



**August 2021**

# **Special Meeting**

**August 27, 2021**

Ashford, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton,  
Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sterling,  
Thompson, Union, Voluntown and Woodstock

***Results Through Regionalism***





## August 2021 Regular Meeting

**Friday, August 27, 2021** - 8:30 am - Remote Via ZOOM  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82162000443?pwd=UW5HZkZHWE1ucWg4VHpEVUNCNUQrQT09>  
Meeting ID: 821 6200, 0443 Passcode: 591167

### Agenda ([amended](#))

#### 1. **Call To Order** - Tracey Hanson, NECCOG Chair

- |                      |                    |                         |                       |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Welcoming Remarks | b. Meeting Minutes | c. Public Participation | d. Other Agenda Items |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|

#### 2. **Director's Report** - John Filchak, Executive Director

- |                          |   |                                      |   |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| a. Transit Activities    | d. Transportation Projects/<br>Initiatives, | f. Economic Development              | i. American Rescue Plan<br>Act Administration |
| b. Animal Services       | e. Regional Human<br>Resources              | g. Town Assistance                   | j. <a href="#">COVID Recovery</a>             |
| c. Crumbling Foundations |   | h. Natural Hazard<br>Mitigation Plan | k. Other                                      |

#### 3. **Discussion and Action Items**

##### a. ARPA

- i. **FEMA Recovery Project Solicitation** - Environmental Depot, Scenic Byway/Trails Branding/Tourism, Value-Added Agriculture, NE Visitor Center, MA-CT Transportation Connections Study - Bus & Rail
- ii. **EDA ARPA Funding Opportunities: Build Back Better Regional Challenge, Economic Adjustment Assistance and Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation**

##### c. Regional Referrals

- i. **Town of Ashford** - Proposed zoning amendments pertaining to a temporary moratorium on cannabis establishments and establishing a Lake District
- ii. **Town of Killingly, Zone Text Amendment - #21-1264 Town of Killingly, Add Section 420.2.2; General Commercial Zone; Special permitted Use; Service Storage Facility**

##### d. STIP Amendments or Actions

- i. **Project 041-0157, Town of Thompson** - Replace Bridge 02128 on Sunset Hill Brook \$303,000, 2021 - increase cost from federal estimate \$170,000

##### e. Resolution 8-1-21 - Non-Metropolitan Areas Consultative Planning Process

##### f. Modification to the Unified Planning Work Program - UPWP

##### g. Executive order 13A - Municipal Mask Requirement Authority

#### 4. Chief Elected Official Roundtable

NECCOG meetings are conducted in accessible locations and materials can be provided in accessible formats free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, alternative material formats such as audio, Braille, and large print), as available. Interpreter and other translation requests must be made at least fourteen (14) business days before the meeting. Materials in alternative formats must be requested at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

NECCOG fully complies with all Federal and Connecticut nondiscrimination protections, including, but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 in all of its programs and activities. NECCOG does not discriminate on the basis of: race, color, national origin, English proficiency, or age, ancestry, background, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, income, religion, sex, sexual orientation or expression, or military status. Any person who believes himself/herself or through a representative, file a complaint with NECCOG. Please view our website [neccog.org](http://neccog.org) or call 860-774-1253 for details/assistance in filing a complaint or for additional information.





## Deviated—Fixed Route Ridership

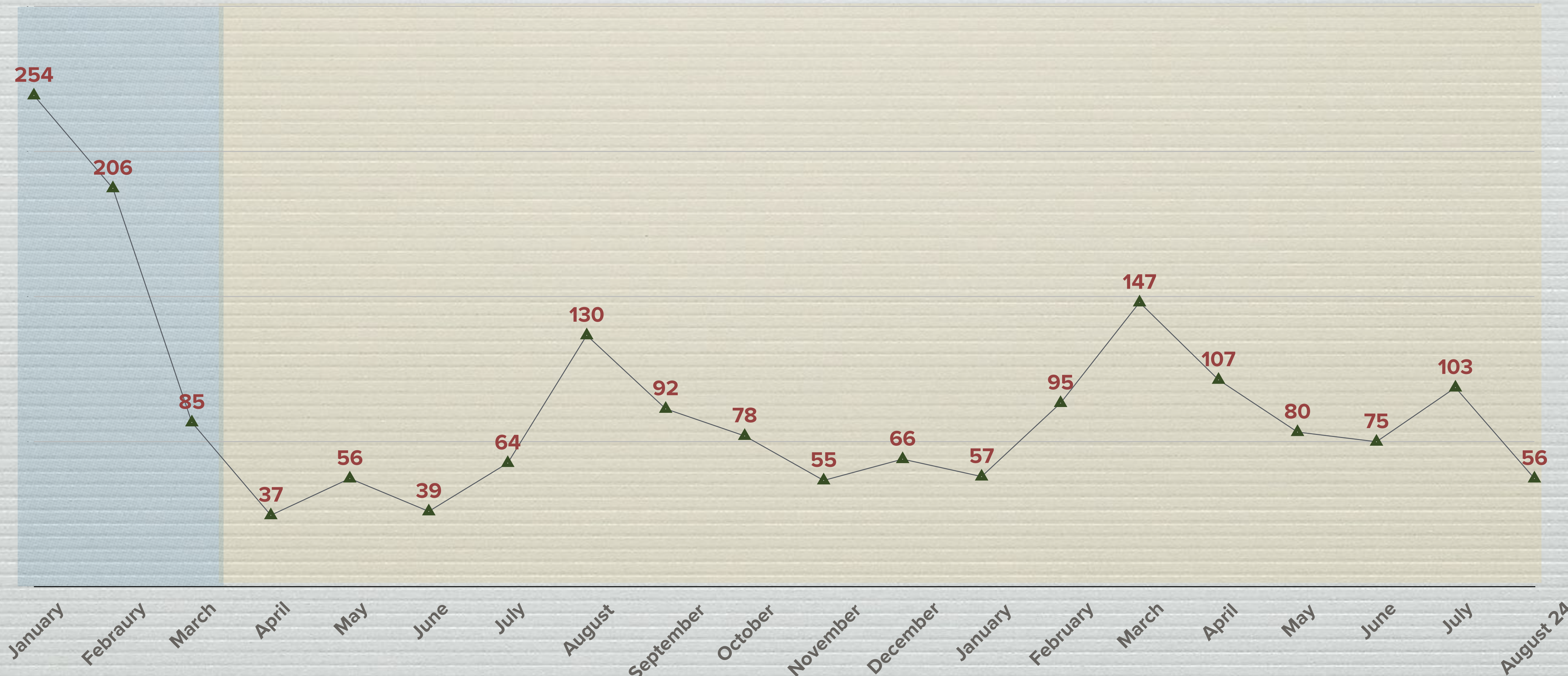


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# Elderly Disabled Ridership

