



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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

MINUTES

December 20, 2024

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702

Commencement of Meeting (Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call)

Mayor Pete Hess called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the roll was called, and a quorum was determined.

NVCOG CEOs/Reps:

In person: Gerard Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Mike Krenesky, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Jeffrey Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol; Andrew Martelli, Alternate, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; N. Warren "Pete" Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; Ron Pugliese, Alternate, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Edmond Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Judy Mancini, Alternate, Waterbury.

Remote:

David Cassetti, Mayor, Ansonia; Joseph DiMartino, Mayor, Derby; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury.

Guests:

Gary O'Connor, Pullman & Comley; Daniel Davis, Eversource; Jameson Foulke (Sen. Murphy); Kevin Tedesco, CT DOT.

NVCOG Staff:

Executive Director Rick Dunne, Drew Baklik, Trish Bauer, Desira Blanchard, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Heidy Coronel, Richard Crowther, Jack DeOliveira, Rich Donovan, Thomas Dougherty, Kevin Ellis, Molly Johnson, Mark Nielsen, Eytayo Olaleye, Christine O'Neill, Kate Pipa, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joanna Rogalski, Keith Rosenfeld, Craig Stevenson, Michael Szpryngel, Faith Thurmond.

CNVMPPO Meeting

2025-2028 TIP Amendment – Projects 0171-0471 and 0171-XXXDI

Rich Donovan explained that the first project, 0171-0471, is being removed from the current TIP as it was fully funded under the 2024 sources and no longer is included in the 2025-28 TIP. The second project, 0171-XXXDI, supports the purchase of more battery-electric buses for use within the CT Fastrack system, which sends vehicles into our region through Cheshire, Waterbury and Bristol. Resolution 2025-03 authorizes these two changes to the TIP.

Jeff Caggiano MOVED to adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2025-03; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

Update – Safety Performance Targets

Rich Donovan explained, the Council is asked to endorse Safety Performance Targets for the MPO boundaries, or adopt and endorse the statewide Safety Performance Targets. In recent history we have endorsed statewide targets. We will likely recommend doing so again but would like to show alongside what regional targets would look like if we were to follow the same target setting criteria. At the January meeting we will present both sets of targets to the Council and recommend that we endorse one of those two sets.

He explained the safety performance process and history and noted that missing the targets has not had a negative impact on operations. Other than the impacts of crashes that yield fatalities, the only financial impact is that highway safety dollars cannot be flexed into other programs. He displayed the past several years of targets, noting that we have a long way to go to even meet our own targets let alone achieve the long-term goal of zero fatalities on our roadways.

NVCOG Meeting

Minutes for Approval

Ed Mone MOVED to approve the 11-15-2024 CNVMPO-NVCOG regular meeting minutes; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Ed Mone MOVED to approve the 11-20-2024 NVCOG special meeting minutes; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of Amended Draft NVCOG Bylaws

Rick Dunne explained that the Amended Draft NVCOG Bylaws were preliminarily adopted at the December meeting. It was set up as one organization; one set of bylaws for the two boards – one slate of officers for two organizations - the NVCOG and the CNVMPO - with an Article in it that laid out the bylaws of the CNVMPO. According to the rules by which bylaws are amended, these preliminarily-adopted bylaws were sent to Counsel for review for legal validity.

Attorney O'Connor conducted his review and submitted his memo, which states that we cannot operate as one organization with one slate of officers. You cannot have two memberships on one body where some have some powers and others don't have the same powers. To simplify this, we've removed the Article containing the CNVMPO bylaws. We haven't had MPO bylaws since we formed because we were originally waiting for the merger of the four LNV towns, which never happened.

We present for approval a set of bylaws for the NVCOG and election of NVCOG officers. Other changes include dealing with remote meetings, coming further into conformity with State Statute, removing the requirement for two-signature paper checks so we can do electronic payments (still requiring the same people to sign off on vouchers before the payments are issued), and abolition of the Regional Planning Commission and replacement with the Land Use Technical Advisory Committee, similar to the

Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) but for Land Use/Community Planning. We've deleted the bylaws of the CNVMPO from this document.

We tried to adopt bylaws that would allow or require that if there's not a Chief Elected Official of a city, someone who is elected by all the people at large, that the Town Manager would be the representative. It doesn't conform with Statute, so we cannot do that. Towns will follow the process in the ordinance each of you adopted to belong to this organization to select the representative from your community if there is no Chief Elected Official.

He made several other statutory recommendations and alignments and authorized the NVCOG to adopt this revised document. We will now have two sets of bylaws – one for the NVCOG and one for the CNVMPO and elect two slates of officers.

