

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/ i. American Rescue Plan f. Economic Development b. Animal Services g. Town Assistance Act Administration Initiatives, c. Crumbling Foundations e. Regional Human h. Natural Hazard j. COVID Recovery
 - Mitigation Plan

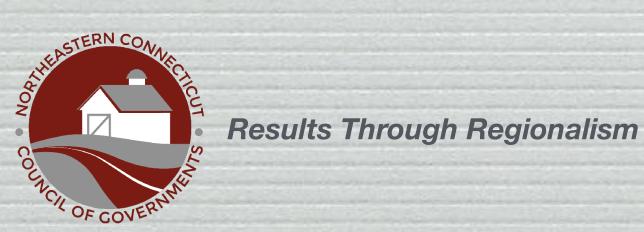
- 3. Discussion and Action Items
 - a. ARPA
 - i. **FEMA Recovery Project Solicitation** Environmental Depot, Scenic Byway/Trails Branding/Tourism, Value-Added Agriculture, NE Visitor Center, MA-CT Transportation Connections Study - Bus & Rail
 - ii. EDA ARPA Funding Opportunities: Build Back Better 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 meet ing Materials in alternative formats must be requested at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

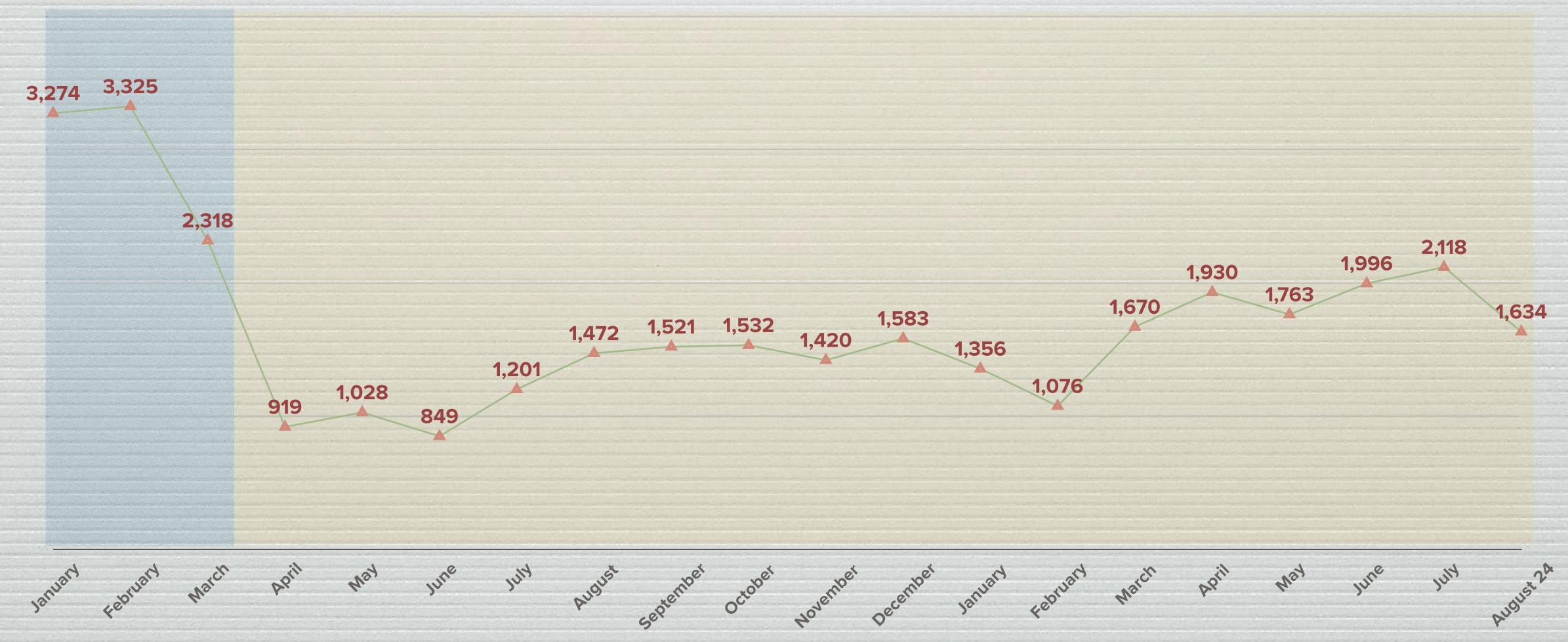
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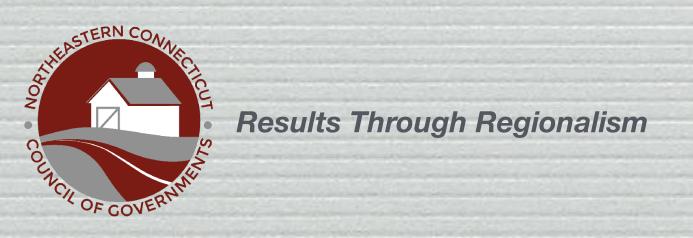
125 Putnam Pike, Dayville, CT