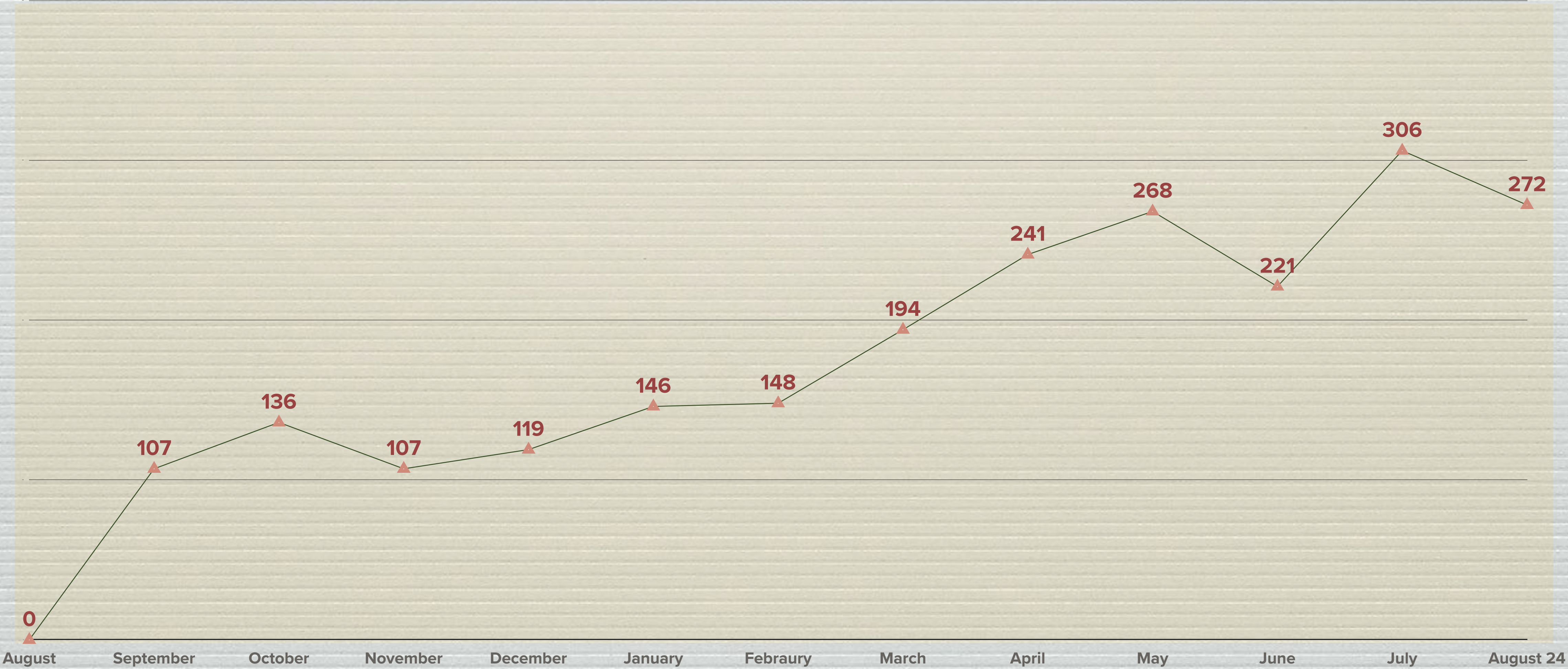


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# Plainfield Bus Service

(begun September 8, 2020)





# Crumbling Foundations

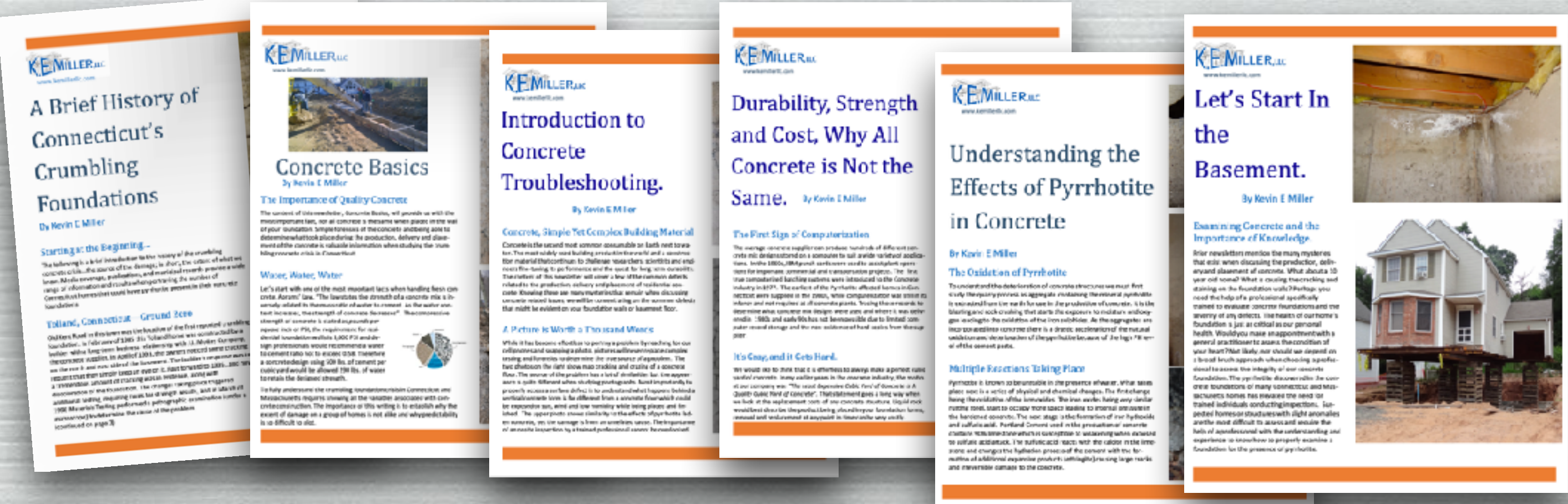
## Congressman Courtney - Create a Pyrrhotite Remediation Program

H.R. 4502, a legislative package containing the majority of appropriations bills for FY 2022 secured **\$2,000,000 to provide assistance to homeowners and condominium owners** impacted by crumbling concrete foundations due to the mineral pyrrhotite. Most if not all homeowners have a gap between costs covered by CFSIC and total costs to replace the foundation. Many homeowners have a gap of \$10,000 to \$50,000 or more between CFSIC's covered costs and the total project cost, and do not have the means to come up with that gap financing on their own. **This project could provide gap financing to homeowners or help those who may never receive assistance from the captive insurance company to repair their foundations.**

