

MINUTES

Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

Friday, April 13, 2007, 12:00 NOON

AnnaDonte's

384 North Main Street

Naugatuck, CT

COGCNV Members: Susan Cable, First Selectwoman; Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Ron SanAngelo, Mayor, Naugatuck; August Palmer III, First Selectman, Oxford; Robert Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Mark Cooper, First Selectman, Southbury; Maura Martin, First Selectman, Thomaston;; Thomas Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Richard Crane, First Selectman, Woodbury, Paul Hinckley, Alternate, Woodbury. **Speakers and Guests:** Roy Cavanaugh, Alternate, Watertown; Paul Nonnemacher, CRRA; Brad Keazer, Jason Newman, FHWA; Grayson Wright, ConnDOT; Laurie Aylsworth and Matt Hickey, CL&P.

Staff: Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Samuel Gold, Senior Planner; Jeffrey Cormier, Assistant Planner; Selma Alves, Secretary.

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Introductions, Public Comment

Chairman Susan Cable called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon, and those present recited the pledge of allegiance. Peter Dorpalen called the roll and introduced speakers and guests. There was no public comment. Susan Cable suggested that item number 5, *CL&P Transmission Line Proposals*, be moved up to number 2 on the Agenda and everything else be shifted down. On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Mark Cooper, it was unanimously

VOTED: To move item number 5 up to number 2 on the Agenda.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of March 9, 2007 meeting* — On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Joseph Salvini, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 9, 2007 meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — As of March 31, 2007, the Council was 75% through the fiscal year and had expended 62.9% of the \$682,342 operating budget. Of the total budgeted amount which includes pass-through funds, 24.4% of the \$2,029,435 budget has been expended. The STIF account totaled \$43,388. The Webster Checking account balance was \$17,158. The STIF Reserve Fund had a balance of \$217,007. On a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Mark Cooper, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the February 2007 financial report.

- c. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent correspondence.

March 8, 2007	Letter to Middlebury confirming the town's membership in the regional household hazardous waste program, and explaining specifics of the program.
March 14, 2007	Memorandum from Peter Dorpalen to COG members and social service directors on continuation of the municipal social service assistance project — cost would be \$1,720 per town if all participated. (Half year in FY08 would be \$860.)
March 14, 2007	Letter to Care Environmental notifying the firm that it has selected to operate the COGCNV household hazardous waste drop-off program.
March 27, 2007	Letter from Western CT Area Agency on Agency requesting that mayors and first selectmen contact their legislators on SB 1381, funding for congregate and home delivered meals for seniors and funds to continue the CHOICES program.
April 11, 2007	Fax transmittal to ConnDOT of FY2008 applications of the municipal grant program for elderly and disabled demand responsive transportation — GWTD, Bethlehem. (Oxford was sent directly to ConnDOT.)
April 13, 2007	Letter to ConnDOT from Peter Dorpalen requesting that Prospect's Scott Rd phase 2 project be funded under the old funding rules because of the substantial design costs paid by the town prior to the rule change.

3. **Electronics Recycling**

Paul Nonnemacher of CT Resources Recovery Authority, discussed upcoming electronics recycling events—June 2 at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Plant and June 23 at the Waterbury Waste Water Treatment Facility. The program has increased from eight collections a year to at least fifteen a year throughout the state. Nonnemacher believes that because there is more demand for electronics recycling, the state needs to set up a comprehensive electronics recycling system. Nonnemacher said that there is pending legislation directing the Department of Environmental Protection to set up such a system. He encouraged COG members to speak to the state senators and legislators regarding supporting this bill. Chairman Susan Cable asked if electronics from the town halls could be brought to the collections. Paul Nonnemacher said that the towns could contact CRRA to use the contractor for the same price to dispose of electronics from schools and town halls.