860-774-1253 - neccog.org



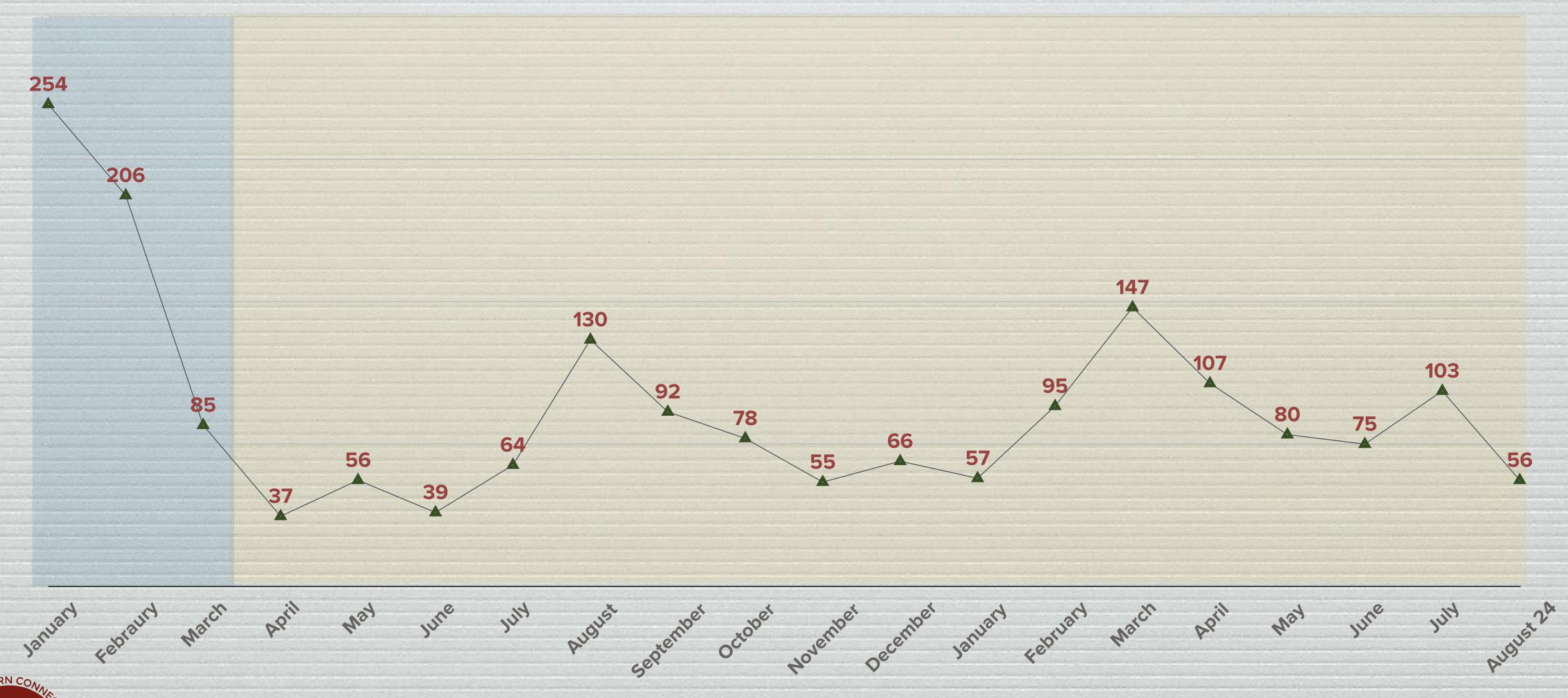
Deviated—Fixed Route Ridership







Elderly Disabled Ridership