CFSIC  
<https://crumblingfoundations.org>

## NECCOG/CRCOG

Preparing a grant application through State/FEMA for assistance to commercial and public structures

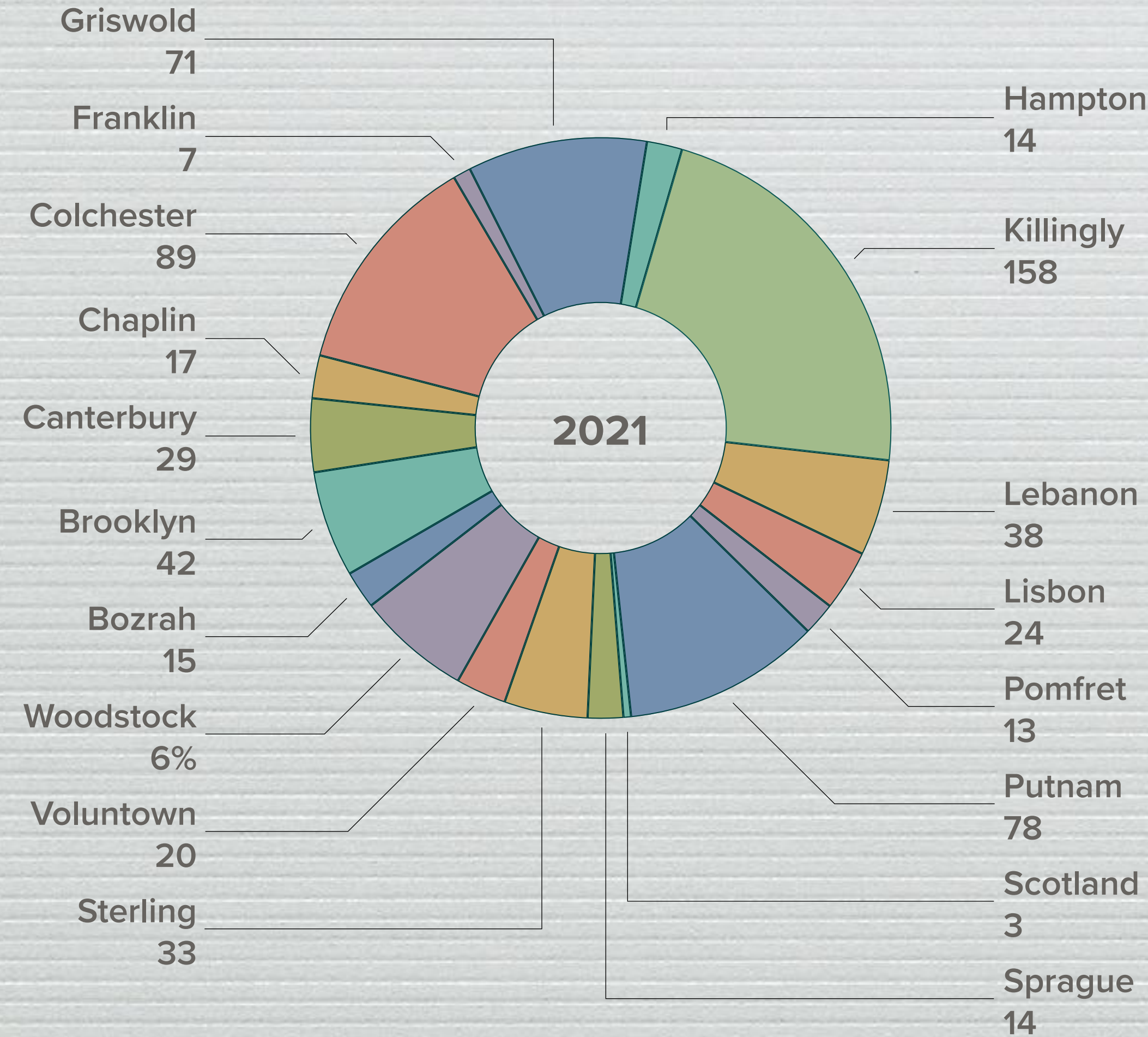


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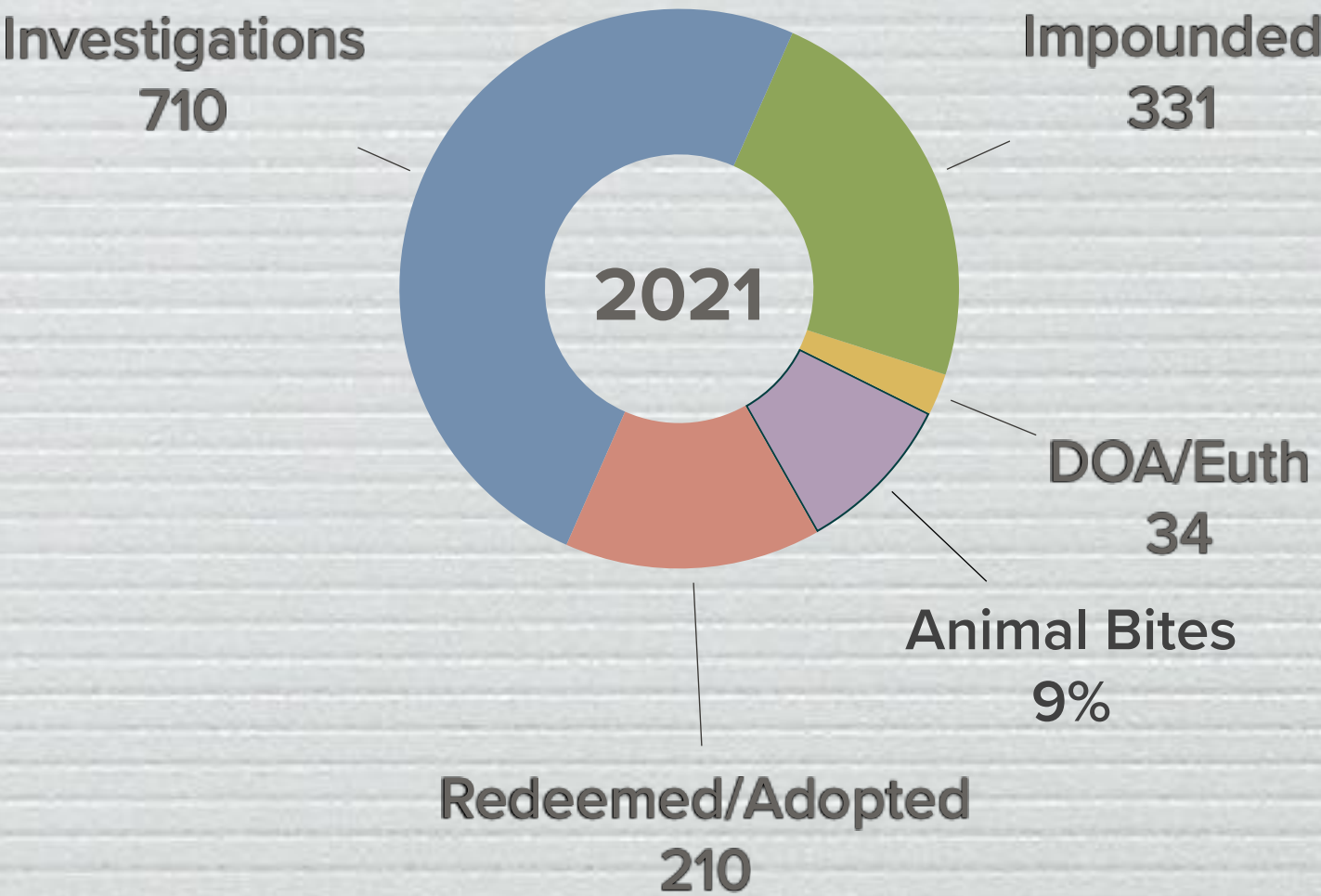


