



MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and Central Naugatuck Valley MPO February 16, 2024

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a presentation by Wendy Rego and Rachael Collard of CEN Connect. The presentation may be viewed on NVCOG's YouTube channel at [CNVMPO/NVCOG Meeting - February 2024 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNVMPOMeeting-February2024) at approximately 5 minutes in.

I. Commencement of Meeting

Chairman Pete Hess called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called.

NVCOG CEOs/Reps:

In person: Gerard Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Jeff Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol; Andrew Martelli, Alternate, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Judy Mancini, Proxy, Waterbury.

Remote: David Casseti, Mayor, Ansonia; Stephen Sordi, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Joe DiMartino, Mayor, Derby; First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis, Seymour; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Town of Woodbury.

Guests: Jane Dunbar, CT DOT; Jameson Foulke (Sen. Murphy), John Wardzala, The Kennedy Collective; Kevin Tedesco, CT DOT; Lou Mangini (Cong. DeLauro); Tommy Hyde, NVDC.

NVCOG Staff: Christine O'Neill, Desira Blanchard, Drew Baklik, Emely Ricci, Eyitayo Olaleye, Faith Thurmond, Heidi Coronel, Jack DeOliveira, Karen Svez, Kevin Ellis, Mark Nielsen, Mike Szpryngel, Molly Johnson, Patricia Bruder, Pheobe Ploof, Ricardo Rodriguez, Richard Donovan, Steven Perry, Thomas Dougherty, Trish Bauer.

II. Public Comment

There were no members of the public that wished to speak.

III. CNVMPO Meeting

1. Adoption of CNVMPO Resolution 2024-06 - TIP Amendments – Projects 0151-0312, 0151-0313 and 0151-0326

Kevin Ellis reported, this is new and additional funding for three bridge projects all related to the current Mixmaster Rehabilitation Project.

Bob Chatfield MOVED to adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2024-06 – Amendments to the FFY2021-2024 TIP; SECONDED by Joe Kilduff. Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2025-2028 TIP Development

Rich Donovan gave an update on the process and schedule for the upcoming 2025-2028 TIP, which begins October 1, 2025. The full listing of projects and all related documents will be available at the beginning of the public comment period commencing March 1st through both the EcoInteractive platform and the NVCOG website. There will be opportunities for public comment at meetings on March 7th (hybrid), the CNVMPO meeting of March 15th, the NVCOG TTAC meeting on April 3rd, and the CNVMPO meeting of April 19th. On April 19th the Board will consider a vote to adopt the new 2025-2028 TIP. This process is a critical way to exercise local control over how federal money is programmed in the region.

3. RAISE Grant Update

Mark Nielsen explained that NVCOG is applying as an agency for a RAISE Grant to finish the design of sections of the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail between Naugatuck and Thomaston. The total ask of federal dollars is \$5.1 million, for the total project \$6.6 million. We have reached out to our state and federal delegation for support letters and we plan to submit the application next week. Several sections of this corridor have received Rec Trails money from DEEP; we plan to apply that as the non-federal share. This grant will provide a full 16-mile section completely designed and ready to go to construction. The USDOT will announce the awards by the end of June. We plan to make the narrative available once it's all put together.

Ed St. John noted that it would be extremely helpful for NVCOG to assist the smaller cities and towns when filling out these complicated applications. He is particularly interested in applying for maintenance funds. Christine O'Neill will contact him after the meeting about this.

IV. **Minutes for Approval**

Bob Chatfield MOVED to approve the 01-19-2024 CNVMPO/NVCOG meeting minutes; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

V. **Financial Report**

Mike Szpryngel reported that this report is for the period ending January 31st. We are 7 months through the fiscal year. While there have been no unexpected funding cuts, there is the potential for a 1 percent reduction of federal funds to the UPWP funding. This may cause a 5 percent reduction in the total amount for FY 2024 due to net impact. We should know about that sometime in March.

Ed Mone MOVED to accept the financial report for the period ending January 31, 2024; SECONDED by George Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. **Communications**

Desira Blanchard reported the 2024 NVCOG Annual Report is available for viewing at nvcogct.gov/who-we-are/annual-reports/

The 2024 report covers everything the agency participated in during the 2023 calendar year. It is comprehensive, graphically appealing, and easy to read. Hard copies are available upon request.

VII. Director's Report

Mark Nielsen reported that Executive Director Rick Dunne is in Washington, DC attending the NARC National Conference of Regions and meeting with our federal delegation reviewing priorities for the region.