Attorney Gary O'Connor was present to answer any questions.

Mayor Hess appointed a subcommittee consisting of Mayor Bob Chatfield, First Selectman George Temple, and Mayor David Cassetti. They will work with Rick Dunne, the Transportation Planning Director and Attorney O'Connor to effectuate a draft CNVMPO Bylaws.

Rick will arrange for them to meet remotely/hybrid in the new year.

[Mark Lauretti arrives at this point, 10:22 a.m.]

Attorney O'Connor explained the revisions outlined in his memo. The CNVMPO is its own entity and has different membership requirements. It's organized under different federal statutes and state agreements. It has its own voting requirements, different than those of the NVCOG. The eligibility requirements for the two organizations are different. It made sense to pull them out of the NVCOG bylaws to comply with federal regulations and maintain a kind of separation.

Jeff Caggiano MOVED to adopt the draft NVCOG Bylaws, preliminarily adopted on 11-20-2024, as amended and restated by Counsel; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

Adoption of NVCOG Employee Manual

Rick Dunne explained, the draft manual consolidates all the actions taken by the Council prior to and through the last budget adoption. All policies and benefits changes are included. Updates were made to bring the document into conformity with State Statute and Federal law in terms of family leave and other provisions that were not previously included. We've included appendices containing an AI policy, IT policy, and all the remote work options and requirements for the agency.

Jeff Caggiano MOVED to adopt the NVCOG Employee Manual; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report – Michael Szpryngel

Michael Szpryngel reported we are four months through the fiscal year. The current net position is \$234,000. We have a cash balance of \$1.8 million and the deferred revenue is \$2.2 million. Indirect expenses are approximately 12 percent under the current position. There are no unexpected funding cuts and 100% of RSG funds are included in this financial period. Interest revenue has increased.

Rick stated, it's been a great transition moving over to ION Bank. He explained how the RLF grant funds are drawn upon.

Ed Mone MOVED to approve the Financial Report for the period ending 10-31-2024; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report – Rick Dunne

1. 2025 Budget
2. 2025 Legislative Agenda

We canceled the Waste, Reuse and Recycling Committee meeting scheduled for January 10th and have replaced it with an Executive Committee meeting. Agenda items will include discussion of a preliminary budget to be adopted by the Council in January. We also plan to narrow down state and federal legislative agenda items.

Municipal Affairs – Drew Baklik

Emergency Management Update

The deadline for SBA loans and public assistance from FEMA for anything related to the August 18th and 19th flooding is December 24th. We ask that you refer those in need and encourage them to get the applications done as soon as possible.

The Regional Emergency Planning Team for Region 2 in the lower Valley is holding a vote today to reassign fiduciary duties from River COG and give them to the East Shore (Branford area) Health District.

Resolution for RPIP Grant Application

Today's packet contains a Resolution to support an RPIP grant application for multiple regional animal control facilities - Bristol and Plymouth are the first. By year four, the project will be self-sustaining.

Ed Mone MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution #2025-04; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Drew continued, the next step for the Regional Waste Authority Grant is a survey going out to all the CEOs. The survey will assess existing conditions in the municipalities, such as private hauler contracts, town ordinances governing trash pickup, etc. Input may be needed from Public Works Directors, Town Clerks, and Finance officials. This is a critical step in moving forward with that process.

Mayor Lauretti questioned the subject matter of the survey. His concern is that the tip fees are way up.

Rick explained that this was discussed at the last Waste, Reuse and Recycling Committee meeting. He asked Drew and Christine to work with Tetra Tech in the development of the questionnaire, and to make sure the right people are answering it.

Transportation Planning – Richard Donovan

Updated Regional LOTCIP Guidelines

Rich Donovan explained that the updated Regional LOTCIP Guidelines have been developed and endorsed by TTAC to address the process by which projects are prioritized in the rare chance that two projects are ready to go to construction at one time and the funds are not available to do so. He feels this model makes sense and will allow NVCOG to more efficiently program the money granted to us for LOTCIP.

Rick noted that TTAC is advisory and the NVCOG Board makes the final decision. The group discussed the proposed guidelines at length.

Ed Mone MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution #2025-07 endorsing the LOTCIP Guidelines; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Community Planning

Fall 2024 Community Planning Newsletter Announcement – Emely Ricci

NVCOG has published its Fall 2024 Community Planning Newsletter. It features Bristol's efforts in achieving Gold Certification with Sustainable CT, and the Town of Thomaston and Thomaston Board of Education's collaborative efforts in incorporating youth engagement into their Plan of Conservation and Development update.