# Animal Services Program

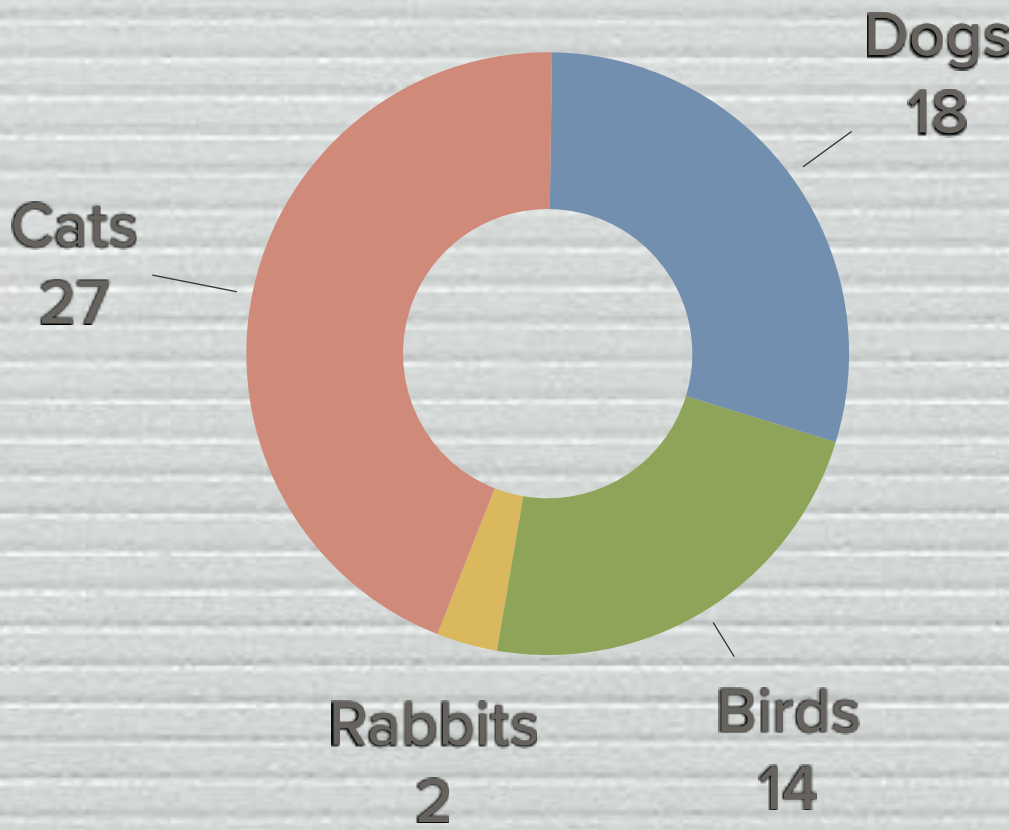
**Town Investigations  
2021**



**Total Activity**

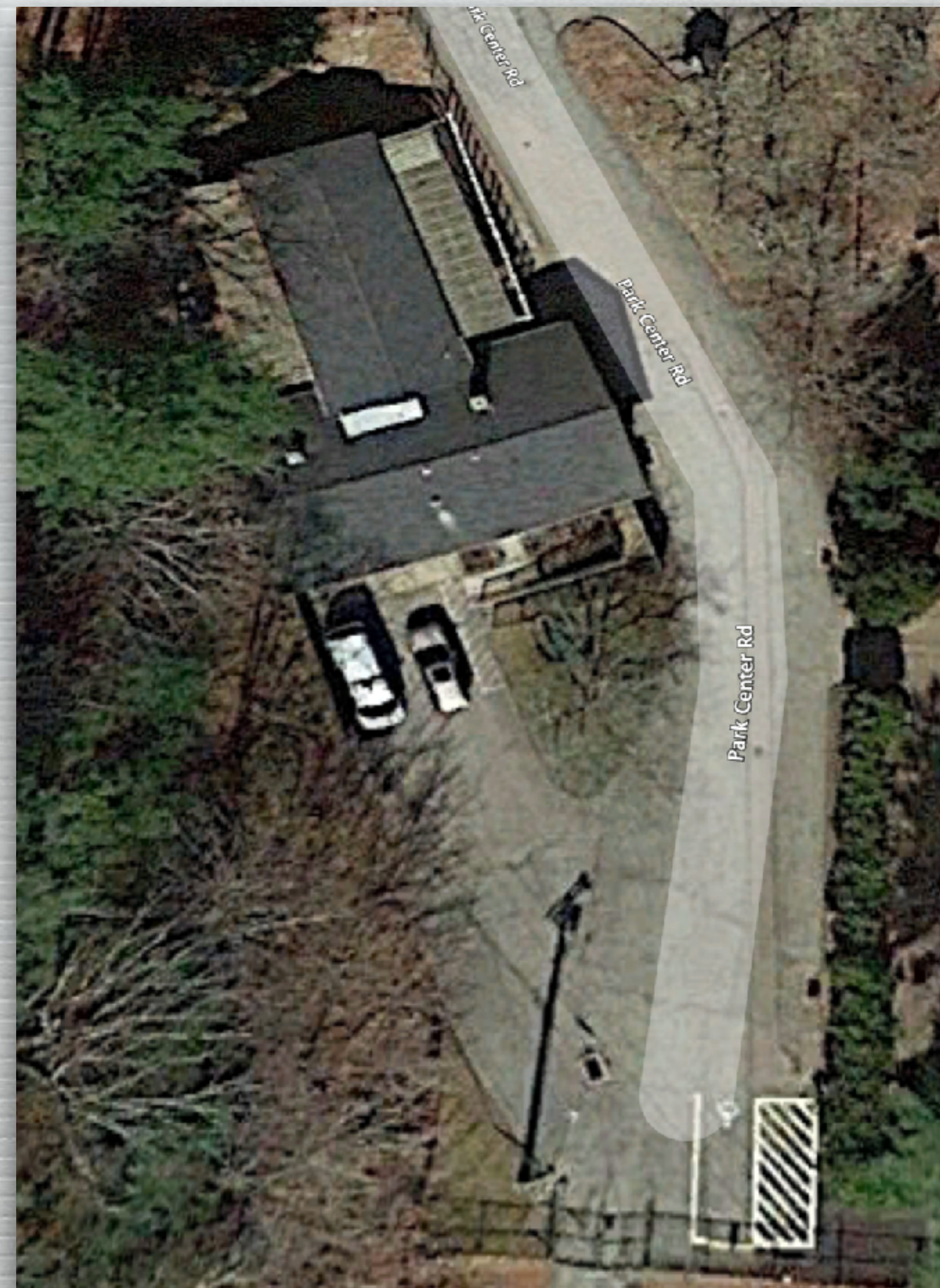


**Two Search & Seizure Actions**



