



## MINUTES

### NVCOG Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

November 1, 2023

#### Meeting Commencement

The meeting was called to order at 9 am by Chairman Raymond Rogozinski. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and roll called.

Attending: Sheila O'Malley Ansonia; Andrew Lyle, Bethlehem; Raymond Rogozinski, Bristol; Marek Kement, Cheshire; James Stewart, Naugatuck; Karen Cook, Oxford; Bryan Nesteriak, Seymour; Blake Leonard, Southbury; Vincent Caterino, Watertown; Roy Cavanaugh, Waterbury. Kristen Levesque, CTDOT; Kevin Tedesco, CTDOT; Jane Dunbar, CTDOT. NVCOG Staff: Drew Baklik, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Richard Crowther, Richard Donovan, Kevin Ellis, Christine O'Neill, Mark Nielsen, Karen Svetz.

There was no Public Comment.

**Sheila O'Malley MOVED to approve the minutes of September 6, 2023; SECONDED by Bryan Nesteriak. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Bryan Nesteriak MOVED to adopt the proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule; SECONDED by Sheila O'Malley. The motion carried unanimously.**

The 2024 dates are: February 7, April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2 and December 4.

Kristen Levesque from CTDOT presented regarding Safe Routes to School.

Discussion was held regarding towns that require residents to clear snow and ice from their sidewalks in winter. Kevin Ellis offered to research this and conduct a survey.

Rich Donovan reported that the next round of the RAISE grant is expected to open before 2024. This program awards \$3 million and up to \$25 million for larger scale projects. NVCOG can assist towns when applying.

Aaron Budris discussed submitting a region-wide application for the design and construction of the missing sections of the Naugatuck River Greenway.

Mark Nielsen cautioned that towns should be aware that this federal aid program involves an 80/20 funding ratio. It's for any project in any municipality. Smaller cities may be considered under the rural category. City size doesn't matter, economic impact matters. When Waterbury received the grant, the match was reduced, and they received 100 percent federal funding. Reduction occurs at the time of award, not application.

#### LOTICIP (*Rich Donovan*)

We have up to 45 projects across the region representing just over \$136 million. Funds are available through mid-FY25-26. Towns are encouraged to continue to apply. There will be a time when we'll have to prioritize projects. Having the TTAC determine the criteria for prioritizing projects is probably the way to go forward. Safety projects would be a priority.

#### Project Audit Procedures (*Karen Svetz*)

There is just under \$5 million in funds that were given out in projects that are complete and expected to be returned to the program. We'll be working with towns on the audit process to get those funds returned. They'll want some basic accounting records to do the project closeout. Once that's in and they review it, they'll release that money. Karen will start sending individual emails with the document requirements to help get that moving.

#### Launch of EcoInteractive ProjectTracker (*Rich Donovan*)

This is a software tool is for management of the TIP and also works well for management of our records for LOTICIP projects. It provides a much better public-facing interface in which we can share real-time documents and updates. We can receive comments through this portal and engage with those who comment. We encourage the towns to share the link to the TIP side of it. Six of the eight MPOS are using this software. DOT is looking at the same software.

#### Active Transportation Plan Update (*Rich Donovan*)

Our region is putting together a very comprehensive Active Transportation Plan. An Advisory Committee for this plan will meet November 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking at vulnerable road users, pedestrians, cyclists, users of other micro-mobility devices, the facilities that exist and should exist for them. We will be putting together prioritized routes to safely connect the region's trail network with key destinations.

#### NV Transportation Guide (*Eyitayo Olaleye, attachment*)

This is a revised and updated Transportation Guide to the region's inter- and intra-city bus and rail routes, airports, heliports, freight-restricted bridges, commuter lot locations and utilization rates. The guides will soon be published and available to the towns, libraries, schools. It is now published on the NVCOG website.

#### Complete Streets Guidebook & Regional Policy (*Kevin Ellis & Mark Nielsen*)

The guidebook will have a list of best practices to provide project inspiration to the towns. We're putting the sections together now. Please share any best practices or aspects that you have learned from your projects or experience so they can be included in the guidebook. We will also be drafting a Complete Streets Policy for the region; Mark will present it at the February TTAC meeting. This will assist towns in their grant applications.

