



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Hybrid Meeting

NVCOG Conference Room

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor

Waterbury, CT 06702

10 a.m., Friday, January 13, 2023

NVCOG Representatives: David Cassetti, Mayor, Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia (both virtual); Gerry Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls (virtual); Jeff Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol (in-person); Andrew Martelli, Alternate, Cheshire (virtual); Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby (in-person); Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury (in-person); Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck (in-person); George Temple, First Selectman (in-person), Kristyn Rosa, Alternate (virtual), Oxford; Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth (in-person); Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour (virtual); Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton (in-person); Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury (virtual); Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston (in-person); Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury (in-person); Mark Raimo, Alternate, Watertown (virtual); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott (in-person); Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, William Agresta, Alternate, Woodbury (both virtual).

Guests/Other: Kevin Tedesco, CTDOT (virtual); Tommy Hyde, Naugatuck Valley Regional Development Corp. (virtual); Lou Mangini, Office of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (virtual); Ellen Graham, Office of Senator Richard Blumenthal (virtual); Barbara Kalosky, North East Transportation (virtual); John Wardzala, The Kennedy Collective (in-person); Antonietta Cotton, Avangrid (virtual); Daniel Davis, Eversource (virtual).

Staff: Rick Dunne, Aaron Budris, Keith Rosenfeld, Richard Donovan, Joanna Rogalski (all virtual); Mark Nielsen, Glenda Prentiss, Faith Thurmond, Lauren Rizzo, Karen Svetz, Richard Crowther, Jr., Ricardo Rodriguez, Christine O'Neill, Josh Lecar, Kevin Ellis, Steven Perry, Elliot Wareham, Katie Schlick, Drew Baklik (all in-person).

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.

2. CNVMPO Meeting

- a. *Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2023-06, TIP Amendment – Project No. 0170-3648, Project No. 0151-XXXX* – Kevin Ellis said Project No. 0170-3648 is a new project and pertains to concrete sealer on various NBI bridges either carrying or spanning over I-84 eastbound and I-84 westbound. The project is expected to have a total cost of \$9,000,000 with the federal contribution totaling \$7,200,000 and a state match of \$1,800,000.

Mr. Ellis said through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary funding program, the City of Waterbury received a grant of \$23,100,000 to complete phase II of the TIGER funded WATER Project. Project No. 0151-XXXX, Phase II, will extend the Naugatuck River Greenway north from its current terminus at Eagle Street, along South Main Street and the Naugatuck River, to a new access point at West Main Street. Additionally, this project will implement aspects of the West Main Street Corridor Study, aiming to reduce roadway widths, vehicle speeds, and provide better facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. This project is expected to have a

total cost of \$23,100,000 completely funded by the RAISE grant. There is no state or local match required.

On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2023-06 TIP Amendments – Project No. 0170-3648 and Project No. 0151-XXXX.

- b. *Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2023-07, Request for TMA Status* – Mark Nielsen explained that USDOT designates census-defined urban areas with more than 200,000 in population living in the urban area as a Transportation Management Area or TMA. The determination of TMA status is based on the population of only the individual urban area as opposed to the urban population within the entire metropolitan planning area. Based on urban population numbers resulting from the 2020 Census, the urban population of the Waterbury urban area is 199,317, just below the 200,000-population threshold needed to be designated as a TMA. Because parts of other urban areas are within the metropolitan planning areas of the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO, the total urban population of the CNVMPO is 331,564, significantly more than the minimum TMA threshold. Because of its size, complexity, diversity, and transportation infrastructure, the CNVMPO conducts its metropolitan transportation program more commensurate with large urban areas. However, because of the way the USDOT designates TMAs, the CNVMPO is considered a small urban area and is not allocated federal transportation funds dedicated to the Waterbury urban area and is unable to select and program transportation improvement projects. The federal regulations also permit the governor of a state, with endorsement of the MPO, to request the Secretary of the USDOT designate an MPO as a TMA. Designation as a TMA would permit the CNVMPO to have a greater role in selecting and programming transportation improvements with the planning area. On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2023-07 endorsing the request for designation as a Transportation Management Area, in accordance with federal regulations, to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

3. **NVCOG Administrative Items**

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the December 9, 2022 CNVMPO and NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 9, 2022 CNVMPO and NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 11/30/22* – On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To table this item.

- c. *Review of FY 2022 Audit Report* – On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To table this item.