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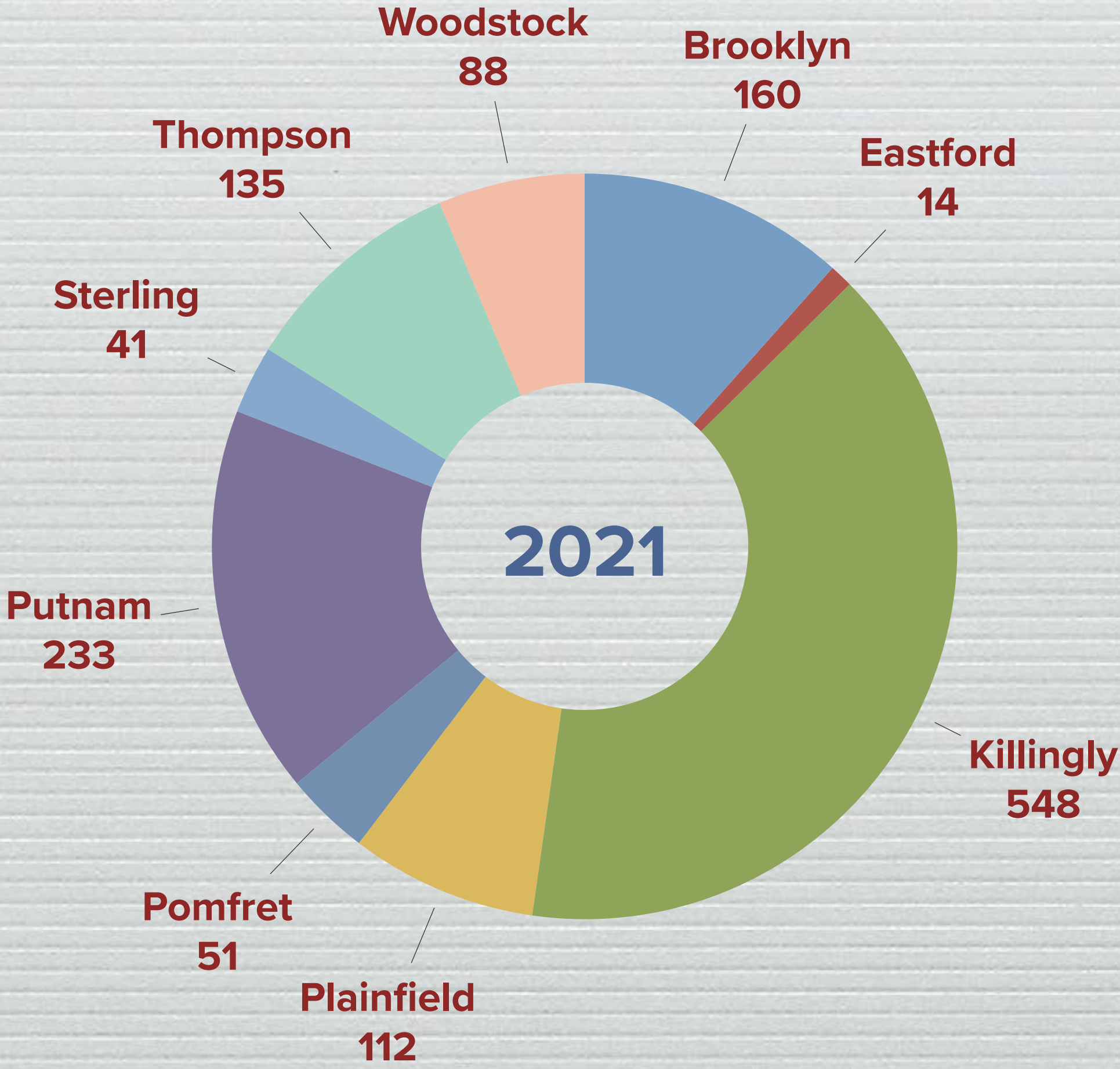
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# Regional Paramedic Intercept Program Activity