4. **Federal Role in Transportation**

Brad Keazer, the Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration–Connecticut, presented information on the role of the Federal Highway Administration. Most of FHWA's projects that we see are the Transportation Improvement Projects. The new federal transportation legislation that they are working on is SAFETEA-LU, which is a six year bill that is halfway through. This legislation includes more stringent consultant selection processes. He covered the new 80-1010 formula for highway projects. He covered new regulations for planning requirements. It is similar to what was already being done in Connecticut with additions of cooperating the environmental process into the planning analysis. Brad Keazer mentioned that Connecticut has one of the best safety rates in the nation, except in pedestrian

fatalities. Pedestrian safety analyses are being encouraged to be able to identify and fix these problems. He also said that the Federal Highway Administration is now working toward greater accountability requirements for funding.

Brad Keazer spoke about federal funding for transportation being half of what was expected, while the costs increased 50% as a result of Hurricane Katrina and China using a significant amount of available resources. He also spoke about congestion issues in the State.

5. **CL&P Transmission Line Proposals – Presentation**

Laurie Aylsworth, the Transmission Project Director for CL&P, discussed problems Connecticut has with its transmission system. She explained that weaknesses in the transmission system affect how power can be dispatched, and in turn, the price people pay for the power. Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE) is responsible for operating the New England grid and assuring its reliability. As a result of running plants that are not economical, not having the necessary transmission lines to get to the cheaper power, and high electricity demand, Connecticut's prices are typically higher than others in New England. She explained that rising energy costs are the result of Connecticut not having access to cheaper power. Because of electric industry restructuring in 2000, utilities are no longer able to own electric generation plants; and consequently, they are no longer able to control energy prices.

In recent years, CL&P has attempted to make Connecticut's transmission system stronger through major transmission projects in Southwest Connecticut and working with ISO-NE to get more power into Connecticut. As the result the way the transmission lines are now, a transmission outage in Springfield, Massachusetts will be felt throughout Connecticut and into Rhode Island. ISO-NE has identified five major weaknesses of the New England Transmission system, two of which are specifically with Connecticut lines, but all which could affect parts of the state.

Laurie Aylsworth stated that, in order to meet the electric energy concerns and protect the state's economy, Connecticut must become more efficient with conserving energy, it must add generation, and it must increase its transmission capacity.

6. **Transportation Actions**

a. *Transportation Improvement Program Amendments*— Jeff Cormier presented two amendments to the COGCNV 2007-20011 Transportation Improvement Program.

- Waterbury – Incident management system breakout of Project No. 0151-0273 for I-84 from Washington St in Waterbury to Prospect St in Southington - Construction (Project No. 0151-H080)
- District 1 and District 4 – Install and revise STC traffic control signals - Right-of-Way, Construction (Project No. 0171-0299, Project No. 0171-H153, Project No. 0174-H171)

On a motion, by Ron San Angelo, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the April 2007 amendments to the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

- b. *COGCNV Participation in Urban Partnership* — Peter Dorpalen gave an overview of the federal Urban Partnership program, which emphasizes four traffic congestion strategies: transit, tolls, telecommuting, and technology. ConnDOT’s application for the program focuses on congestion in the southwestern Connecticut through a value pricing pilot program. The incentive for participation is greater and easier availability of federal transportation funding. Dorpalen requested action on two motions — COGCNV participation in the Urban Partnership, and support for ConnDOT’s Urban Partnership Agreement.

On a motion, by Ron San Angelo, seconded by Richard Crane, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve COGCNV participation in the Urban Partnership.

- c. *ConnDOT 2007 Value Pricing Pilot Program Application: Pre-Implementation Statewide Study*

On a motion, by Ron San Angelo, seconded by Robert Chatfield, the following resolution was approved:

WHEREAS: The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) plans to conduct a Statewide Value Pricing Program Pre-Implementation Study.

WHEREAS: The Statewide Value Pricing Program Pre-Implementation Study will evaluate various pricing options, identify system benefits and constraints, and, if recommended, develop a Value Pricing Program implementation plan to address mobility needs throughout Connecticut.