#### Legislative Update (*Drew Baklik*)

NVCOG Staff attended COST's legislative wrap-up meeting last week. DEEP is continuing their effort to remove PFAS foam and powder from fire departments in the state. If your town still has any of this, reach out to Drew and he will connect you with the appropriate authorities from DEEP. They will come to your town to pick it up and assist with cleanup as well.

#### MS4 compliance

DEEP has started sending non-compliance notices to municipalities. If you've received one, our staff can help you start to work toward compliance.

On Saturday, November 4th Naugatuck Emergency Management is hosting a traffic incident training event from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Drew will be closely monitoring legislation as the session begins in January and will report to the TTAC with anything relevant.

In response to a question, Drew explained that there was talk at CCM about adjusting the local bridge program to bring the rate of reimbursement above 50 percent. It was brought up.

#### GIS

Review GIS Solutions Lunch & Learn (*Richard Crowther Jr.*)

Last week's GIS Lunch & Learn recording is available on NVCOG's YouTube channel. GIS can provide municipal assistance for projects and grants - we can help create maps, do data collection and allowances. We can help you get your own GIS project started. We host a region-wide viewer. It hosts parcels, environmental data, inland-wetlands and farmland soils, census track, municipal districts, state and local roads, sewer areas, demographic information. The QR code on screen is a link to a survey. We will be updating the viewer and want some general feedback.

#### Environmental Planning

NRG Trail Priorities Update (*Aaron Budris, attachment*)

The Naugatuck River Steering Committee is updating its priorities list and document. The draft document has been shared with TTAC. Please let Aaron know asap if there are issues, edits, comments. The Steering Committee will look at endorsing that next week.

Recreational Trails (*Aaron Budris*)

There is a new round of recreational trails funding expected to be released in November. It's a \$10 million round.

SMM Grant Program Update (*Christine O'Neill*)

Christine shared the latest data from DEEP. The slides will be emailed to the TTAC members. The Commissioner of DEEP will be at our November 17<sup>th</sup> NVCOG meeting to speak about the overall waste issue.

Environmental Planning (Christine O'Neill)

• Sustainable Materials Management Grant

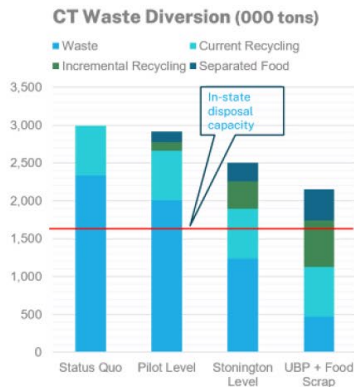
Pilot Program	# of Weeks of Data	Collection Type	*Clean Food Capture Rate (prior week)	Food Scraps Captured (cumulative lbs)	Contamination Rate (prior week)	Waste Reduction	Curbside Diversion (Recycling + Food Scraps) Increase
→ Ansonia	30	Co-Collection	15%	234,758	9%	17%	44%
Deep River	30	Drop Off	43%	79,840	0.6%	19%	36.2%
Middletown	39	Co-Collection	15%	103,110	15%	N/A	N/A
→ Seymour	26	Co-Collection	20.1%	17,930	13%	N/A	N/A
Stonington	30	Separate Collection	44%	307,100	1%	10%	8%
West Haven	38	Co-Collection	12%	495,858	19%	9%	32%
→ Woodbury	33	Drop Off	23%	62,520	2%	12%	17.4%
West Hartford	24	Separate Collection	62%	68,760	2%	N/A	N/A
→ Middlebury	12	Drop Off	33%	23,840	0.5	8%	11%
Meriden	9	Co-collection	4%	420	1%	N/A	N/A



Environmental Planning (Christine O'Neill)

• According to CT DEEP, here's what we've learned so far...

**Diversion Program Impact - Statewide**



- The waste reduction levels reached through the voluntary pilot programs, if achieved statewide, would reduce the in-state disposal capacity shortfall by more than 1/2
- Reaching the waste reduction levels of Stonington would bring statewide waste levels well below current disposal capacity
- Reaching the waste reduction levels achieved by communities outside of CT using UBP, coupled with food waste separation, would reduce statewide waste levels to about 1/3 of disposal capacity



Resiliency Grant

Bristol submitted and received a Resiliency Grant. DEEP said it's still being reviewed. Aaron explained that they're taking a long time to get the contracts set. When we hear we'll let you know.

Adjournment

James Stewart MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Sheila O'Malley. The motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting: February 7, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Bruder", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia M. Bruder  
Executive Administrative Clerk