



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, June 16, 2023

NVCOG Representatives: Gerry Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls (in-person); Jeff Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol (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, Oxford (in-person); Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth (in-person); Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect (virtual); Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston (in-person); Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown (virtual); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott (in-person); Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury (virtual).

Guests/Other: John Field, DEMHS, Region 5; Ellen Graham, Office of Senator Richard Blumenthal; Katie Schlick (all in-person); Meg Haffner, John Wardzala, The Kennedy Collective; Kevin Tedesco, CTDOT; Lou Mangini, Office of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro; Betty Bajak, GWTD; State Representative Cindy Harrison (all virtual).

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Joanna Rogalski, Faith Thurmond, Jack DeOliveira, Cole Burnham (all virtual); Aaron Budris, Glenda Prentiss, Lauren Rizzo, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Ricardo Rodriguez, Christine O'Neill, Richard Donovan, Kevin Ellis, Steven Perry, Elliot Wareham, Savannah-Nicole Villalba, Drew Baklik, Eytayo Olaleye, Heidi Coronel (all in-person).

The meeting may be viewed at the NVCOG YouTube channel: [NVCOG & CNVMPO Meeting - June 2023](#)

1. Commencement of Meeting

Secretary Pete Hess 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 2023-20 – Endorsement of CNVMPO Application to PROTECT* – Richard Donovan said that under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, one of the new discretionary programs is called PROTECT. It will provide funds for planning and implementation projects to improve resiliency within the transportation system, particularly against increasingly strong weather events. The program may be administered at either the local or MPO level. As the CNVMPO, an application would be submitted to do a planning study. One of the tenets of the program is that implementation projects are funded at the typical 80/20 split between federal and local. However, if a region has an approved Federal Highway Administration resilience improvement plan, the ratio changes to 90% federal and 10% local. With this application, the CNVMPO would put together a resilience improvement plan that meets the FHA standard. Planning studies for this program are funded at 100% federal so, if awarded, would be paid for completely with federal funds. Endorsement is sought from the CNVMPO board to submit the application. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2023-20 endorsing the CNVMPO's application for planning grant funds under the US DOT's PROTECT program to prepare a Resilience Improvement Plan.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the May 19, 2023 CNVMPO and NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 19, 2023 CNVMPO and NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 5/31/23* – Michael Szpryngel reviewed the financial report. The net position is \$263,677. There have been no unexpected funding cuts. Although the board had adopted a balanced budget, Mr. Szpryngel is projecting approximately \$60,000 as a surplus at year end. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the NVCOG financial reports and summaries as presented.

- c. *Approval of FYE 2024 Budget* – Rick Dunne said this is an action based on a recommendation to adopt from the executive board of the agency. Mr. Dunne said the entire board received two versions of a budget earlier in the year and this is Version B and is a result of the increased funding to COGs under the Regional Service Grant. It will implement the staffing plan that was advised for that particular budget. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by George Temple, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the NVCOG FYE 2024 budget as presented.

- d. *Director's Report* – Before getting into legislative matters, Drew Baklik noted that renewal notices are going out to the towns for the Capitol Region Purchasing Council.
- *Legislative Update* – Mr. Baklik said CCM saw 7 of its 14 major priority items pass. Mr. Baklik said he is meeting internally with NVCOG's environmental and transportation teams. If there are bills that will impact municipalities, members of the teams will reach out directly to the cities and towns.

4. Authorization for NVCOG Executive Director Rick Dunne to Execute and Deliver the OPM Notice of Grant Award for the FY 24 Regional Services Grant

On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Rich Dziekan, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt NVCOG Resolution 2023-25, authorizing NVCOG Executive Director Rick Dunne to execute and deliver the OPM Notice of Grant Award for the FY 24 Regional Services Grant.

5. Opioid Settlement Update

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

VOTED: To table this agenda item.

6. **Emergency Management**

John Field said DEMHS Region 5 is supporting CTDOT with diversion planning. The MPG grant deadline is approaching. There is an allocation-based spending program through Homeland Security that will be handled differently than it has in the past. Cybersecurity assessments continue. School safety and security logs are due July 1.

- a. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – There was no update.
- b. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Joanna Rogalski said there will be a Capitol Region field day and Olympics for the CERT teams on July 15 at Wesleyan University.