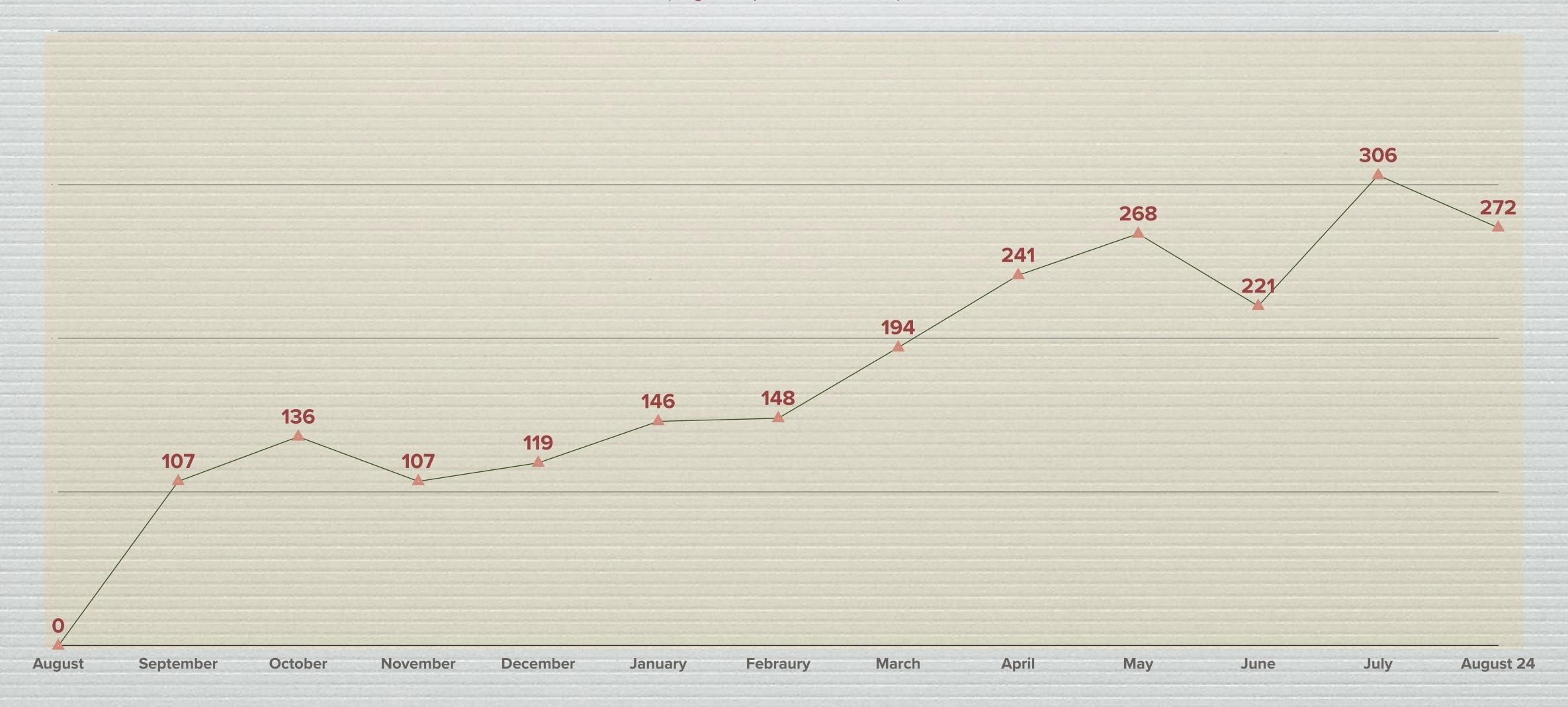




Results Through Regionalism

Plainfield Bus Service

(begun September 8, 2020)