ADD-ON to the Agenda

Ed Mone MOVED to add Item VII.1 Termination of Assignment of Lease – 12 Main Street, Derby (formally the Derby Railroad Station) to the agenda; SECONDED by Joe Kilduff. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. 1. Termination of Assignment of Lease – 12 Main Street, Derby (formally the Derby Railroad Station)

Mark Nielsen explained that the Derby-Shelton Station is owned by the State, leased to the City of Derby, and Derby assigned the lease to VCOG, now NVCOG.

The State is in the process of renovating the building and station area, including asbestos and lead removal. We want to terminate the assignment of lease to lessen our liability as the leaseholder of the property.

Rich Donovan explained that the City of Derby has addressed the issue and will revisit it at their next meeting. NVCOG has held this assignment for many years, has not used the building in many years, yet continues to pay for maintenance and utilities. Before the State begins any work, we would like to end our affiliation with it. Their work will not commence until we terminate the assignment of lease, effective February 29, 2024.

Ed Mone MOVED to endorse the termination of the assignment of lease for 12 Main Street, Railroad Station, City of Derby between the City of Derby, Valley Council of Governments and Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, effective February 29, 2024; and further, authorize Executive Director Rick Dunne to sign any and all documents necessary to effectuate same; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Municipal Services

1. Legislative Update

Drew Baklik introduced his Legislative Team counterpart, Jack DeOliveira. Jack is an NVCOG Transportation Planner and is available to us for legislative research and tracking. He has provided a wealth of information to our agency.

The short legislative session started last week and will end on May 8th. Housing will continue to be a priority issue. It doesn't sound like there will be any movement on the motor vehicle tax, and no major municipal solid waste in the short session. We expect the Environment Committee to explore an opt-out for the individual cities and towns on the sale of nip bottles, as well as legislation on EPR of batteries and some other worthwhile environmental initiatives.

Per the Board's request, the Legislative Committee requested information regarding regional fire schools, specifically the one in Cheshire. We have yet to hear back from the area legislators. We will continue to update the Board via email as we receive information.

Governor Lamont's legislative priorities include a shared services proposal to assist municipalities in improving efficiencies and reducing costs. House Bill 5056 enables municipalities to enter into voluntary regional consolidation agreements or arrangements and interlocal agreements excluding the stipulation of wages, hours and other conditions of employment. This addition allows any group of collective bargaining units to establish a coalition collective bargaining unit, and additionally permits a regional Council of Governments to make joint appointments or commissions in lieu of any required individual municipal appointment or commission. Municipal functions that may be voluntarily regionalized under this bill include but are not limited to the following administrative planning and regulatory activities: fair rent commissions, fair housing commissions, land bank authorities, zoning enforcement officers, plan of conservation and development, affordable housing plan, tax collector, local emergency medical services plan, animal control officer, licensing of dogs, inland-wetlands agencies and building officials.

Drew noted that it's very early in the session and he'll keep the Board up to date on updates and changes via email.

Ed Mone explained that the Governor's proposal on education funding was not received well by us on the municipal level – at CCM we disagree. We prefer that they look at other ways to find the funding to take care of the critical needs.

Jeff Caggiano asked Drew to keep an eye out on legislation regarding motor vehicle tax, valuation of cars, and supplemental funds that still appear to be in the budget.

2. Emergency Management Update

Drew Baklik reported that John Field submitted a written report that is and will be included in the meeting packets going forward. John's counterpart, Nicole Velardi, reminds the Board members to submit their proxy letters for 2024. Most municipalities designate their emergency management directors for this purpose. Region 2, specifically, is evaluating whether CEOs or the Emergency Management Directors should be the designated voting member.

IX. Community Planning

1. Aquifer Protection Areas Workshop Series

Molly Johnson reminded the Board that the Community Planning Division continues to provide resources to the municipalities through direct support and research on topics of interest throughout the region.

She noted that the virtual series, “Aquifer Protection Areas – Moving Toward Compliance” has been very successful with good participation from both NVCOG municipalities and others outside of our region. The next workshop, “APA Champion Shares Best Practices” is scheduled for February 21st, with other workshops scheduled for March 20, April 17, May 15, June 17 and July 17. Registration is at <https://bit.ly/473GwAA>

2. Land Use Coffee Hour on Short-Term Rentals

Emely Ricci reported that NVCOG will host a Land Use Coffee Hour on the subject of Short-Term Rentals from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, February 29th. Participants may attend in person at the NVCOG Offices, or virtually, and can register at <https://bit.ly/3UET0vr>

X. Environmental Planning

1. DECD Grant: 300 Broad St., Bristol – Ricardo Rodriguez

Ricardo Rodriguez reported that NVCOG was awarded \$3.7 million on behalf of 300 Broad Street, Bristol, LLC in Round 18 funding. This will cover the remediation costs associated with the redevelopment of the former Theis Precision Steel USA manufacturing site. Anticipated non-state leverages between \$6-8 million and will leverage 60+ jobs.

