

MINUTES
Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley

Middlebury Fire House
65 Tucker Hill Road
Middlebury, CT 06762
Friday, April 17, 2009, 12 Noon

COGCNV Members: Susan Cable, First Selectman, Karen Wilson, Alternate, Beacon Falls; Thomas Gormley, First Selectman, Joseph Salvini, Alternate, Middlebury; Michael Bronko, Mayor, Naugatuck; Robert Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Bill Davis, First Selectman, Southbury; Bob Flanagan, Alternate, Thomaston; Theresa Caldarone, Alternate, Waterbury; Paul Hinckley, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Speakers and Guests: David Fink, Partnership for Strong Communities; Doug Novak, Greg Harla, Bagela USA; Lou Mangini, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's Office; Tom Romano, DEMHS; Lawrence Hutvanger, Chief Financial Officer, Middlebury; Ed Murray, DEMHS Region 1; Bob Kenny, DEMHS Region 5; Grayson Wright, ConnDOT; Kenny Curran, Congressman Chris Murphy's Office; Chief Guisti, Middlebury Police Department.

Staff: Peter Dorpalen, Executive Director; Virginia Mason, Assistant Director; Samuel Gold, Senior Planner; Jeff Cormier, Regional Planner/GIS Specialist; Joe Perrelli, Regional Planner; Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Assistant.

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

Chairman Susan Cable called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called. There was no public comment.

2. Administrative Items

- a. *Minutes of March 13, 2009 Meeting* — On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Paul Hinckley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the March 13, 2009 COGCNV meeting.

- b. *Financial Report* — Peter Dorpalen reported that as of the end of March, COGCNV was 75% through the fiscal year and had expended 64% of its operating budget. Of the total budget, including pass-through funds, 48% has been expended.

On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Tom Gormley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the financial report.

- c. *Lease Renewal* — Peter Dorpalen stated he would like to propose a two year, no increase lease to COGCNV's landlord. The lease would also include an option to renew for the following three years, with a 1% increase. On a motion by Thomas Gormley, seconded by Paul Hinckley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Executive Director Peter Dorpalen to enter into lease negotiations with the COGCNV office space landlord.

- d. *Appointment of a Nominating Committee* — Chairman Susan Cable stated that elections would be taking place in June, and appointed Terry Caldarone, Robert Chatfield, and Paul Hinckley to the nominating committee.

- e. *Correspondence* — Peter Dorpalen summarized recent correspondence:

March 16, 2009

Email from Maura Martin on the interest of attorneys from Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell & Beck to speak to COG about public sector labor and employment issues.

March 17, 2009	Letter to Mayor Jarjura in support of Waterbury's Naugatuck River Greenway project as a Congressional appropriations request.
March 18, 2009	Letter to Town Manager Charles Frigon stating that Watertown's housing rehabilitation program, to be funded through a Small Cities grant, is in conformance with COGCNV's regional plan of conservation and development.
March 27, 2009	Letter to Jim Redeker, ConnDOT Public Transportation Bureau Chief, appointing Senior Planner Sam Gold to the state's Rail Force Task Force.
April 9, 2009	Letter from ConnDOT to Sam Gold responding to his comments on the I-84/ Route 8 interchange study.
April 14, 2009	Letter from Oxford First Selectman Mary Ann Drayton-Rodgers stating that Acting First Selectman Dave McKane will represent Oxford at the April 17, 2009, COGCNV meeting.
April 17, 2009	Email from CRRA stating that the next meeting of the Mid-Connecticut Project Municipal Advisory Committee will be held Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at the Trash Museum in Hartford.

3. **Transportation Actions**

- a. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments* — Jeff Cormier said there were four April 2009 amendments involving Reinvestment and Recovery Funds. The amendments consist of installation of epoxy pavement markings, lines, and intersections in District 1 and District 4; the statewide acquisition of bus replacements; upgrading of 106 buses to hybrid; and statewide park and ride lot improvements.

On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Terry Caldarone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the April 2009 amendments to the 2007-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

- b. Air Quality Resolutions* — Peter Dorpalen reported that ConnDOT is asking MPOs to pass two resolutions concerning conformity with the Clean Air Act, one concerning ozone, and the other concerning particulate matter (PM 2.5), in regard to the Branford Shoreline East Supplemental Parking project. ConnDOT has found that the implementation of this project will not affect emissions levels.

On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Paul Hinckley, it was unanimously

VOTED: That the COGCNV finds that its Long Range Regional Transportation Plan (LRP) and FFY 2007-2011 Transportation Program (TIP) conform to air quality requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (40 CFR 51 and 93), related U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines (23 CFR 450) and with Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) and hereby approves the existing March 2007 Ozone Air Quality Conformity Determination contingent upon no major adverse comments are received during said period

That the COGCNV finds that its Long Range Regional Transportation Plan 2007-2035 (LRP) and FFY 2007-2011 Transportation Program (TIP) conform to air quality requirements of the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration (40 CFR 51 and 93), related U.S. Department of Transportation guidelines (23 CFR 450) and with Title 42, Section 7506 (3) (A) and hereby approves the existing March 2007 PM 2.5 Conformity Determination contingent upon no major adverse comments are received during said period.