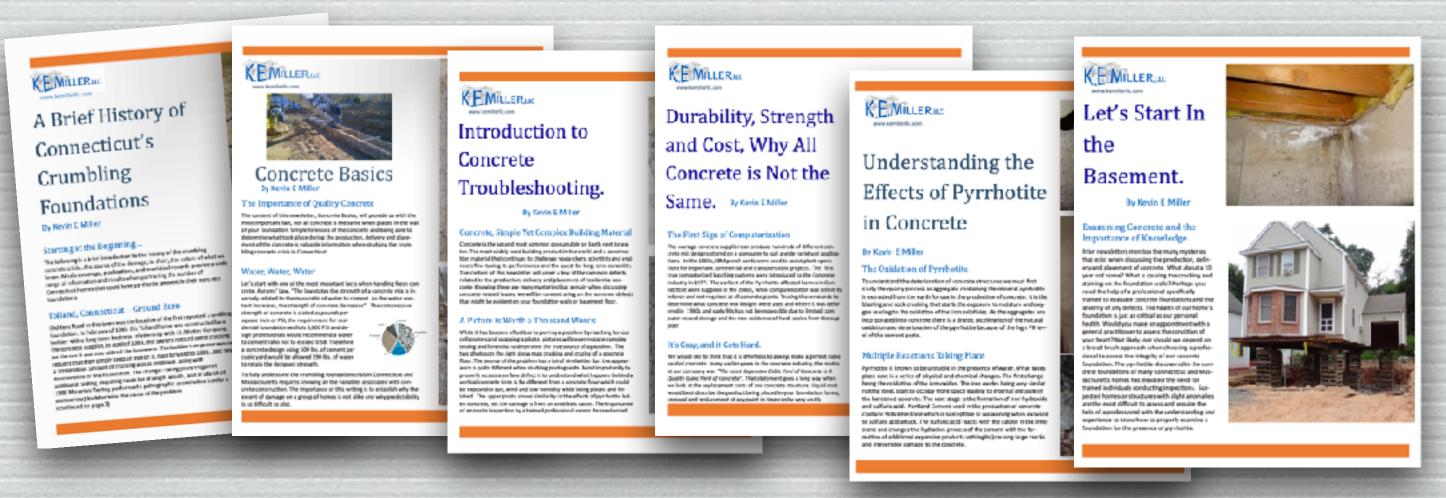


Crumbling Foundations

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

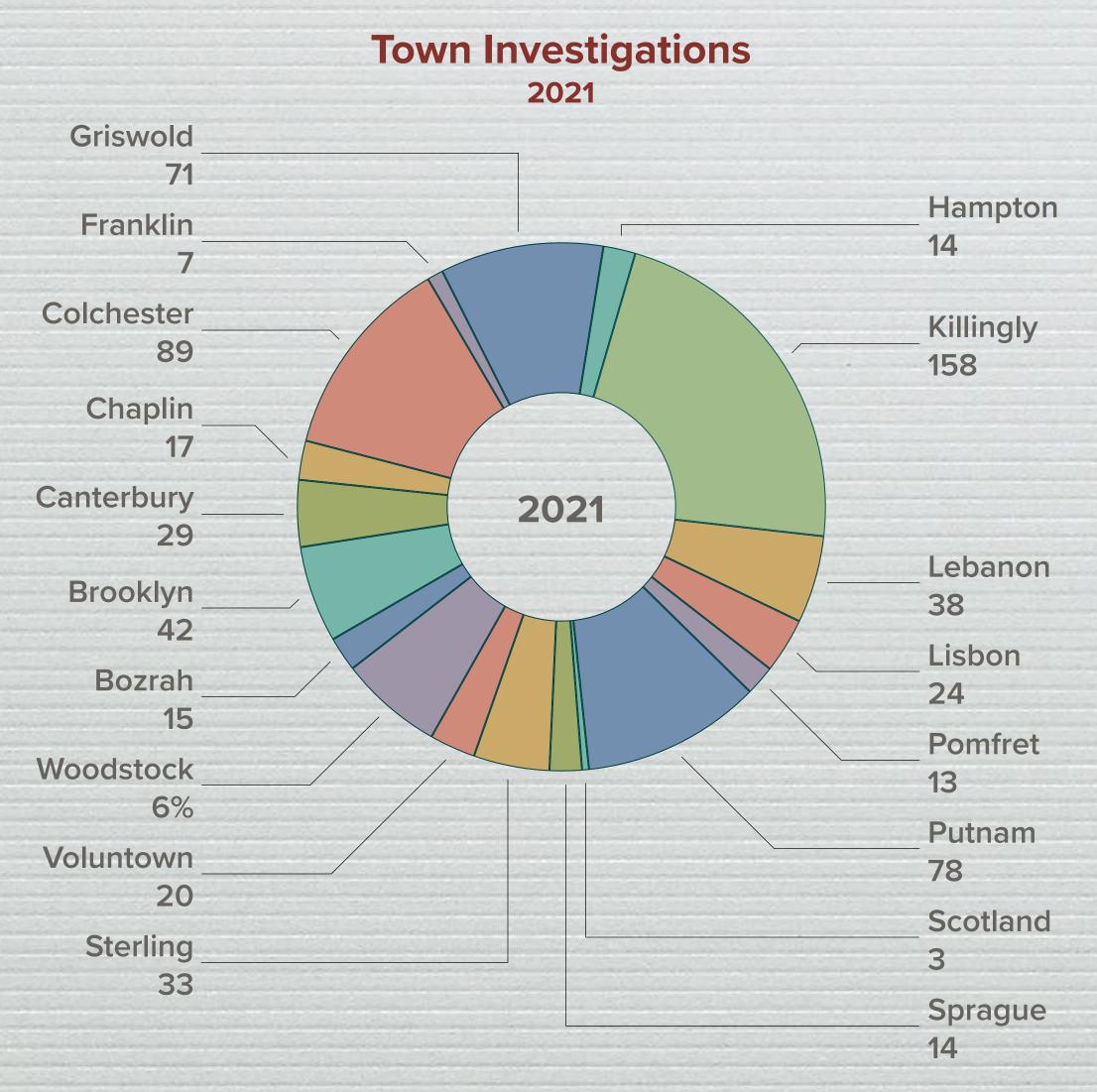


