



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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

MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Hybrid Meeting

NVCOG Conference Room

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor

Waterbury, CT 06702

10 a.m., Friday, May 19, 2023

NVCOG Representatives: Rick Dunne, Proxy, Ansonia (in-person); Michael Krenesky, Alternate, Beacon Falls (virtual); Stephen Sordi, First Selectman, Bethlehem (virtual); Sean Kimball, Alternate, Cheshire (virtual); Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby (in-person); Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury (virtual); Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck (in-person); George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford (in-person); Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect (virtual); Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton (in-person); Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury (virtual); Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston (in-person); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott (in-person); Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury (virtual).

Guests/Other: Steven Sullivan, Jeff Pugliese, Daniel Davis, Sam Carmody, Eversource (all in-person); Gary Lane, Avangrid (virtual); Kevin Tedesco, CTDOT (in-person); Lou Mangini, Office of Congresswoman Rose DeLauro (virtual).

Staff: Rick Dunne, Aaron Budris, Faith Thurmond, Richard Donovan, Eytayo Olaleye, Mark Nielsen, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Christine O'Neill, Ricardo Rodriguez, Heidy Coronel, Josh Lecar, Kevin Ellis, Steven Perry, Drew Baklik, Glenda Prentiss, Desira Blanchard, Savannah-Nicole Villalba (all in-person); Keith Rosenfeld (virtual).

Prior to the start of the meeting there was a presentation by Steve Sullivan, President of Electrical Operations at Eversource CT. The presentation and meeting may be viewed at the NVCOG YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgvbouJpVIM>

1. Commencement of Meeting

Vice Chairman Mark Lauretti called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 2023-17 – TIP Amendments* – Kevin Ellis said Project No. 0170-3640 is for Service Plaza mainline sign and sign support replacement along I-95 and I-395. Project No. 0173-0539 will replace, rehabilitate, or eliminate deficient retaining wall structures in the areas designated Pod 3A and Pod3B. Project No. 0025-0150 will replace the Computerized Traffic Signal System (CTSS) along CT Route 10 (South Main Street/Highland Avenue) in Cheshire from Cook Hill Road to Industrial Avenue. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Tom Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2023-17 approving the TIP amendments listed above.

- b. *Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2023-18 – Endorsement of CTDOT Performance Measures* – Rich Donovan explained that Statute 23 CFR, Part 490 requires MPOs establish and use and set a performance-based approach to transportation decision

making to support national goals in the areas of Infrastructure Condition (PM2) and Highway System Performance, Freight Movement, and Congestion and Air Quality (PM3). Mr. Donovan reviewed the ten performance measures that cover all public roadways regardless of ownership or functional classification. Additionally, unified targets will be set for two congestion measures for each of the urbanized areas. By agreeing to the state performance measure targets, the MPO will integrate said targets, objectives, and performance measures into the planning process. This will include a description of how the transportation improvement program will contribute to achieving these targets. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2023-18.

- c. *Approval of CNVMPO Resolution 2023-19 – Endorsement of FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* – Mr. Donovan said NVCOG, as the host agency for the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO, is required to prepare a Unified Planning Work Program that describes the planning tasks to be completed over the two-year period from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. The UPWP has seven tasks. The planning tasks and studies are intended to address the transportation issues and constraints facing the metropolitan area and help achieve the goals and objectives listed in the recently adopted NVision 50: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO and Naugatuck Valley COG. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt Resolution 2023-19 endorsing the FY 2024-2025 UPWP.

3. **NVCOG Administrative Items**

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the April 21, 2023 CNVMPO and NVCOG Meeting* – On a motion by Rich Dziekan, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the April 21, 2023 CNVMPO and NVCOG meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Reports and Summaries for the Period Ending 4/30/23* – Michael Szpryngel said NVCOG is 83% through the fiscal year. The current net position is \$155,930. The cash balance is \$886,145. The unrestricted general fund is \$878,826. NVCOG is on target for all its major funds and there have been no unexpected funding cuts. The end of year projection is for a balanced budget. On a motion by Bob Chatfield, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

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

- c. *FY 2023 Appointment of Auditor* – Mr. Szpryngel explained that OPM requires an appointment of auditor notification letter each year. This will be an affirmation of the existing auditor. On a motion by George Temple, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize management signature on the engagement letter with King, King & Associates, CPAs, and provide notification to OPM of auditor appointment.