Ed Mone MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2024-09 - DECD Certified Resolution – 300 Broad St., Bristol, as presented; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Brownfields Update – Ricardo Rodriguez

The meeting packet contains an updated list of all of our Brownfields projects. 67-71 Minerva Street is 50 percent complete in the construction. The developer anticipates the site being complete in the Fall of 2024 with people moving in shortly after that.

Other projects primed for commencement would be Phase 2 of 698 South Main Street, Waterbury; 170 and 130 Freight Street have been demolished. The city is working to get the next phase of data collected for remediation of the site. All legal documents have been signed relative to 280 Elm Street and cleanups will commence this Spring. 113 and 123 Canal Street Shelton are primed for their second phase at the end of this month.

EPA is opening up their supplemental RLF funding for entities that have existing RLF. We are looking for sites that we can include in our application. If you have any cleanup projects, please reach out to us. If funded, those sites will be included in our upcoming RLF meeting next year.

3. Recreational Trails Grant Application

Christine O'Neill explained that in December, DEEP announced the 2024 round of the Recreational Trails Grant in the amount of \$10 million. Funds can be used for planning, construction, or maintenance. The deadline is March 11th.

NVCOG is seeking endorsement from this Board to apply for our own Rec Trails Grant. Our application would fund the hiring of a consultant to undertake the planning, routing and design of a 2.5 mile stretch of the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail that runs through the Kinneytown Dam property. This would complement the efforts to remove the dam and revitalize the property with NOAA funds and restore public access to the river. The consultant would also generate conceptual designs for connecting this trail to the existing pedestrian networks in both Seymour and Ansonia. We have letters of support from both communities. We anticipate asking for about \$400,000; the match would be covered by activities already funded under the NOAA grant.

Bob Chatfield MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2024-10 authorizing NVCOG Executive Director Rick Dunne to submit a Recreational Trails Program grant application to the CT DEEP, and to sign any documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

4. MSW and Recycling Update

Christine O'Neill reported that the Town of Woodbury has concluded its trash reduction pilot and has approved a permanent program with full unit-based pricing and food scraps diversion. She cited the support of First Selectwoman Perkinson and the hard work of Woodbury's municipal staff.

XI. Transportation Planning – Rich Donovan

1. Active Transportation Plan Update

Elliott Wareham has been working and is about to finish a current conditions report for our Active Transportation Plan. We are ready to move into public engagement. There is a survey for residents available. We will hold our first public meeting on design elements at 6 p.m. Tuesday, February 20th at Waterbury City Hall.

2a. LOTCIP - New Project – Elm Street Thomaston

Kevin Ellis reported that this roadway reconstruction project will go along Elm Street between South Main and East Main Streets, approximately 2,400 feet in length. In 2020, the Naugatuck River Greenway Trail from Thomaston to Torrington routing feasibility study marked Elm Street as a location for the greenway. In addition to the road reconstruction there will be a cycle track on the eastern side, and sidewalk reconstruction and drainage improvements along both sides. The estimated cost is \$4.5 million.

Joe Kilduff MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2024-11 – Elm Street Thomaston; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Caggiano asked what the 10% incidentals are. Mark Nielsen explained that as part of the LOTCIP program, the State provides money at low bid and then they add in 10 percent for incidentals, and 10 percent contingency. Incidentals could be things that come up during construction that you didn't count on during design. Construction inspection could go under incidentals. Rich Donovan added, we do encourage towns to use that incidental funding for inspection, make sure the projects are done well.

2b. LOTCIP - New Project – Constitution Boulevard West Shelton

Mark Nielsen explained the City of Shelton wants to extend Constitution Boulevard between Bridgeport Avenue and Route 108 to accommodate economic development in that area.

They received money from the state to start the project – Phase 1 is under construction and will extend Constitution Boulevard from Bridgeport Avenue up to what is known as the Mas parcel – an 80-acre parcel that the City owns that is prime for redevelopment. They are asking for us to allocate LOTCIP funding for Phase 2, which will extend the road from the current terminus of the project out to a cul-de-sac that would actually get it right into the Mas parcel, all of which is under contract with four different manufacturers.

The ultimate plan is to extend it out to Route 108 a few years down the road. The design of Phase 2 has already been done and it would be ready to go pretty quickly. The intent is to meet the development needs of that parcel. We are asking the Board to consider adding it to the program.