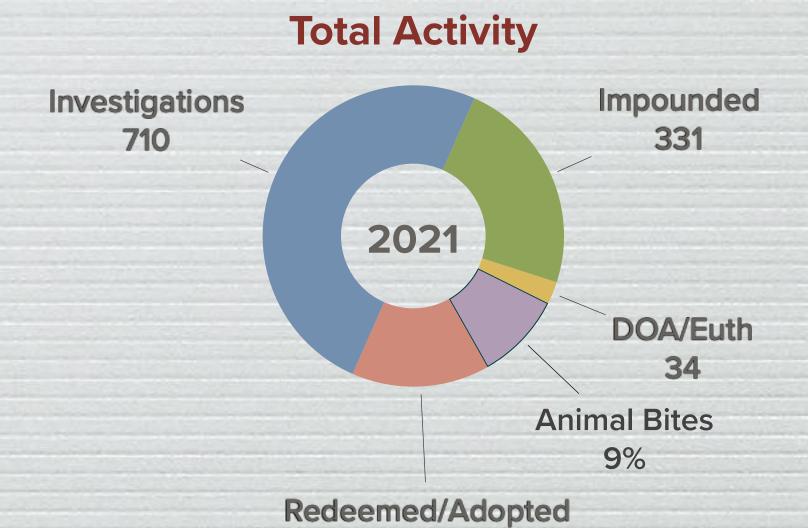
NECCOG/CRCOG

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



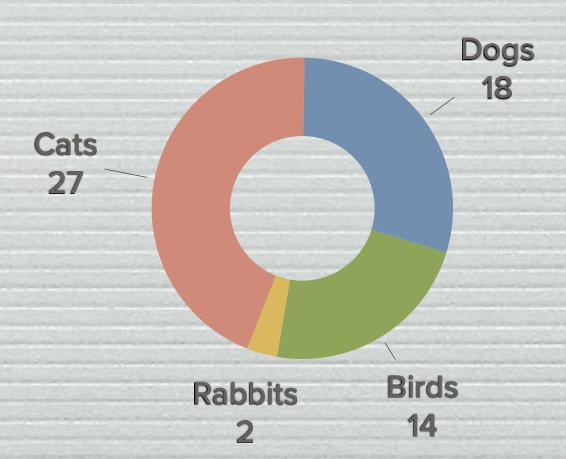
Animal Services Program