January - July

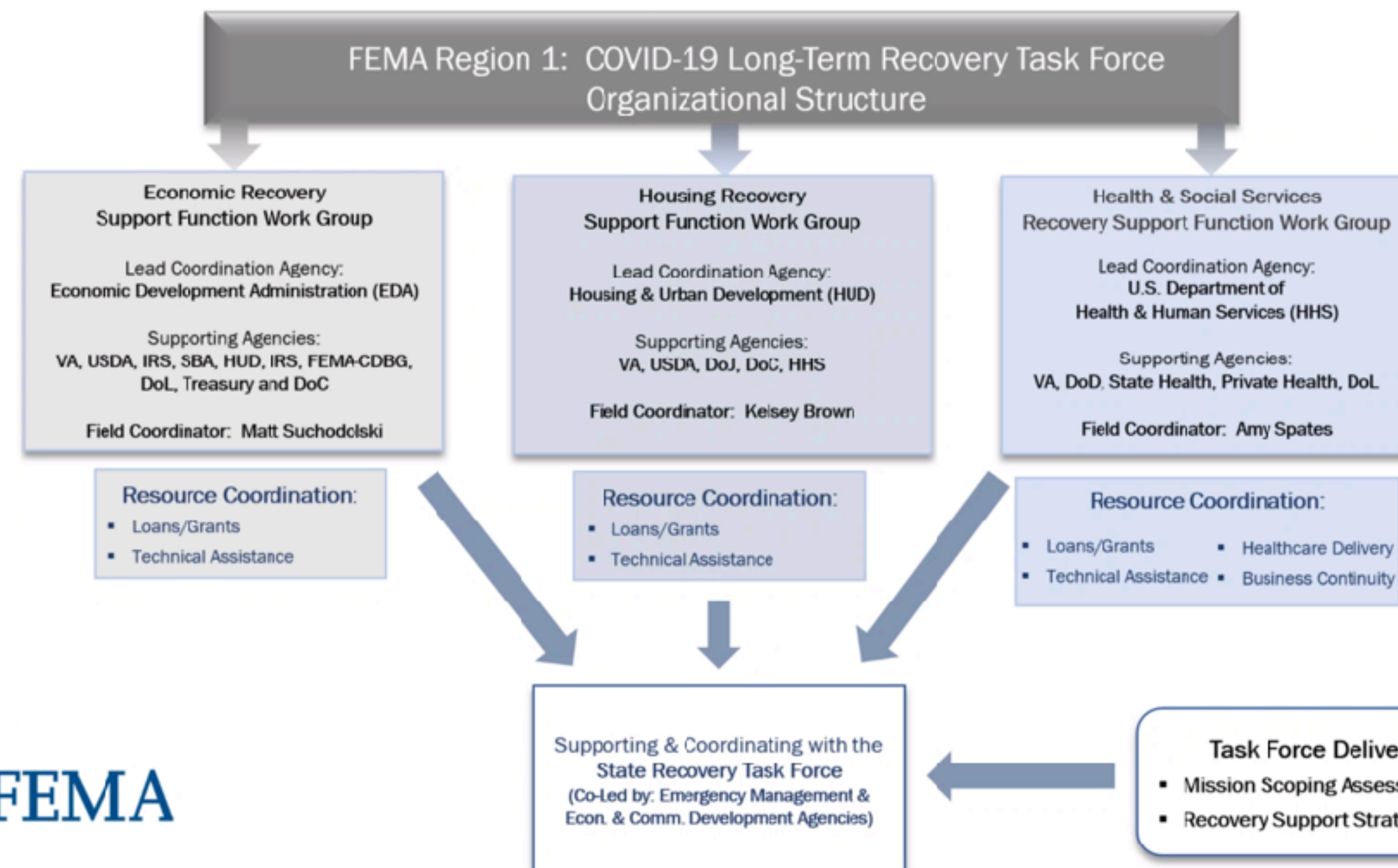
1,382 - Total Transports



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## FEMA COVID-19 Long-Term Recovery Regional Structure



- Environmental Depot
- Scenic Byway/Trails Branding/Tourism
- Value-Added Agriculture
- NE Visitor Center
- MA-CT Transportation Connections Study - Bus & Rail
- Non-Emergency Medical Transport
- Regional Hazard Tree Program





\$3 billion in supplemental funding to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.



The [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#) is designed to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.

Phase 1: 50-60 regional coalitions of partnering entities will be awarded ~\$500,000 in technical assistance funds to develop and support three to eight projects to grow a regional growth cluster.

Applications Due - October 19, 2021



The Economic Adjustment Assistance program is EDA's most flexible program, and grants made under this program will help hundreds of communities across the nation plan, build, innovate, and put people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs.

Applications - Rolling



Through the [Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation program](#), EDA is focused on accelerating the recovery of communities that rely on the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. \$750 million of EDA's American Rescue Plan funds are allocated to support the following efforts:

- Competitive Grants: \$240 million to help communities that have been hardest hit by challenges facing the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors to invest in infrastructure, workforce or other projects to support the recovery of the industry and economic resilience of the community in the future.

Applications - Rolling (asap)



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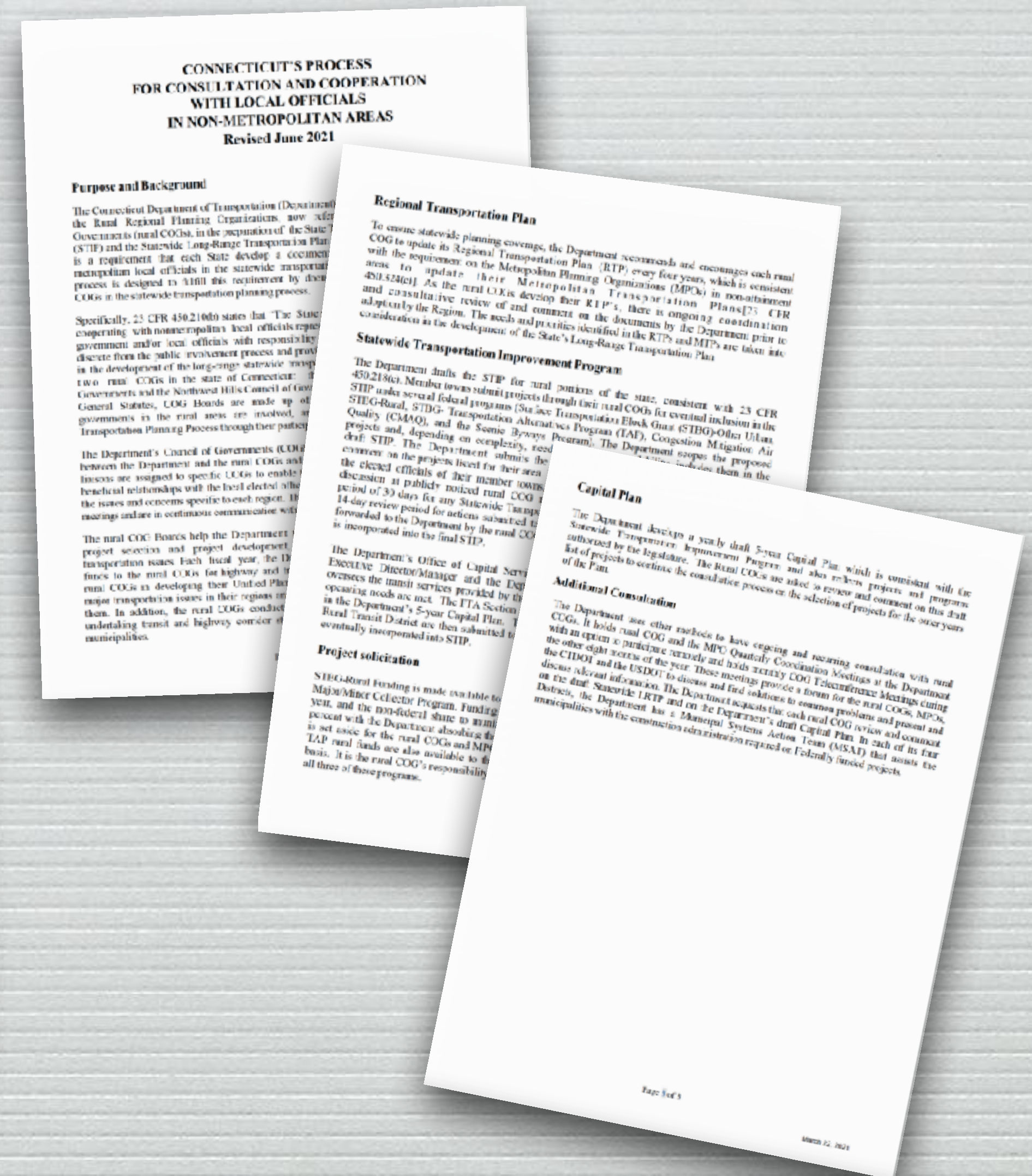