Joe Kilduff MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2024-12 – Constitution Boulevard West, Shelton; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

At approximately 11:05 a.m., Ed Mone MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by George Temple. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia M. Bruder

Executive Administrative Clerk



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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

RESOLUTION 2024-06

AMENDMENT

**FFY 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO**

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is authorized by the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)* 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.

This resolution shall become effective as of February 16, 2024.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on February 16, 2024, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.

Edmond V. Mone, Secretary

February 16, 2024

Date

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
(AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER)
CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

I, N. Warren Hess, Chair, certify that below is a true and correct copy of a
(Name of Official) (Title of Official)

resolution duly adopted by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
(Name of the Applicant)

at a meeting of its Board
(Governing Body)

duly convened on February 16, 2024 and which has not been rescinded or modified in
(Meeting Date)

any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.

February 16, 2024
(Date)


(Signature and Title of Official)

SEAL

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S Sec. 32-763,
(State Statutory Reference)

the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and **WHEREAS**, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments make an application to the State for

\$(3,784,943.00) in order to undertake the Thisis Steel, 300 Broad Street, Bristol Project
(Applicant) (Name and Phase of Project)

and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE
Board of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
(Governing Body)

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by
C.G.S Sec. 32-763
(State Statutory Reference)

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by
The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
(Applicant)
in an amount not to exceed \$ 3,784,943.00 is hereby approved and that

Rick Dunne, Executive Director

(Title and Name of Authorized Official)

is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of
the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

(Name of Applicant)



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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RESOLUTION 2024-10

**AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE CT DEEP RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM
TO FUND THE DESIGN OF THE KINNEYTOWN DAM SECTION OF THE NAUGATUCK RIVER GREENWAY**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) at its hybrid meeting on February 16, 2024, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is soliciting applications for their Recreational Trails Grants Program.

WHEREAS, the objective of the Recreational Trails Grants Program is to provide funding to any nonprofit or government entity in support of trail projects, including planning and design of new trails.

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck River Greenway (NRG) is an officially designated Connecticut State Greenway, consisting of the trails and green spaces along the Naugatuck River for the benefit of the region’s residents, economy, and environment.

WHEREAS, NVCOG has committed through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to assist the Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank in acquiring the property known as Kinneytown Dam located in Ansonia and Seymour; to remove the dam to restore fish passage; and to remediate and improve the 170 acre property by developing community amenities such as a multiuse trail.

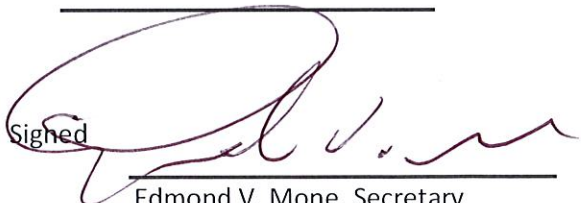
WHEREAS, the portion of the NRG trail on the Kinneytown Dam property has been identified as needing routing, planning, and design work in the 2023 Naugatuck River Greenway Trail Project Priorities report.

WHEREAS, NVCOG acts on behalf of its 19 member municipalities to prepare and submit Recreational Trails Grant applications to CT DEEP.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG Board authorizes Executive Director Rick Dunne to submit a Recreational Trails Program grant application for the proposal described above to the CT DEEP, and to sign any documents associated with administering the grant, if awarded.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on February 16, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 
Edmond V. Mone, Secretary



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RESOLUTION 2024-11

LOTICIP

**ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR THE
ELM STREET PAVEMENT REHABILITATION, THOMASTON**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on February 16, 2024, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, The NVCOG is responsible for selecting and distributing funds to member municipalities under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (“Program”).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG approves the allocation of \$4.5 million in Program funds attributable to the Naugatuck Valley planning region to construct the Elm Street Pavement Rehabilitation project as described and modified in Memorandum 20240216-ELM STREET.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on February 16, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed

Edmond V. Mone, Secretary



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
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RESOLUTION 2024-12

LOTICIP

**ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION BOULEVARD WEST EXTENSION PHASE 2 PROJECT, SHELTON**


I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on February 16, 2024, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, The NVCOG is responsible for selecting and distributing funds to member municipalities under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (“Program”).

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG approves the allocation of \$3.0 million in Program funds attributable to the Naugatuck Valley planning region to construct the Constitution Boulevard West Extension, Phase 2 project as described and modified in Memorandum 20240216-CONSTITUTION.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on February 16, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 
Edmond V. Mone, Secretary