This month's Sustainability Spotlight features municipal Planning and Zoning best practices in residential solar in communities. In November, David Kraiker of the US Census Bureau participated in a webinar on The What, When & Where of ACS Data. A recording of this webinar, along with the recording of the Housing Coffee Hour: Demystifying CGS Sec. 8-30G, are available on the NVCOG website and YouTube channel.

We are pleased to announce the publication of the Utility Assistance Resource Guide for Residents.

First Selectmen Mone and Smith both commended NVCOG's Community Planning staff for all the assistance they render the towns.

Regional Plan of Conservation and Development Update – Andrew Martelli

Andrew Martelli, Chair, RPOCD Committee reported that the process of forming the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development has begun; the group meets monthly. Each municipality has a designated representative on the committee. He encouraged participation of all 19 municipalities – there are three that don't have a representative appointed.

Molly Johnson explained that they'll be interviewing three people per town, and in late January/February there will be a questionnaire going out. Mark Lauretti noted that the 8-30g Statute should be included in the municipal survey and asked that Molly reach out to him directly.

Introduction – New Transportation Planner

Rick Dunne introduced and welcomed Kate Pipa, NVCOG's new Transportation Planner. She hails from Shelton and reports to Rich Donovan.

Environmental Planning

Brownfields Update – Ricardo Rodriguez

Ricardo thanked all those who attended the Regional Brownfields Partnership annual meeting.

On December 16th, the RLF Committee approved two projects – 0 Maple Street and 226 Rubber Avenue in Naugatuck. They are anticipated to commence in the spring.

Brownfield Funding Opportunities – Ricardo Rodriguez

The DECD Brownfield Program Round 21 funding opens in January/February. Reach out to NVCOG to commence strategic planning. Assessment – Max of \$200,000; Cleanup – Max of \$4 million.

Inez Ortiz has been hired to assist in Brownfields. She will start work on January 6th – we will introduce her at the next meeting.

Kinneytown Dam Update – Aaron Budris

We passed the deadline of December 16th that the Asset Purchase Agreement laid out for the acquisition of the dam. We are prepared. The current owner has an attorney and they are seemingly working toward acquisition in the next few weeks.

We should have a contract any day for engineering services for the design and engineering of the dam removal. Work should begin after the first of the year.

The design of the sewer relocation is progressing – our contractor, CDM, is doing all the preliminary data collection and is working with the Town of Seymour.

The next Community Meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. January 16th at the Ansonia Senior Center. We will continue these bi-monthly meetings with the public alternating between Ansonia and Seymour.

NOAA Grant Applications

He reviewed the funding sources with a total committed and pending of \$22.94 million to date.

NOAA has announced two 2025 funding opportunities – another round of funding from the Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant of up to \$8 million and is due February 10th, and a Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant Program of up to \$10 million and due April 16th.

Resolution 2025-05 would authorize NVCOG to apply for both grants.

Ed St. John MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution #2025-05 for NOAA Grant Applications; SECONDED by David Cassetti.

Discussion: Ed Mone asked if there is any estimate of what the total project is going to cost. Aaron explained that it depends on what will be done with the sediment issue. There was a meeting with DEEP and EPA trying to figure out how to do that. There will be another round of testing.

David Cassetti is concerned about the sediment and would like to see the plan. Mayor Hess asked Rick to send him a copy of the consultant’s report on the sediment.

Rick Dunne explained that the sediment management plan will be developed by the EPA, then reviewed by DEEP, then the Army Corps of Engineers, then FERC will endorse it. Then, the sediment model will tell us how we are to manage it according to environmental regulations.

Motion carried unanimously.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – *Thomas Dougherty*

Ed St. John MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2025-06 for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Application; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

Roundtable

Mark Lauretti and the Fairfield Public Works Director who has been involved in the MSW project in Bridgeport for 40 years spoke at the Bridgeport MPO yesterday to apprise them of initiatives that this Board is already aware of. The effort is to make sure the Chief Elected Officials have a good understanding of the municipal solid waste situation in the State of Connecticut. He feels we should be focusing on solutions for the Naugatuck Valley and Bridgeport region and feels the answers and solutions can be found here in the Valley that we may be able to affect.

II. Adjournment

Ed Mone MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Jeff Caggiano. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk

Attachments:

NVCOG Resolution 2025-04 – RPIP
NVCOG Resolution 2025-05 – 2 NOAA Grants
NVCOG Resolution 2025-06 – Hazard Mitigation
NVCOG Resolution 2025-07 – LOTCIP Guidelines
CNVMPO Resolution 2025-03 – TIP Amendments

RESOLUTION 2025-04

AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its hybrid meeting on December 20, 2024, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) is soliciting applications for the Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP).