Ashford - Brooklyn - Canterbury - Chaplin Eastford - Hampton - Killingly - Plainfield  
Pomfret - Putnam - Scotland - Sterling Thompson - Union - Voluntown - Woodstock

2022 - 2023

## Unified Planning Work Program

Acted on and Approved May 27, 2021



Page 1 of 5

March 22, 2021



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## From the Governor's Office - FAQ that they have been addressing regarding EO 13A:

1. Can a town order masks indoors in public places townwide? **YES**
2. Can a town order masks indoors in places the public does not go, such as business offices that don't have customers coming in and out? **YES**
3. Can a town order masks in the common areas inside residential buildings? **YES**
4. Can a private business, private property owner or a local agency require masks on its own property, even if there is no townwide rule? **YES**
5. Can a town order mask use outdoors? **NO** (unless it owns or controls the property)
6. Can a town prohibit private businesses or property owners from requiring masks or vaccines? **NO**
7. Can a town impose a local version of sector rules (comprehensive COVID safety rules for various types of businesses that were in effect until this past spring) other than masks? **NO**
8. Can a town order vaccines townwide or require proof of vaccination to enter private places? **NO**
9. Can a town order vaccines for its own employees or visitors to town-owned buildings? **YES**, as long as they have the legal power to do it – this EO doesn't stop them.
10. **What is the enforcement power?** Violation of the DPH Commissioner's rule requiring universal masking in certain specified indoor settings OR of a municipal mask order under Section 28-8a is subject to a \$100 fine. See Section 1(b)(1) of EO 13A. **The existing enforcement authority in the EO, and the process previously established, also applies to these violations.**
11. **What does this mean for schools?** **The orders from the SDE and OEC commissioners** (pursuant to EO 9, Sec. 1) **requiring masking in schools and childcare settings remain in effect.** The DPH Commissioner's order on masks pursuant to EO 13A also requires universal masking in schools. The Governor has said that if any changes will be made to those orders, that will be announced soon.



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## SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360  
(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org)

18 August 2021


### RECOMMENDATION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REGARDING INDOOR MASK WEARING

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), composed of the Chief Elected Officials of the 22 cities, towns, and boroughs in the region, **strongly recommends** the wearing of masks in all indoor places where people gather with other people who are not members of their immediate household in order to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This includes businesses, offices, restaurants, recreational facilities, entertainment venues, places of worship, and cultural institutions.

This recommendation is consistent with the updated guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued on July 27<sup>th</sup>, which encourages people who live in high-transmission communities to wear masks in indoor public spaces, even if they've been vaccinated. The CDC has placed five of Connecticut's eight counties in the "high transmission" category, including New London County, which has experienced a dramatic increase in the rate of infections over the past several weeks.

The majority of SCCOG member municipalities now require indoor mask wearing in spaces where people gather in municipal facilities. The SCCOG encourages such a policy be instituted by individual private establishments in all of its municipalities for the purpose of protecting the residents of and visitors to the region from COVID-19, especially the highly transmissible Delta variant. Because this pandemic is not a local or regional issue, it is the SCCOG's intent to make this position known to Governor Lamont and to recommend that he enact by Executive Order a statewide indoor mask mandate.

The SCCOG urges the region and its residents to comply with this minor inconvenience during this unprecedented public health crisis. While wearing a mask indoors might be inconvenient or uncomfortable, it can help prevent the transmission of this coronavirus and thus save lives.

  
Fred Allyn, III  
Chairman  
Mayor, Town of Ledyard

#### Member Municipalities:

Bozrah \* Colchester \* East Lyme \* Franklin \* Griswold \* Borough of Jewett City \* City of Groton \* Town of Groton \* Lebanon \* Ledyard \* Lisbon \* Montville \* New London \* North Stonington \* Norwich \* Preston \* Salem \* Sprague \* Stonington \* Stonington Borough \* Waterford \* Windham

*If language assistance is needed, please contact SCCOG at 860-889-2324, [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org)  
Si necesita asistencia lingüística, por favor comuníquese a 860-889-2324, [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org).  
如果您需要语言帮助, 请致电 860-889-2324 或发送电子邮件至 [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org).*

## SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360  
(860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: [office@seccog.org](mailto:office@seccog.org)

18 August 2021

Honorable Ned Lamont, Governor  
State of Connecticut  
Office of the Governor, State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

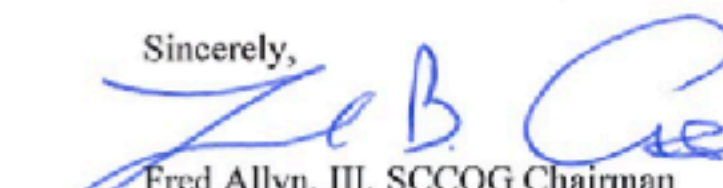
This morning the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) held a teleconference to discuss the issuance of municipal mandates requiring the wearing of masks indoors as allowed by Executive Order 13A. The Chief Elected Officials and Managers from 20 of the SCCOG's 22 member municipalities were on this call, indicating the importance of this issue at this time. Also on the call were the Directors of the three regional health districts in southeastern Connecticut; representatives of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mohegan Tribe, SCCOG affiliate members; as well as SCCOG's military liaisons from the United States Naval Submarine Base and the United States Coast Guard Academy.