7. **NVCOG Planning/Transportation**

- a. *Welcome Cole Burnham, Sustainable CT Fellow* – Christine O’Neill introduced Cole Burnham who is available to help municipalities obtain Sustainable CT certification. Mr. Burnham said he is also available to assist with sustainable projects that are not part of Sustainable CT and will be at NVCOG until mid-August.
- b. *Climate Pollution Reduction Grants* – Ms. O’Neill said this is a five-billion-dollar program, created under the Inflation Reduction Act and administered through the EPA, to help state and regional governments reduce greenhouse gas. The first phase involves noncompetitive planning grants allocated to each state, and then to particular Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). NVCOG’s municipalities are split among three MSAs. NVCOG staff has been working with WestCOG, MetroCOG, and CRCOG to ensure our municipalities and stakeholder groups are represented in the planning process. Brief monthly updates on these efforts will be presented as necessary.
- c. *Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2023-23 – Endorsement of NVCOG Application to Safe Streets for All Grant Program* – Rich Donovan said NVCOG submitted an application for construction funds under the FY 2023 solicitation. The application proposed implementation of actions throughout the region. While it was highly recommended by USDOT, the application was not awarded. During the debrief with USDOT, NVCOG staff determined what changes to the proposal were needed to make a better candidate for award. The proposed grant application under this year’s solicitation will request safety planning funds instead of an implementation grant. The purpose will be to undertake a comprehensive analysis of safety and incidence of crashes throughout the region and complete an update and revision to the Regional Transportation Safety Plan. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Rich Dziekan, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt NVCOG Resolution 2023-23.

- d. *Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2023-24 – Endorsement of NVCOG Application to Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program/Neighborhood Equity and Access Program* – Mr. Donovan explained the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCCP) was established under IIJA to address the negative impacts to communities from the construction of transportation facilities. Subsequent to the passage of IIJA, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act. Under this bill, the Neighborhood Equity and Access Program (NEA) was established. The purpose of this program is the same as the RCPP,

and the USDOT has encouraged MPOs to consider how the two programs can be accessed to improve opportunities to reconnect communities. NVCOG submitted an application last year that was not awarded. That application was to look at the full length of Route 8 and would have been coordinated with MetroCOG and Northwest Hills COG. During debrief with USDOT, NVCOG staff determined what changes to the proposal were needed to make it a better candidate for award. The application will be refined to focus on the areas most impacted by the construction of the Route 8 expressway, specifically in Derby, Seymour, Beacon Falls, Naugatuck, and Waterbury, and look at mitigation activities to reduce the visual and physical barrier created through these communities. The NOFO for the RCPP and NEA programs have not been released, but they are expected to be issued this summer. NVCOG will determine which program provides the best opportunity for award. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt NVCOG Resolution 2023-24.

8. Environmental Planning

- a. *MSW & Recycling Update* – Ms. O’Neill said the next Household Hazardous Waste event will take place on July 22 at Quaker Farms School in Oxford. She then reviewed data from the MSW pilot program. Middlebury has signed a contract and will be joining the pilot program. For the towns currently in the program, Ansonia has diverted over 200,000 pounds of food scraps, Seymour recently joined and data there is just starting to come in, and Woodbury has a remarkable contamination rate of only 2%. The data indicates that transfer station programs tend to have stronger results than curbside pickup. Statewide, across the nine pilot programs, so far recycling has increased on average by 31%, trash sent to an incinerator or landfill has decreased 16% on average, the average program is capturing 24% of available food scraps, and 800,000 pounds of food scraps have been collected in total.
- b. *Brownfields Update* – Ricardo Rodriguez said EPA recently awarded supplemental RLF funding to NVCOG in the amount of \$3 million. The money will be used for clean-up activities throughout the region. A solicitation will be released in late summer and an RLF committee meeting will be held in September to select projects. The DECD is expected to open up their next brownfields funding round in the summer. Anyone with anticipated projects should contact Mr. Rodriguez. Additionally, NVCOG staff has been asked by EPA headquarters and Region 1 to present at this year’s National Brownfields conference.
- c. *Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program and Urban Green & Community Garden Grant Program* – Aaron Budris said the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program is for the purchase and conservation of open space or drinking water watershed land. There is a variable match requirement. The Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program is for urban park or community garden development or improvement in distressed or targeted investment communities. There is a 50% match requirement. The deadline for submissions to both grant programs is October 2, 2023.

Additionally, NVCOG is co-hosting a workshop with the Connecticut Land Conservation Council on June 22, 2023 to discuss aspects of both grant programs.

Mr. Budris also noted that NVCOG has been awarded a DEEP Climate Resilience Fund grant of just under \$700,000 to advance nine flood resilience projects that have been identified across the region. The projects are located in Ansonia, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, Thomaston, Waterbury, and Wolcott. The grant will fund preliminary engineering and the development of concept plans. It will also identify design and construction costs and funding sources for implementation. Rick Dunne mentioned that there were also two direct grants from the same program that were awarded to Waterbury and Bristol.

- d. *Kinneytown Dam Update* – Mr. Budris said the NOAA funding is in place. The contracting has begun for the funds the state has pledged to this project. The Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank has an agreement in principle with the current dam owner for the acquisition of the property following a due diligence check. EPA is currently working on a targeted brownfield assessment as part of that due diligence. A Phase 1 report has been issued and EPA’s contractor will be mobilizing for Phase 2 fieldwork in the next couple of months. A subaward agreement is being finalized with Save the Sound, who will oversee the dam removal design. Staff is working with the Town of Seymour to prepare the relocation of sewer infrastructure that will need to happen in conjunction with the dam removal. NOAA has provided funding for the engineering of that and NVCOG will oversee the design work and is working through the procurement process to hire an engineering consultant. Public outreach efforts will ramp up over the summer. The timeline for the dam removal could be three years, although the complexity of the situation may add to it.