- c. *Naugatuck River Greenway Study, ConnDOT Agreement Authorization* — Sam Gold stated that in 2008 COGCNV received a \$147,000 federal grant to conduct a regional greenway routing study for the Naugatuck River Greenway. The grant will be used to hire a consultant experienced in greenway planning to conduct the routing study. Funding for the routing study will be funneled through ConnDOT, with ConnDOT taking a \$14,700 administrative fee from the grant. COGCNV needs to enter into an agreement with ConnDOT to receive the \$132,300 grant for the study.

On a motion by Terry Caldarone, seconded by Tom Gormley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize Chairman Susan A. Cable 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 concerning the Naugatuck River Greenway Routing Study.

- d. *FTA Section 5310 Minibus Grant Priorities* — Virginia Mason reported that a priority list had been prepared for ConnDOT from seven applications received for minibus grants, with one application being disqualified by ConnDOT for lack of public notice.

On a motion by Robert Chatfield, seconded by Terry Caldarone, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the FY 2007 Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 priority list as presented in Memorandum 040809A.

4. **Visualizing Density Seminar**

David Fink, Policy Director for Partnership for Strong Communities, spoke about a seminar with Julie Campoli, author of *Visualizing Density*, to be held on May 14 and 15. He said the seminar will be informative for municipalities interested in different options for planned developments, such as elderly, apartments, town homes, clusters, and single family detached.

5. **Asphalt Recycling**

Doug Novak and Greg Harla of Bagela USA spoke about asphalt recycling and opportunities that exist for municipalities to work together regionally to purchase an asphalt recycler.

6. **Project Updates**

- a. *Emergency Planning* — Virginia Mason reported that the Operation Gridlock table-top exercise had been conducted prior to the COG meeting. Bob Kenny, DEMHS Region 5 Coordinator, said the exercise was well attended, with 10 out of 13 municipalities participating. He said the exercise was based on the I-84/Route 8 interchange in Waterbury being put out of service and municipal response to its impact, including major long term traffic diversion. A functional exercise is planned for the future.
- b. *GIS Municipal Parcel Mapping* — Virginia Mason said that parcel mapping for Cheshire is complete and Wolcott's parcel mapping is to begin soon.
- c. *Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plans* — Virginia Mason stated that all pre-disaster mitigation plans have been approved. Plans are complete for a five year period. Periodic reminders will be sent out reminding municipalities to review them as funding becomes available from the state.
- d. *ARRA — Status of Local Shovel-Ready Transportation Projects* — Joe Perrelli said plans are being submitted to ConnDOT and a central contact person has been established. Progress will be reported as it becomes available.
- e. *Bus Route Ridership Survey* — Sam Gold said the bus ridership study is 70% complete for weekday trips; weekend counts continue. Counts are being conducted for bus routes in Naugatuck, Waterbury, Watertown, Wolcott, and Middlebury. In general, bus ridership has been increasing. The project is on schedule to be completed in June.

- f. *LOCHSTP Proposals* — Sam Gold stated he has been coordinating the state's Northwest Connecticut LOCHSTP projects to improve disabled transportation. Proposals include increasing regional minibuses for the disabled, and teaming up with United Way through its 211 hotline to provide transportation service information.
- g. *Naugatuck River Greenway* — Sam Gold reported that 15 proposals were received to conduct the greenway routing study. Four consulting firms were selected for interviews. The greenway committee will interview these firms on April 27.
- h. *HomeCT Program* — Virginia Mason stated that Beacon Falls, Oxford, and Thomaston are participating in the program. Watertown has an application pending. Consultant proposals for Thomaston (and possibly Watertown) are due by April 17, 2009.

7. **Regional Business**

- a. *Regional Services — Discussion of Opportunities* — Chairman Susan Cable opened the floor for suggestions or comments concerning regionalization opportunities. Items such as stormwater management, Code Red, and cooperative purchasing were discussed. Chairman Cable asked that COGCNV keep members informed of incentives and funding the state will provide for regionalization.
- b. *Labor Negotiations Seminar Interest* — The municipalities did not express interest in a regional seminar on public labor and employment issues.

8. **Other**

Virginia Mason stated that on April 30, 2009 a land use planning seminar will be held at the Middlebury Fire House, and on May 20, 2009, in the COGCNV conference room, a speaker from DEP will discuss changes in industrial stormwater permitting. Jeff Cormier said the first 2009 household hazard waste event will take place on April 25 in Beacon Falls.

9. **Adjournment** — At 1:13 p.m., on a motion by Bill Davis, seconded by Susan Cable, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant

for

Michael Bronko
Secretary