Our discussion was thought provoking, respectful of all views, and recognized the serious nature of what is at stake—the public health of our residents and visitors to the region. The conversation lasted 90 minutes, time that our municipal CEOs gladly devoted to this most serious and time-sensitive subject. We thoroughly discussed the positive impact on health that an indoor mask wearing mandate would have, but we also note the difficulty that individual towns would have in enforcing a mandate at the municipal level. Because the transmission of COVID-19 does not stop at municipal borders or regional boundaries, we also worry that imposition of a mask mandate on a town-by-town basis would not be as impactful as a statewide mandate.

Since as a Council of Governments we cannot require our municipal members to mandate indoor mask wearing, the SCCOG today by consensus decided to issue the attached recommendation urging voluntary indoor mask wearing region-wide. The SCCOG, as noted in that statement, has also requested that I write to you to respectfully request that you issue a new Executive Order to require indoor mask wearing state-wide until such time as the coronavirus infection rate in Connecticut is in decline and counties in the state are no longer in the CDC's substantial or high transmission categories. As municipal leaders, we urge you to use your office and authority to establish a statewide mandate, as opposed to a patchwork of municipal mandates.

Thank you for your leadership during the pandemic and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Fred Allyn, III, SCCOG Chairman  
Mayor, Town of Ledyard

#### Attachment

#### Member Municipalities:

Bozrah \* Colchester \* East Lyme \* Franklin \* Griswold \* Borough of Jewett City \* City of Groton \* Town of Groton \* Lebanon \* Ledyard \* Lisbon \* Montville \* New London \* North Stonington \* Norwich \* Preston \* Salem \* Sprague \* Stonington \* Stonington Borough \* Waterford \* Windham

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August 19, 2021

Honorable Ned Lamont, Governor  
State of Connecticut  
Office of the Governor, State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont,

Amid concerns related to the increasing spread of the Delta variant and a surge of new COVID-19 cases in our region, state, and across the country, the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) held a discussion with its members regarding the issuance of municipal mandates requiring the wearing of masks indoors as allowed by Executive Order 13A. Most of our chief elected officials and managers from CRCOG's 38 member municipalities were on the call. The impromptu planning of this meeting highlights the importance of the timely discussion to proactively address the public health concerns of the residents in our region.

Our discussion was insightful and respectful of all views. We recognized the serious nature of what is at stake – the public health of our residents and visitors to our region and Connecticut. Our 60-minute conversation focused on our need to be proactive, follow the science, and discuss the benefits an indoor mask-wearing mandate would have in our communities. We also acknowledged the difficulty individual towns would have in enforcing a mandate at the municipal level. Since the transmission of COVID-19 does not stop at municipal borders or regional boundaries, we also worry that an imposition of a mask mandate on a town-by-town basis would not be as impactful as a statewide mandate.

As a Council of Governments (COG), we cannot require our municipal members to mandate indoor mask-wearing. As a COG, however, many of our member towns will be acting together and voluntarily issuing mask mandates in their localities. CRCOG also respectfully requests that you issue a new Executive Order to require indoor mask-wearing statewide until such time as the coronavirus infection rate in Connecticut is in decline and counties in the state are no longer in the CDC's substantial or high transmission categories. As municipal leaders, we urge you to use your office and authority to establish a statewide mandate instead of a patchwork of municipal mandates.

Thank you for your leadership during the pandemic and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Marcia Leclerc, CRCOG Chair  
Mayor, Town of East Hartford

Andover | Avon | Berlin | Bloomfield | Bolton | Canton | Columbia | Coventry | East Granby | East Hartford | East Windsor |  
Ellington | Enfield | Farmington | Glastonbury | Granby | Hartford | Hebron | Manchester | Mansfield | Marlborough |  
New Britain | Newington | Plainville | Rocky Hill | Simsbury | Somers | South Windsor | Southington | Stafford | Suffield |  
Tolland | Vernon | West Hartford | Wethersfield | Willington | Windsor | Windsor Locks

Contact name: Aaliyah Miller | Number: 860-722-4218 | Email: [amiller@crcog.org](mailto:amiller@crcog.org)

## Capitol Region and Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments Host Virtual Press Conference in Support of Statewide Indoor Mask Mandate

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hartford, August, 19, 2021** - The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG), guided by the chief elected officials of our 38 member municipalities, have issued a letter to the governor asking for a statewide mask mandate.

Along with the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), CRCOG and SCCOG's mayors, first selectmen, and town council chairmen who make up our respective boards will convene a virtual press conference at **10 am on Friday, August 20, 2021** to reiterate to the governor the request for a statewide indoor mask mandate. The press conference also aims to discuss how an indoor mask mandate can aid leaders in our communities in proactively containing the spread of the coronavirus amidst the surge of COVID-19 cases and deaths, as well as Delta Variant infections.

The zoom login is as follows: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82758132286>

Our recommendation is consistent with the updated guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued on **July 27**, which encourages people who live in high-transmission communities to wear masks in indoor public places, even if they are vaccinated. The CDC considers all of Connecticut's eight counties in "substantial" or "high" transmission rates.

The virtual press conference will feature:

- **Marcia Leclerc**, Mayor of East Hartford and Chair of CRCOG
- **Michael Urgo**, First Selectman of North Stonington and Vice Chair of SCCOG

CRCOG and SCCOG strongly urges the region and its residents to comply with minor inconvenience during the unprecedented public health crisis. While wearing a mask indoors might be an inconvenience or uncomfortable, it can help prevent the transmission of the coronavirus and thus save lives.

Many of CRCOG and SCCOG's municipalities have passed or are planning on passing mask mandates. CRCOG and SCCOG urge the governor to act on a statewide level. The virus does not respect town or regional boundaries.

A copy of the letter to the governor from CRCOG can be found at:

<https://crcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/CRCOG-mask-mandate-letter-to-Governor-Lamont-Final.pdf>

###

The Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) is a voluntary Council of Governments formed to initiate and implement regional programs of benefit to the towns and the region. It is guided by the chief elected officials of our 38 Metro Hartford municipalities. The mayors, first selectmen, and town council chairmen who make up our governing Policy Board recognize that the future of our individual members is tied to the future of our region.





# Thank You

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Next Regular Meeting  
Friday, September 24



*Results Through Regionalism*