- d. *Approval of FY 2023 Mid-Year Budget Adjustments* – On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To table this item.

- e. *Approval of FY 2024 Preliminary Budget Estimates* – On a motion by Tom Dunn, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To table this item.

- f. *Approval of NVCOG Meeting Schedule for 2023* – Ed Mone said he had suggested this schedule revision (moving from the second Friday of the month to the third Friday of the month) be considered in order to allow for more up-to-date financial reporting, instead of having the reports running two months in arrears as they currently do. He said NVCOG’s financial director had affirmed this schedule change would allow for more timely reporting. On a motion by Jeff Caggiano, seconded by Joe Kilduff, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve, as presented, the 2023 NVCOG and CNVMPO meeting schedule (third Friday of the month schedule).

- g. *Director’s Report*

- Legislative Update – Mr. Dunne said a team consisting primarily of Drew Baklik and Jack DeOliveira has been created to track legislative issues.
- RSG Formula – The COGs are looking to take the tax diversion for regional activities and increase the per capita distribution from OPM to the COGs by one dollar per capita. The money is already there. This is not a new appropriation. The funding is already being directed to OPM, but it is not yet being directed to the COGs. It will be up to the legislature to change the formula number. This will get NVCOG back from the state budget cut it suffered two years ago when the formula changed.
- Kinneytown Dam Funding Award – Mr. Dunne said this project is now basically in the hands of the Land Bank. Reimbursement of legal costs may be covered under the NOAA grant. As part of the submission, NVCOG will be asking NOAA to reimburse legal expenses going back to September

4. **Emergency Management**

- a. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – Joanna Rogalski said the REPT Region 5 steering committee met on January 9 and voted to forward a motion to the CEOs to approve an annual subscription for Crisis Track software, at a cost of \$7,938. All 43 municipalities would be eligible for this software. Crisis Track is damage assessment and management software for the FEMA disaster declaration process. It will interface with Web EOC and keep track of location and replacement costs for grant-eligible infrastructure such as buildings, public utilities, bridges, and culverts. This motion will be considered by the full CEO REPT 5 committee at its February 27 meeting.

- b. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Ms. Rogalski said the Citizens Corps Group is currently working to update all standard operating procedures and activation protocols. The next REPT 5 CERT leader meeting will take place in January 2023.

5. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update* – Rich Donovan said the final draft of the MTP, along with air quality determination, will be brought before the board next month for approval. NVCOG is working closely with MetroCOG to finalize a report for the GBVMPO.
- b. *LOTICIP Update* – Mr. Donovan reviewed a chart showing LOTICIP allocations versus available funds. Some timeline changes and cost revisions have brought NVCOG back in line with anticipated allocations from the state. What had been anticipated as a deficit has been pushed out and greatly reduced. The chart does not reflect the anticipated increase in allocation to each region from the state.
- c. *RAISE 2023 NOFO* – Elliot Wareham said USDOT released the NOFO for RAISE 2023 funding. This is a highly competitive grant program for projects that will have significant impacts on transportation, safety, equity, and economic development. Areas with persistent poverty and historically disadvantaged communities will be prioritized. The minimum request amount is \$5 million with a maximum request amount of \$25 million. Funding ratios are typically 80% federal and 20% state but for this round of funding the ratio might be 100% federal if the majority of the project occurs in a disadvantaged area. NVCOG is available to offer assistance. The deadline is February 28.
- d. *Regional Vision Zero Update* – Rich Donovan said the NVCOG board had adopted a long-term Vision Zero goal in September 2022. Vision Zero is a multi-disciplinary take on traffic safety which aims to reduce deaths and serious injuries through a series of actions related to engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response. To make progress toward the goal of Vision Zero, NVCOG staff has established a working plan for 2023. To achieve the items on the working plan, a subcommittee will be created from the existing TTAC group, and NVCOG staff will be in regular contact with city engineers, directors of public works, and additional municipal staff as appropriate. An enforcement committee consisting of local law enforcement and public safety advocates will also be created. CEOs will be included on all communications. Additionally, the Connecticut Vision Zero Council, a working group established by the legislature and made up of commissioners or appointees from several state agencies, has proposed a broad legislative agenda for the current session. NVCOG staff will track progress of these efforts and provide regular updates.