9. Other

Ed St. John mentioned Section 182 of the Budget Implementer. It concerns distribution and warehousing. Having this as part of the Budget Implementer affects home rule and planning and zoning commissions and is an issue that needs to be addressed.

10. Adjournment

At 10:44 a.m., on a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Tom Dunn, 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 2023-20

**SUPPORT OF THE CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
SUBMITTING A REGIONAL APPLICATION FOR THE
PROTECT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the USDOT has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$848 million in grant funding for FY 2022 and FY 2023 under the *Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT)* Program; and,


WHEREAS, the CNVMPO is an eligible applicant as a designated metropolitan planning organization for the fifteen-town metropolitan area of the Central Naugatuck Valley; and,

WHEREAS, the MPO aims to develop a Resilience Improvement Plan that considers transportation assets and operations, across all modes, assesses vulnerability of transportation infrastructure to current and future environmental hazards, and identifies and prioritizes critical resilience projects.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Central Naugatuck Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization endorses the application for planning funds to develop a Resilience Improvement Plan and authorizes CNVMPO staff to apply to the US Department of Transportation under the PROTECT discretionary program, and further authorizes the Executive Director to submit any other documents required for the program and execute any and all agreements necessary, if funding is awarded.

This resolution shall become effective as of June 16, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on June 16, 2023, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.



N. Warren Hess, Secretary

June 16, 2023

Date

RESOLUTION 2023-23

**SUPPORT OF THE NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SUBMITTING A REGIONAL APPLICATION FOR THE
SAFE STREETS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the USDOT has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$1 billion in grant funding through the second round *Safe Streets for All Program*; and,


WHEREAS, the NVCOG is an eligible applicant as a unit of regional government to develop a plan for all nineteen member municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, the region aims to develop a data-driven, prioritized list of safety issues, including both systemic safety enhancements and individual improvement projects;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments endorses the NVCOG's Vision Zero Implementation Plan and authorizes NVCOG staff to apply to the US Department of Transportation under the Safe Streets for All discretionary program, and further authorizes the Executive Director to submit any other documents required for the program and execute any and all agreements necessary, if funding is awarded.

This resolution shall become effective as of June 16, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Naugatuck Valley COG at a public meeting held on June 16, 2023, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.



N. Warren Hess, Secretary

June 16, 2023

Date

RESOLUTION 2023-24

**SUPPORT OF THE NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SUBMITTING A MULTI-REGIONAL APPLICATION FOR THE
RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM/NEIGHBORHOOD
EQUITY AND ACCESS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the USDOT is expected to publish the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the second round of the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, expected to offer \$50 Million in planning and \$145 Million in construction grants; and,

WHEREAS, the USDOT is similarly expected to release the first round of the Neighborhood Equity and Access program, a substantially similar program authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the NVCOG was not selected in the 2022 solicitation for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program for its submitted study of the Route 8 corridor and its impacts to the region's municipalities; and,

WHEREAS, the NVCOG has edited the 2022 submission based on comments from the USDOT, CTDOT, and regional partners; and,

WHEREAS, the NVCOG will continue to coordinate with the CT Metropolitan COG and the Northwest Hills COG to determine whether to resubmit a multi-regional application; and,


WHEREAS, this study will coordinate with the work the CTDOT is currently planning for the interchange of CT Route 8 and Interstate 84, known as the MixMaster, in Waterbury; and,

WHEREAS, the study will focus on mitigating the impact that CT Route 8 has had within our communities, separating neighborhoods and dividing cities;

BE IT RESOLVED that Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments supports the planning effort and authorizes the Executive Director and NVCOG staff to submit a completed application to either or both programs, further authorizing the Executive Director to provide any required materials and sign documentation should the grant be awarded.

This resolution shall become effective as of June 16, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Naugatuck Valley COG at a public meeting held on June 16, 2023, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.



N. Warren Hess, Secretary

June 16, 2023
Date



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COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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NVCOG RESOLUTION 2023-25

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE/RESOLUTION

I, N. Warren Hess, III, Secretary of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, an organization (the "Organization") existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, certify that the following are true and complete resolutions which were adopted at a duly called and held meeting of the governing body of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on June 16, 2023, and that such resolutions have not been amended or modified and continue to be in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Organization execute and deliver to the State of Connecticut a Notice of Grant Award (the "Agreement") for the 2024 Regional Services Grant.

RESOLVED, that Rick Dunne as Executive Director of the Organization, is directed to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Organization and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.

I further certify that Rick Dunne now holds the office of Executive Director and that he/she has held that office since January 3, 2015.

I am signing this certificate on June 16, 2023.



N. Warren Hess, III, Secretary