motion by Kurt Miller, seconded by Chris Bielik, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the September 13, 2019 NVCOG and CNVMPO meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Report for Period Ending 8/31/19* – Michael Szpryngel reviewed the NVCOG financial report for the period ending 8/31/19. There have been no unexpected reductions in funding sources, and there have been no unexpected expenses. Additionally, OPM notified NVCOG that the first and second quarter payments for the RSG will be released in the beginning of November. On a motion by Ray Rogozinski, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the NVCOG financial report for the period ending 8/31/19.

- c. *Review of Brownfields RLF Report* – Mr. Szpryngel said this was the report that was recently presented at the annual Regional Brownfields Partnership meeting. No NVCOG action is required. \$215,000 of unallocated funds remain in the Revolving Loan Fund program, as well as \$440,000 of program income that has no allocation. These funds may be used for either RLF grants or loans. Rick Dunne added that there is interest in the available funds and another RLF committee meeting will be held, most likely in December.
- d. *Director's Report* – Rick Dunne reported that NVCOG is now fully staffed, as per the organizational chart that had been previously approved. He introduced Olivia Brandi, Ricardo Rodriguez, and Lesley Barewin.

Mr. Dunne said OPM had determined that several cities, including the City of Waterbury, had met qualifying standards in 2019 for the fiscal disparities provision of CGS Sec. 7-148dd. As the Municipal Accountability Review Board, the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission, and a regionalization task force are now in place to assist municipalities undergoing financial and financially related challenges, OPM Secretary Melissa McCaw has recommended affected municipalities pursue assistance under the available programs established by these entities. No further action with regard to CSG Sec. 7-148dd needs to be taken at this time.

Mr. Dunne said that at the September meeting, First Selectman Temple had requested that NVCOG try and convene as a region around the issue of the opioid crisis. Ed Mone said he believed Mr. Temple's request was for a roundtable discussion with neighboring communities to share ideas on what is effective. Ray Rogozinski had distributed two pamphlets from Bristol's Mayor's Opioid Task Force, one given by first responders to those who have survived an opioid overdose, and the other concerning the community-wide crisis. Mayor O'Leary noted that Waterbury has hired an opioid crisis response coordinator and has held town hall meetings which included physicians from both St. Mary's and Waterbury Hospital. He said another awareness campaign will be started and include curriculum aspects. Waterbury plans to hold roundtable discussions starting in November and will make sure all NVCOG representatives receive an invitation.

Rick Dunne then provided an RPIP update. He explained that these are competitive grants to COGs for regionalization efforts. OPM will send out a list of priority areas and the COGs must submit applications in December. Mr. Dunne anticipates that NVCOG may potentially submit applications for expansion of the brownfields program and solid waste management.

Mr. Dunne introduced Kevin Budris, a staff attorney with the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). Mr. Budris spoke about Connecticut's municipal solid waste, single stream recycling, and escalating costs to towns and cities. CLF advocates moving to a zero waste system. A bottle bill expansion would help to remove recyclables from the waste stream and utilize them so that they are not waste and, instead, provide a benefit. He spoke about extended producer responsibility for packaging, single use plastic bans, and provided examples of state bottle bills done right. Larger bottle deposits increase the return rate. CLF would like to see the bottle deposit in Connecticut increased from 5¢ to 10¢ and contain an automatic escalator clause should the redemption rate drop below a specified level. CLF would like to see increased handling fees to redemption centers, and expansion to include all #1 and #2 plastic containers and all glass containers. Mr. Budris urged municipal support for the bottle bill expansion and responded to questions concerning legislative outreach and redemptions by primary and secondary users.

Upon the departure of Mayor O'Leary, who had another obligation, Mayor Mark Lauretti chaired the remainder of the meeting.

4. Regional and Municipal Shared Services Update

- a. *State Surplus Program Opportunities for Municipalities* – John DiCarlo explained the auction opportunities available to municipalities for state surplus goods that can provide significant savings on used items. The website is publicsurplus.com and the State of Connecticut's participation is facilitated by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). A wide range of items are available. Not many municipalities are currently taking advantage of this opportunity, although they do have a distinct first option advantage over anyone in the public in bidding on and acquiring these items. Mr. DiCarlo said he would send information to all NVCOG CEOs and their assistants to be forwarded to procurement staff in order to register and log into the system. He also reported that DAS has noted that municipalities are underutilizing its P-Card program. The program enables credit cards to be issued to designated employees to use as a purchasing tool.

5. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *Approval of NVCOG Consulting Engineer Design Services On-Call List* – Mark Nielsen said that as part of LOTCIP program guidelines, NVCOG is responsible for selecting eligible projects and distributing funds to member municipalities to construct transportation improvement projects. Municipal sponsors are responsible for completing the design process and NVCOG is required to certify that the project plans and specifications meet design standards established for the program. To facilitate this process, NVCOG endorsed a consulting engineer on-call list at its September 9, 2016 meeting. At its June 8, 2018 meeting, NVCOG exercised its option to extend the term of the list by one year. The term of this list, used to solicit proposals for third party engineering reviews, expired in September 2019. An RFQ was issued to solicit responses from engineering firms to perform on-call transportation engineering and program management related to the

project design review and other tasks. Additionally, the RFQ was expanded to include municipal engineering design phase assistance for LOTCIP and non-LOTCIP projects. The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee formed a selection committee and selected seven firms to be included on the list. Mr. Nielsen is now seeking NVCOG endorsement of the new on-call list. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Len Assard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept NVCOG Resolution 2020-05, concerning the endorsement of the design services on-call list.