WHEREAS: The Department will be seeking Federal funding under the Federal Highway Administration’s Value Pricing Pilot Program (FFY2007) to conduct the statewide pre-implementation study.

WHEREAS: The Department will conduct the pre-implementation study in cooperation with the regional planning organizations.

WHEREAS: The pre-implementation study will provide information to respond to outstanding questions regarding the effectiveness and feasibility of such an initiative, and determine the best type of program(s) to implement for Connecticut.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS OF THE CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY HEREBY:

Supports the Connecticut Department of Transportation in the preparation of a statewide Value Pricing Program Pre-Implementation Study and its interest to secure the funding necessary to conduct such a study.

On a motion, by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Thomas Dunn, it was unanimously

VOTED: To add ConnDOT Transportation Planning Agreement Authorization to the Agenda.

- d. *ConnDOT Transportation Planning Agreement Authorization* — Peter Dorpalen presented a resolution to authorize execution of the Transportation Planning program.

On a motion, by Robert Chatfield seconded by Mark Cooper, it was unanimously

RESOLVED: That the Agency's Chairman, Susan A. Cable, or Vice-Chairman, Ron San Angelo, be and hereby is authorized to act on behalf of the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley in negotiating and executing all appropriate and necessary contractual instruments with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance to carry out a mutually agreed upon program of transportation in the Central Naugatuck Valley Region in cooperation with ConnDOT for the period July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

7. Project Updates

- a. *Emergency Operations Planning* — Virginia Mason that COG has not received the letter for the 2006 money. Virginia also presented the high band radio forms that the municipalities need to resubmit to DEMHS. She explained that the originals needed to be mailed to DEMHS, not faxed copies. There have been several meetings on the allocation in Region 5 for FY 2007. It anticipated that COGCNV will receive additional funds to be the fiduciary agent in the Region, and the planning activities will be the responsibility of each RPO.
- b. *Regional Transportation Plan* — Peter Dorpalen presented the status of the Regional Transportation Plan. The draft was submitted to ConnDOT for air quality modeling, and the plan passed the State Air Quality Conformity Analysis. The public review process has started and would culminate with a public meeting on April 17.
- c. *Safe Routes to School Funding Program* — Sam Gold reported that he just received clarification on the Safe Routes to School program from ConnDOT. The department will not make money available to schools who create a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan for bicycle or pedestrian safety programs. However, some of the \$12,000 that COG would receive to assist a school in creating a SRTS can be used for an educational program. Sam asked the board members to contact him if their municipality was interested in creating a SRTS plan.
- d. *NVCC Municipal Training Academy* — Peter Dorpalen reported that Cheshire and Bethlehem are the only towns that have stated that they would not be participating. He has applied for a CT Community Foundation grant for the Fall deadline.
- e. *Municipal Social Service Assistance Program* — Peter Dorpalen reported that the two-year grant from the Leever Foundation would be completed by the end of the year. He noted that the social service directors that he had spoken with said this program is very helpful. For the coming fiscal year, the cost would be \$860 per town since the grant will only last for half the year. COG suggested that a survey be sent to each town to determine participation in the program.

- f. *Naugatuck River Greenway Sign Completion* — Sam Gold reported that the Naugatuck River Greenway Sign and Brochure project has been completed. The signs were installed in three parks along the river in Naugatuck, Beacon Falls, and the Naugatuck State Forest.

8. **Regional Business**

Virginia Mason reported that the Regional Build-out Analysis would be presented to OPM on Wednesday, April 18.

9. **Other**

- a. *Upcoming regional hazardous waste event* — Jeff Cormier reported that the next household hazardous waste event will be on Saturday, April 28 at the John Trumbull School in Watertown.
- b. Ron SanAngelo was recognized for his service to the COGCNV, specifically for his work on the War Against Drugs and his work on the municipal academy.

10. **Adjournment** — At 1:25 pm, on a motion by Richard Crane, seconded by Robert Chatfield, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Selma Alves, Secretary

For

Maura Martin
Secretary