WHEREAS, the objective of the RPIP is to encourage municipalities to participate in voluntary regional shared services that have the potential to lower tax property burdens, produce measurable economics of scale, provide desired or required public services, and lower the costs and tax burdens associated with the provision of such services.

WHEREAS, the City of Bristol seeks to purchase and renovate a building located at 30 Cross Street in Bristol that will provide animal control and sheltering services for Bristol and Plymouth and is seeking additional funding to support efforts associated with and operations thereof.

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) acts on behalf of its 19 member municipalities to prepare and submit RPIP grant applications to OPM.


WHEREAS, Bristol and Plymouth are committed to matching fifty percent (50%) of the funding provided by a Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant during the life of the RPIP grant and by the fourth year of operation, Bristol and Plymouth shall fund one hundred percent (100%) of costs associated with the Regional Animal Control Facility.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG Board endorses the completion and submission of an application to OPM for RPIP funding to support a Regional Animal Control Facility Center located in Bristol, CT.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on December 20, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed


Edmond V. Mone, Secretary



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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**RESOLUTION 2025-05
AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO AND EXECUTION OF
TWO NOAA GRANTS FOR KINNEYTOWN DAM REMOVAL**

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 December 20, 2024, at which a quorum was present.

WHEREAS, NVCOG municipalities have identified the removal of Kinneytown Dam in Scymour and Ansonia as a regional priority to restore fish passage, reduce public safety risks, and advance environmental justice.

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has announced two grant opportunities titled "Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal" and "Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience."

WHEREAS, NVCOG has already amassed over \$20,000,000 in federal and state funding to launch the dam removal project, including a \$15,000,000 grant in 2022 from NOAA's Barrier Removal program, and has undertaken activities such as community engagement, sewer siphon relocation planning, and hiring an engineer to design the removal.

WHEREAS, NVCOG has identified the need for further funding to support the demolition and restoration phase of the removal project.

BE IT RESOLVED that the NVCOG Board may apply for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grant for up to \$8 million to fund the Kinneytown Dam removal project, and may execute the grant if awarded.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NVCOG Board may apply for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant for up to \$10 million to fund the Kinneytown Dam removal project, and may execute the grant if awarded.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Executive Director Rick Dunne is authorized and directed to execute and deliver all documents on behalf of the NVCOG Board and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on December 20, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed



N. Warren Hess, Chairman



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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RESOLUTION 2025-06

IT IS RESOLVED by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments that its Executive Director, Rick Dunne, be empowered to apply for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program funding through the CT Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS), and to sign and execute all documents associated with said grant.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut on December 20, 2024

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed: _____

Ed Mone, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2025-07

**LOTICIP
ADOPTION OF UPDATED REGIONAL LOTICIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

WHEREAS, The NVCOG is granted funds by the Connecticut Legislature, through the CT Department of Transportation, each year for the programming of local transportation improvements projects through the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program; and,

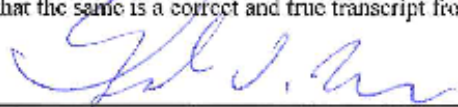
WHEREAS, The NVCOG Board is responsible for selecting and distributing funds to member municipalities under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program ("Program"); and,

WHEREAS, The LOTICIP program within the region is administered in accordance with the Program Guidelines for the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program;

BE IT RESOLVED that Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments adopts the updated Program Guidelines for the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program.

This resolution shall become effective as of December 20, 2024.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at a public meeting held on December 20, 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

December 20, 2024

Date



**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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

RESOLUTION 2025-03

**AMENDMENT
FFY 2025-2028 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 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region (TIP)* at its April 19, 2024, meeting; and the US Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) have approved the *State FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*; and

WHEREAS, the projects within the TIP are being changed by the project sponsors in the way demonstrated on the attached sheets; and

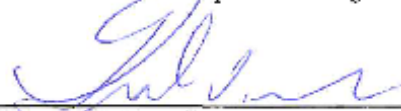
WHEREAS, the proposed projects have been reviewed for compliance with air quality conformity and either are exempted under federal legislation or have been found in compliance; and

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, the proposed changes were posted for public review and comment to the EcoInteractive Portal for the CNVMPO prior to consideration, 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 attached amendments of the FFY 2025-2028 TIP.

This resolution shall become effective as of December 20, 2024.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on November 15, 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

December 20, 2024

Date