- d. *Director's Report* – Rick Dunne said a meeting of the Revolving Loan Fund committee will take place on May 23. A meeting of the Executive Committee will also take place on May 23.
 - Legislative Update – Drew Baklik reviewed House Bill 6670 which relates to MPO consolidation, House Bill 6807 concerns the issuance of local capital improvement projects, meaning LOTCIP money would be given to municipalities upfront rather than on a reimbursement basis, House Bill 6486 involves the creation of a statewide stewardship program to manage certain discarded tires, and a substitute for House Bill 6756 which involves certain acts and determinations by the State Historic Preservation Officer which would allow municipalities impacted by decisions to appeal to a hearing officer at DECD.

4. **Emergency Management**

- a. *Regional Emergency Planning Team Update* – Josh Lecar said the MOAs for REPT Regions 5 and 2 for the Homeland Security Grant Program are due by September 1, 2023.
- b. *Community Emergency Response Team Update* – Mr. Lecar said annual activity reports for 2022 are due on June 14, 2023. There will be a DEMHS Region 3 CERT field day at Wesleyan University on July 15, 2023.

Additionally, there will be a flood awareness workshop on June 21 at Kent School. The workshop is geared to municipal EMDs, CEOs, engineers and planning and zoning officials.

5. **NVCOG Planning/Transportation**

- a. *Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2023-22 – Authorization to Enter into a Contract with EcoInteractive for TIP and LOTCIP Project Management Software* – Rich Donovan explained the need to pursue a new solution for management of the region's TIP and LOTCIP programs. Following an extensive search, EcoInteractive's ProjectTracker platform was selected as the best tool to comply with federal requirements and to provide better information to the public and municipal staff. Other MPOs in the state are also considering a change to the existing platform. One of the benefits of EcoInteractive is the public-facing website that is included in the agreement. This will give NVCOG staff a much greater ability to provide information beyond the requirements of the TIP, something that will be helpful as TMA status is sought and will help to achieve the goal of greater public awareness of ongoing projects. The platform is maintained on a subscription basis. The costs will be direct charged against the federal PL and 5303 planning programs each year. The direct-charge request is currently undergoing review by CTDOT and FHWA/FTA and upon its approval the contract provided by EcoInteractive will be reviewed by the agency attorneys. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Rich Dziekan, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt NVCOG Resolution 2023-22 authorizing the Executive Director to enter into contract with EcoInteractive for State Fiscal Year 2024.

- b. *CTDOT VMT Reduction Strategy* – Mr. Donovan said that in December 2021 Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order 21-3, which included direction to CTDOT to set a goal to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and establish strategies to achieve that goal. VMT is the measure of total miles driven across a given area, in this case the entire state, on both a daily and annual basis. CTDOT recently released their target and strategy in a report that identifies five key strategies to achieve the VMT reduction goal of 5% by 2030. In support of CTDOT’s plan, NVCOG is preparing a report detailing the work that has been done and the plans that exist for projects that align with the Department’s strategies. NVCOG staff would like to include municipal projects and priorities as well as regional and will be contacting engineering and public works staff to ensure that all projects can be included. Projects that address the Department’s strategies include downtown development districts, complete streets, active transportation infrastructure, and projects that support increased transit access. Endorsement of the report NVCOG is preparing will be requested at a future meeting.
- c. *Grant Programs*
 - i. PROTECT Grants – Rich Donovan said this is a federal program for infrastructure resilience.
 - ii. Community Connectivity Grants – This is a statewide program funded with state dollars. This year’s solicitation will likely be used for selection of projects both this and next year.
 - iii. Carbon Pollution Reduction Grants – This program will fund projects similar to what CMAC currently offers. Grants will be used to implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.
 - iv. Reconnecting Communities/Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants – This is a USDOT program to support planning grants and capital construction grants, as well as technical assistance to restore community connectivity.
 - v. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grants – This program funds initiatives to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Planning and Demonstration Grants provide federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement a comprehensive safety action plan as well as associated demonstration activities. NVCOG intends to apply for a Planning and Demonstration Grant to develop a comprehensive safety action plan and support the region’s Vision Zero goal.