- b. *FTA Triennial Review* – Mr. Nielsen explained that every three years, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducts a review of direct recipients of FTA grant funding. As a designated recipient providing capital items and busses to Valley Transit District, NVCOG is a part of this process. NVCOG recently met with the review team contracted by FTA. Mr. Nielsen reported that a few issues were cited, but they are relatively minor and will be corrected over the course of the next few months. Responding to a question by Ed Mone, Mr. Nielsen affirmed that there are no ramifications.
- c. *Waterbury Branch Line Rail Update* – Mr. Nielsen said NVCOG had organized and facilitated a Naugatuck Valley Rail Summit, held in the Borough of Naugatuck, on February 2, 2018. The summit brought together municipal leaders from the six communities located along the Waterbury branch line, as well as state representatives, to discuss the need for immediate improvement of equipment and service along the line, and to advocate for state investment in it. At the summit, there was consensus to request appropriations from the state legislature to fund the acquisition of new locomotives and coaches to replace existing equipment and allow for expansion of service.

CTDOT has initiated the purchase of new rail equipment, but has not committed to placing any of it into service on the Waterbury branch line. At the request of NVCOG CEOs, an internal follow up meeting will take place in November 2019 in order to continue advocacy for improvements along the line, especially for new equipment and increased service. Another summit event will also be scheduled, possibly for December 2019.

- d. *NVision 2020* – Mr. Nielsen said NVCOG hosted a regional conference (NVision) in 2016 on infrastructure and development. Featuring speakers and panelists representing offices and agencies on the statewide, regional, and local levels, the intent of the conference was to establish the focus of NVCOG's regional planning efforts as it transitioned and moved forward from the separate VCOG and CNVMPO planning agencies to a consolidated organization serving 19 towns. Over the course of the last four years, since the merger of the two agencies, many of the tasks presented and discussed during the first NVision conference have been accomplished. A follow-up conference is planned for late 2020 to present not only achievements, but to discuss new focus areas for the next decade.

6. **Emergency Management Updates**

Joanna Rogalski reported that the annual statewide training day for Community Emergency Response Teams will take place on October 26 at the fire academy in Windsor Locks. The digitization of the I-84 diversion plan is complete and the one for Route 8 is currently being

crafted. The local emergency management director and municipal official handbook was updated as of August. It now includes a cyber security checklist.

7. **Other**

There was no other business.

8. **Adjournment**

At 11:41 a.m., on a motion by Chris Bielik, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Services Coordinator
for
Ed Mone
Secretary



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-726-8688

RESOLUTION 2020-02

**AMENDMENT
FFY 2018-2021 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 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region (TIP)* at its June 9, 2017, meeting; and the US Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) have approved the *State FFY 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*.

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation is requesting amendment of the FFY 2018-2021 **TIP** to allocate Federal Highway Administration, National Highway Performance Program funds for projects 0170-3548.

WHEREAS, the proposed project is exempt from the regional emissions analysis and does 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 long range transportation plan for the Central Naugatuck Valley planning region.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO approves the amendment of the FFY 2018-2021 TIP to allocate federal-aid highways funds as listed and described in the attachment to this resolution.

This resolution shall become effective as of October 11, 2019.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on October 11, 2019, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.


Neil O'Leary, Chairman

October 11, 2019
Date

RESOLUTION 2020-04

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING FOR REGIONAL FIRE SCHOOLS

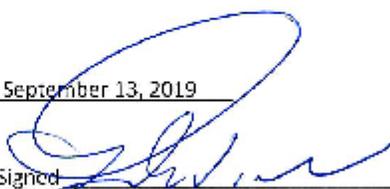
WHEREAS the former Central Naugatuck Valley and Valley Regions have previously expressed strong support for the construction of new fire training facilities in Wolcott and Beacon Falls;

WHEREAS the Connecticut General Assembly has prioritized funding for such facilities; and

WHEREAS significant funds have already been expended for the development of plans and the dedication of land toward the development of these facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments expresses its full encouragement, support, and endorsement for approval by the State of Connecticut Bond Commission to issue debt to fund the construction of these important public safety facilities to aid in the preparation and training of our volunteer and professional firefighters.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut on September 13, 2019

Signed 

Ed More, Secretary



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COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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RESOLUTION 2020-05

**LOFCIP
ENDORSEMENT OF DESIGN SERVICES ON-CALL LIST**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on October 11, 2019, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley COG Transportation Technical Advisory Committee Selection Committee conducted a qualifications-based consultant selection process to create one on-call consultant lists for municipal design phase and regional design phase review services.

WHEREAS, the Selection Committee unanimously selected seven firms to place on the On-Call List to perform design services at the request of the NVCOG or at the request of project sponsors. The list is attached to this Resolution.

WHEREAS, the term of the on-call list shall extend for three years from the date of endorsement by the NVCOG Board with an NVCOG option to extend the term by one year.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG endorses the recommendation of the TTAC Selection Committee to include the selected firms, as presented, on the on call list.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on October 11, 2019

Signed


Neil O'Leary, Chairman

ANDOVER • BEACONFALLS • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHELSEA • DREX • MIDDLETOWN • NAUGATUCK • DANFORD • ENFIELD
FRIDBURY • STONINGTON • WASHINGTON • SOUTHBRIDGES • HARTFORD • WATERBURY • WALLINGFORD • WALLING • WOODBRIDGE