



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

and

Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

NVCOG Conference Room

49 Leavenworth St., 3rd Floor

Waterbury, CT

10 a.m., Friday, March 10, 2017

NVCOG Representatives: Rich Dziekan, Alternate, Ansonia; Chris Bielik, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ken Cockayne, Mayor, Bristol; Jerry Sitko (by phone), Alternate, Cheshire; Anita Dugatto, Mayor, Derby; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Tom Galvin, Alternate, Prospect; Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Seymour; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury; Ray Primini, Town Council Member, Watertown; Bill Butterly, First Selectman, Mary Ellen Edwards, Alternate, Woodbury,

Guests/Other: Judy Mancini, City of Waterbury; members of the public.

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Aaron Budris, Glenda Prentiss, Trish Bauer, Lauren Rizzo, Christian Meyer, Karen Svetz, Bill Leverage, Ben Muller.

Prior to the start of the meeting, there was a presentation by Pamela Mautte of the Alliance for Prevention & Wellness at BHcare and Jennifer DeWitt of the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council.

1. Commencement of Meeting (Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment)

Chairman Neil O'Leary called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. There was no public comment.

2. CNVMPO Activities *(Voting members for these items are limited to the 15 CEOs in the CNVMPO area)*

a. *Approval of TIP Amendments* – Mark Nielsen reviewed the amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program:

- i. Project No. 0174-0380: Upgrade Signing along Route 8 from Shelton to I-84 in Waterbury

On a motion by Ken Cockayne, seconded by Bill Butterly, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt Resolution CNVMPO 2017-09 approving the amendments to the FFY 2015-2018 TIP to include the projects as described in Memorandum 03102017TIP.

3. NVCOG Administrative Items

a. *Approval of the Minutes of the February 10, 2017 NVCOG & CNVMPO Meeting* – On a motion by Pete Hess, seconded by Kurt Miller, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the February 10, 2017 NVCOG & CNVMPO meeting.

b. *Approval of Financial Report* – Bill Leverage reviewed the financial report for FY 2017 activity through February 28, as outlined in Memorandum 03102017-FIN-1. Total salaries, fringe and general expenses (including direct pass-through contractor expenses) are 123% of budget through

eight months of the fiscal year. Total program revenues are 122% of budget through eight months of the fiscal year, and are ahead of budget primarily due to additional pass-through federal funding and local revenues received at the beginning of the fiscal year. Net position year-to-date shows a decrease of \$25,042 through eight months of the fiscal year. Chairman O'Leary asked for status on financial issues, and if they had been identified and were being worked on. Mr. Leverage said another CPA was now assisting and issues were primarily due to the conversion and the data from the two previous fiscal years. He stated that a lot of progress had been made. Upon Chairman O'Leary asking if there was any cause for concern, Mr. Leverage said there was not and that the issues were mainly bookkeeping in nature. On a motion by Kurt Miller, seconded by Ed Mone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

- c. *Director's Report* – Rick Dunne detailed certain legislative bills that were being tracked, including raised committee bills, public health items, and regional planning activities.
 - i. CEO Portraits from Town Websites – Mr. Dunne said pictures of the CEOs were being sought for the NVCOG website and publications. Outreach will be done to see if headshots from municipal websites can be used. If needed, photos will be taken, including group pictures.
 - ii. Executive Committee Meeting – Mr. Dunne stated the Executive Committee meeting would follow the regular NVCOG meeting. Chairman O'Leary reminded everyone that all NVCOG members were welcome to attend.

4. **NVCOG Planning/Transportation Updates**

- a. *CEDS Support Update* – Mark Nielsen reported that staff is working with the Shelton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) on updating the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Mr. Dunne added that funding from EDA had been received by SEDC (the fiduciary and lead on the project). NVCOG staff is performing services that will be in excess of the value necessary for the match required by the program. A contractor hired by SEDC will receive the data collected and tabulated by staff and incorporate it into the draft document. The final report will be used for additional economic development purposes other than just filing it with EDA. Profiles will be prepared for the towns, as opposed to one regional document.
- b. *LOTICIP Progress Report* – Mr. Nielsen said projects are moving ahead. Christian Meyer reviewed a chart showing the progress of the program and outlined the status of the projects.
- c. *Route 8-Alternative Modes Assessment Project Update* – Mr. Nielsen reported this project is now underway and will focus on the five communities along the Waterbury Branch Line. Public outreach sessions will be held.
- d. *Derby-Shelton Bridge Design Project Update* – Mr. Nielsen reported that funding had been received to move this project into design. It is currently awaiting authorization from the state.
- e. *NVCOG Regional Pedestrian Plan* – Ben Muller said staff has begun development on this plan which will review the current conditions for pedestrians in the region and identify opportunities for infrastructure improvement and policy coordination to make walking easier and safer. The plan is expected to be completed and in the implementation phase by fall of 2017.

- f. *NVCOG Regional Plan of Conservation & Development* – Mark Nielsen said the region is required to put together a Regional Plan of Conservation & Development. This will be a major effort over the next year and the first Regional POCD for the 19 member NVCOG.
- g. *MS4 and Low Impact Development (LID) Local Regulation Assessments* – Aaron Budris said he recently emailed assessments to the municipalities that look at local regulations in the context of the new MS4 regulations. The MS4 will require that towns make changes to their local ordinances and land use regulations to set up certain legal authorities and to make it easier for developers to use low impact development practices. NVCOG staff studied the new regulations and flagged where each municipality’s regulations might not be compliant. Staff offered a timeline for the requirements, suggested changes that could be made, and provided links to additional resources. NVCOG staff is available for assistance. Ed Mone noted that Thomaston greatly appreciated the information and found it very useful.
- h. *Endorsement of NRG Economic Impact Study Final Report* – Mark Nielsen said NVCOG partnered with UConn and the CT Center for Economic Analysis on this recently completed report. The findings from the study indicate the construction of the NRG will result in substantial economic benefits to the host communities, region, Litchfield and New Haven counties and Connecticut. Economic returns will exceed the investment. Monetized health benefits are also important. The final report was presented to the Naugatuck River Greenway Steering Committee, and it was endorsed at their February 8, 2017 meeting. On a motion by Pete Hess, seconded by Ken Cockayne, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse and adopt the final report of the NRG Economic Impact Study, as presented.

- 5. **Approval of Public Outreach Policy** – Ben Muller explained that the Public Outreach Policy outlines how NVCOG engages with the public during programs and projects. The policy sets minimum levels of engagement for a variety of NVCOG’s planning work and supersedes any statutory requirements with lower standards and defers to statutory requirements with higher standards of engagement. On a motion by Bill Butterly, seconded by Chris Bielik, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Resolution 2017-24 – NVCOG Public Outreach Policy.

- 6. **Approval of Environmental Justice Policy** – Mr. Muller said the Environmental Justice Policy outlines how NVCOG staff will work to ensure federally funded construction projects and programs do not impose a disproportionate negative impact on minority or low income populations. The policy identifies populations within the region to provide background information to staff and the public, and outlines the type of analysis required to be performed by staff project managers during the NEPA process. It also identifies communities of particular concern due to heavy concentrations of low income and minority populations to facilitate the direction of beneficial projects to those communities. On a motion by Len Assard, seconded by Rich Dzieken, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Resolution 2017-25 – NVCOG Environmental Justice Policy.

7. **Other**

There was no other business.

- 8. **Adjournment** – At 11:10 a.m., on a motion by Bill Butterly, seconded by Kurt Miller, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Services Coordinator
for
Ken Cockayne
Secretary