Additionally, Mr. Donovan said, there is the state-funded Community Investment Fund. NVCOG staff is available to assist towns with any eligible municipal grant applications.

6. Environmental Planning

- a. *CT DEEP Recreational Trails Recap* – Aaron Budris said the latest Recreational Trails awards were announced last week. It included funding for nine projects in the NVCOG region. These projects are located in Naugatuck, Bristol, Shelton, Waterbury, Ansonia, Oxford, Thomaston, Watertown, and Wolcott. The total award amount for these projects is \$2,248,235.
- b. *MSW & Recycling Update* – Christine O’Neill said Middlebury and Bethlehem have been offered trash reduction pilot grants. She shared the most recent available data concerning SMM grants in participating municipalities. There is positive data showing

waste reduction and diversion have improved and that education is working. There was also discussion concerning organic waste from schools and hospitals.

Additionally, Ms. O'Neill said the NVCOG composter sale was held on May 13. 44 composters were sold, 36 rain barrels, and a variety of accessories. These figures represent a drop in sales from 2022 and 2021. Staff will look at alternative sales structures and explore options before committing to a future event.

Also, Ms. O'Neill said recycling training for municipal staff will be held on May 24 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at Waterbury City Hall. Presenters from CT DEEP will be there.

7. Land Use Planning

- a. *CGS 8-4c Land Use Commissioner Training Dates* – Savannah-Nicole Villalba said Land Use Commissioner Training will take place on September 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ansonia Senior Center. Partners include DEEP, State Historic Preservation Office, CIRCA, and Partnership for Strong Communities. Another training session will take place on September 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Waterbury City Hall. Partners for this session include CLEAR. Each training session will be unique.
- b. *Land Use Lunch and Learn Update* – Ms. Villalba said a land use lunch and learn about planning for warehouse and distribution uses was held on May 10 at NVCOG.
- c. *Land Use Planning Update* – Ms. Villalba said NVCOG's land use division is undergoing a renewed effort to find ways to support municipalities and their staff through capacity building. She has thus far met with municipal staff in approximately half of the towns in the NVCOG region. She would like to focus lunch and learns on issues the municipalities are facing. A land use newsletter has also been created and will be issued quarterly. Ms. Villalba said she is available to meet with land use staff for special land use assistance.

8. Other

Bob Chatfield said he would like information from the utility companies as to why it takes so long to replace telephone poles, especially at intersections where the pole is on the roadside next to the broken pole and obscures driver sightlines. This concerns both state and local roads. Ed St. John said Middlebury is experiencing the same problem. Daniel Davis of Eversource said that nine times out of ten, the utility poles do not belong to Eversource, however, if there are any concerns and the poles do belong to Eversource, he asked the CEOs to contact him.

Christine O'Neill introduced Heidy Coronel, NVCOG's new communications associate.

9. Adjournment

At 11:20 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 • 203-735-8686

RESOLUTION 2023-17

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

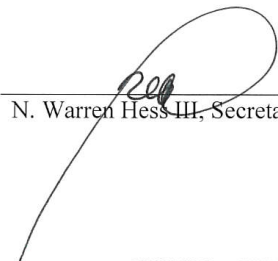
WHEREAS, the proposed projects do not necessitate a new Air Quality Conformity Determination; and

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.

This resolution shall become effective as of May 19, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on May 19, 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

May 19, 2023
Date

BEACON FALLS • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESHIRE • MIDDLEBURY • NAUGATUCK • OXFORD • PLYMOUTH
PROSPECT • SOUTHBURY • THOMASTON • WATERBURY • WATERTOWN • WOLCOTT • WOODBURY



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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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RESOLUTION 2023-18

**RESOLUTION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF TARGETS FOR VARIOUS
PERFORMANCE MEASURES ESTABLISHED BY CTDOT**

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible, together with the State, for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region; and

WHEREAS the National Performance Management Measures final rule (23 CFR Part 490) requires States to set targets for performance measures in the areas of Infrastructure Condition, heretofore referred to as “PM2” and Highway System Performance, Freight Movement, and Congestion and Air Quality, heretofore referred to as “PM3,” by December 16, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has established targets for ten performance measures, including:

- (1) the “Percentage of pavements of the Interstate System in Good condition,”
- (2) the “Percentage of pavements of the Interstate System in Poor condition,”
- (3) the “Percentage of pavements of the non-Interstate NHS (National Highway System) in Good condition,”
- (4) the “Percentage of pavements of the non-Interstate NHS in Poor condition,”
- (5) the “Percentage of National Highway System Bridges Classified as in Good condition,”
- (6) the “Percentage of National Highway System Bridges Classified as in Poor condition,”
- (7) the “Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are reliable,”
- (8) the “Percent of person-miles traveled on the non-Interstate NHS that are reliable,”
- (9) the “Truck Travel Time Reliability Index,”
- (10) the “Total Emissions Reduction;” and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT also set unified targets with all applicable state DOTs and MPOs for two congestion measures specific to each of six (6) applicable urbanized areas as determined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the two measures being:

(11) the “Peak Hour Excessive Delay” and

(12) the “Percent of Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (non-SOV) Travel;” and

WHEREAS, the CTDOT coordinated to the maximum extent practicable the establishment of these targets with the 8 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in Connecticut throughout 2022 at COG Coordination meetings and specific meetings with applicable MPOs and state DOTs for the congestion measures; and

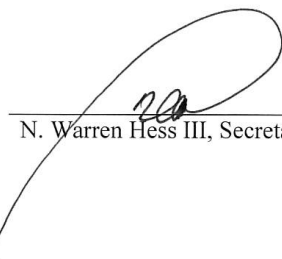
WHEREAS the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO may establish targets by agreeing to plan and program projects that contribute toward the accomplishment of the aforementioned State’s targets, or establish its own target within 180 days of the State establishing and reporting its targets;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the CNVMPO Policy Board has agreed to support CTDOT’s 2022 targets for all performance targets as attached herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CNVMPO Policy Board will plan and program projects that contribute to the accomplishment of said targets.

This resolution shall become effective as of May 19, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on May 19, 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

May 19, 2023
Date



CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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

RESOLUTION 2023-19

ADOPTION
FY 2024-2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO has been designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible, together with the State, for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region; and

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is required to conduct the federal metropolitan transportation planning process in accordance with US Department of Transportation and related federal requirements; and

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments is the designated host agency for the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO and has prepared the *FY 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program* in accordance with the federal planning guidelines and in cooperation with the CTDOT; and

WHEREAS, the draft UPWP lists and describes the planning tasks to be completed over the next two fiscal years and has developed task allocation budgets to accomplish such tasks;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Central Naugatuck Valley MPO approves, endorses and authorizes the *Unified Planning Work Program*, as prepared by NVCOG and negotiated with the State Department of Transportation, as the CNVMPO's Transportation Work Plan for FY 2024 and FY 2025.

This resolution shall become effective as of May 19, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the CNVMPO at a public meeting held on May 19, 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

May 19, 2023

Date

RESOLUTION 2023-22
Authorization for the Executive Director to Enter Contract
With EcoInteractive for TIP Management Software

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments is charged under the IJA and related US Department of Transportation rules and regulations to maintain the Transportation Improvement Programs for the 19 town NVCOG region; and,

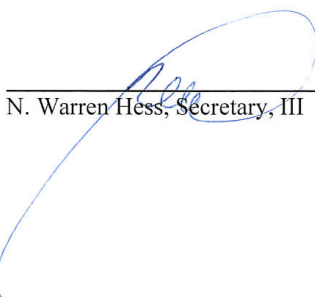
WHEREAS, the NVCOG is authorized by the State of Connecticut to administer funds within the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP); and,

WHEREAS, EcoInteractive offers the ProjectTracker SaaS platform designed to fulfill federal requirements for TIP management, including various approval stages, detailed records, and an enhanced public engagement platform;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments authorizes that its Executive Director, Rick Dunne, be empowered to sign any and all documents required in the execution of contract with EcoInteractive for the ProjectTracker SaaS platform.

This resolution shall become effective as of May 19, 2023.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at a public meeting held on May 19, 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, III



Date