6. Environmental Planning

- a. *Brownfields Update* – Ricardo Rodriguez provided an update on brownfields activities. Projects that have completed testing are 300 Broad Street, Bristol, and 1 Main Street, Berlin. These projects are currently awaiting environmental reports. All remediation projects are moving along swiftly. Remaining data gaps for the 67-71 Minerva Street project in Derby have been closed and the project will be moving forward as anticipated.

b. *Sustainable Materials Management Update*

- i. Ansonia, Woodbury, and Seymour Program Updates – Katie Schlick provided an update on this program which started in Ansonia on December 5. Residents are being asked to compost their food waste, which will be turned into clean energy. The introduction of special color-coded trash bags will help to measure residential waste. NVCOG staff has been out to the Stop & Shop in Ansonia to educate and to answer residents' questions. Staff also spoke at an Ansonia Board of Alders meeting. A library event will take place with donated environmental books to educate children. Woodbury's program will launch on February 7 and Seymour's program will start on February 13.
- ii. Country Disposal Tour – Christine O'Neill said a facility tour has been arranged for February 8 with Country Disposal in Wallingford. All interested CEOs are invited. A short video of waste sortation was shown. Mayor Pete Hess spoke about anaerobic digestion possibilities. Rick Dunne noted the benefits of creating a regional waste authority using various methods and various plants. The CEOs discussed their ideas and experiences concerning recycling and municipal waste management.
- iii. Waste Crisis Storymap Update – Ms. O'Neill thanked the CEOs for the insight they provided about the storymap at the December 2022 NVCOG meeting. The corrections were incorporated and were sent to the CEOs for review. No further comments were received. NVCOG staff is now actively promoting this educational resource. Feedback has been excellent.

Ms. O'Neill also offered that NVCOG continues to work with the selected vendor MXI to renew the household hazardous waste contract.

- c. *DEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program* – Aaron Budris said the deadline for applications for this grant program is March 1. The program will fund planning, design, and construction of new trails or maintenance and restoration of existing trails. \$9 million is available through the program. NVCOG staff is assisting with several municipal applications and is available to help with others, including providing letters of support.

7. **Other**

Neil O'Leary spoke about the opioid settlement. Connecticut is 100% compliant, with all 169 communities participating in the settlement, but some towns have not followed up to get the money that should be coming to them. A portion of the settlement money goes directly to the state. He welcomes input as to how the settlement money should be spent. He would like to formulate a plan that addresses the needs of both large and small municipalities alike. Awareness and prevention are very important. Support of treatment facilities should also be considered. Chairman O'Leary requested that NVCOG coordinate a group of the region's municipal CEOs who are interested in serving on a committee to come up with ideas to address settlement issues and concerns. Chairman O'Leary suggested mid to late February for the initial meeting of this committee.

Additionally, it was noted that the issue of motorist non-compliance with traffic signals (red light running) has been on the increase. Red light cameras is an issue that Mayor O'Leary would like

to see addressed in the current legislative session. He is willing for Waterbury to be a pilot city for a red light and speed camera program. Rick Dunne said NVCOG is willing to offer legislative testimony in support of red light and speed cameras and will track legislative bills.

8. Adjournment

At 11:32 a.m., on a motion by Ed Mone, 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**

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

RESOLUTION 2023-06

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 to allocate funding to the attached project.

This resolution shall become effective as of January 13, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on January 13, 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

January 13, 2023

Date



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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

RESOLUTION 2023-07

**ENDORSEMENT
REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA DESIGNATION
CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO**

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is the federally-designated metropolitan planning organization for the Waterbury Urban Area.

WHEREAS, federal regulations under 23 USC §134 (k)(1)(A) stipulate that the Secretary of the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) shall identify urban areas with a population over 200,000 individuals as a Transportation Management Area.

WHEREAS, the urban population of the Waterbury Urban Area, as of the 2020 Census, is 199,317, which is slightly below the threshold required for TMA status.

WHEREAS, federal regulations under 23 USC §134 (k)(1)(B) permit the Governor of the state and MPO to request designation as a TMA to the Secretary of the USDOT.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO has determined that it is in the best interests of the Central Naugatuck Valley metropolitan planning area to be designated as a Transportation Management Area and endorses the request to the Secretary of the US Department of Transportation for such a designation.

FUTHERMORE, the CNVMPO authorizes its Executive Director to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, USDOT and the Governor’s office on such a request.

This resolution shall become effective as of January 13, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on January 13, 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

January 13, 2023
Date