Two Search & Seizure Actions

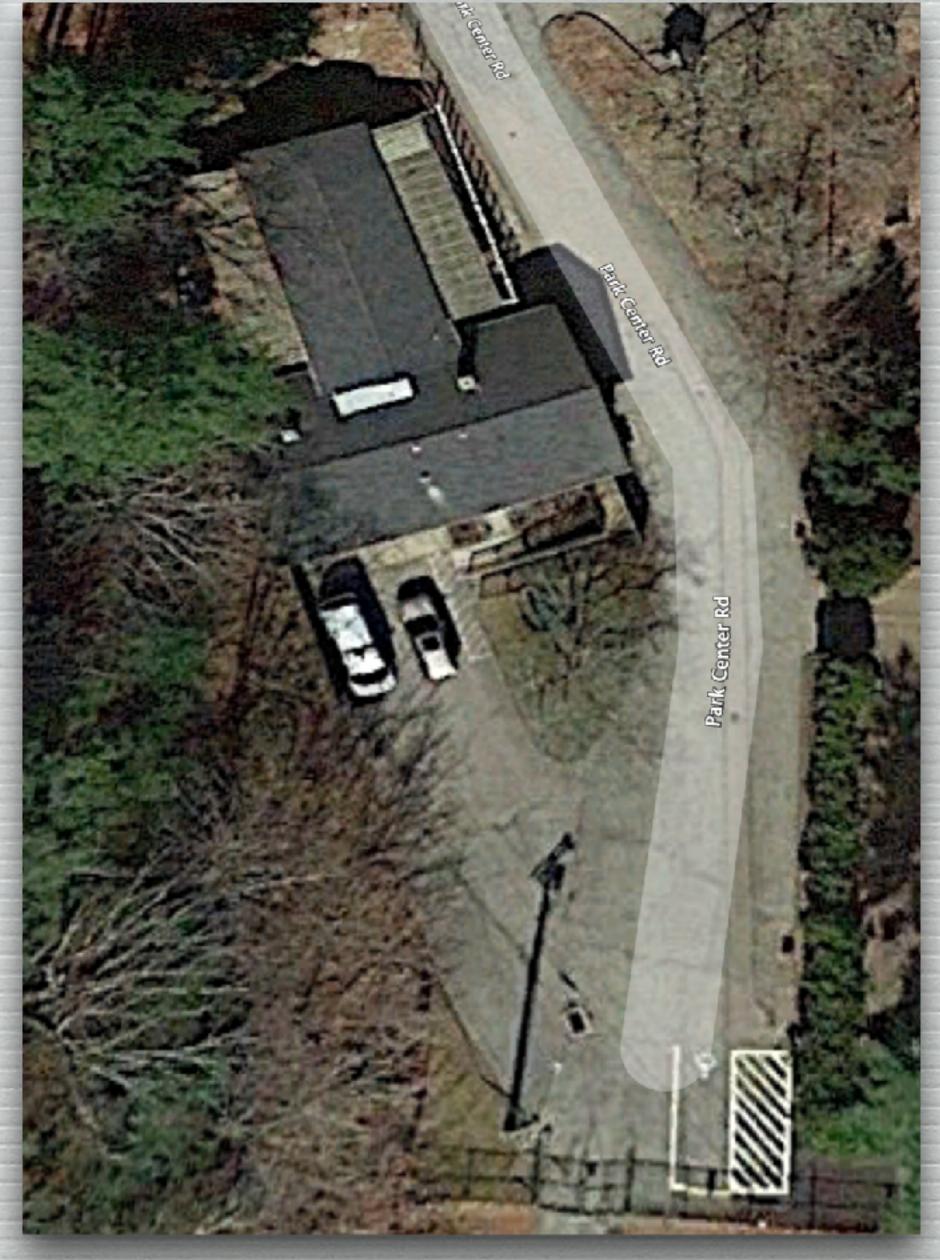
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Results Through Regionalism

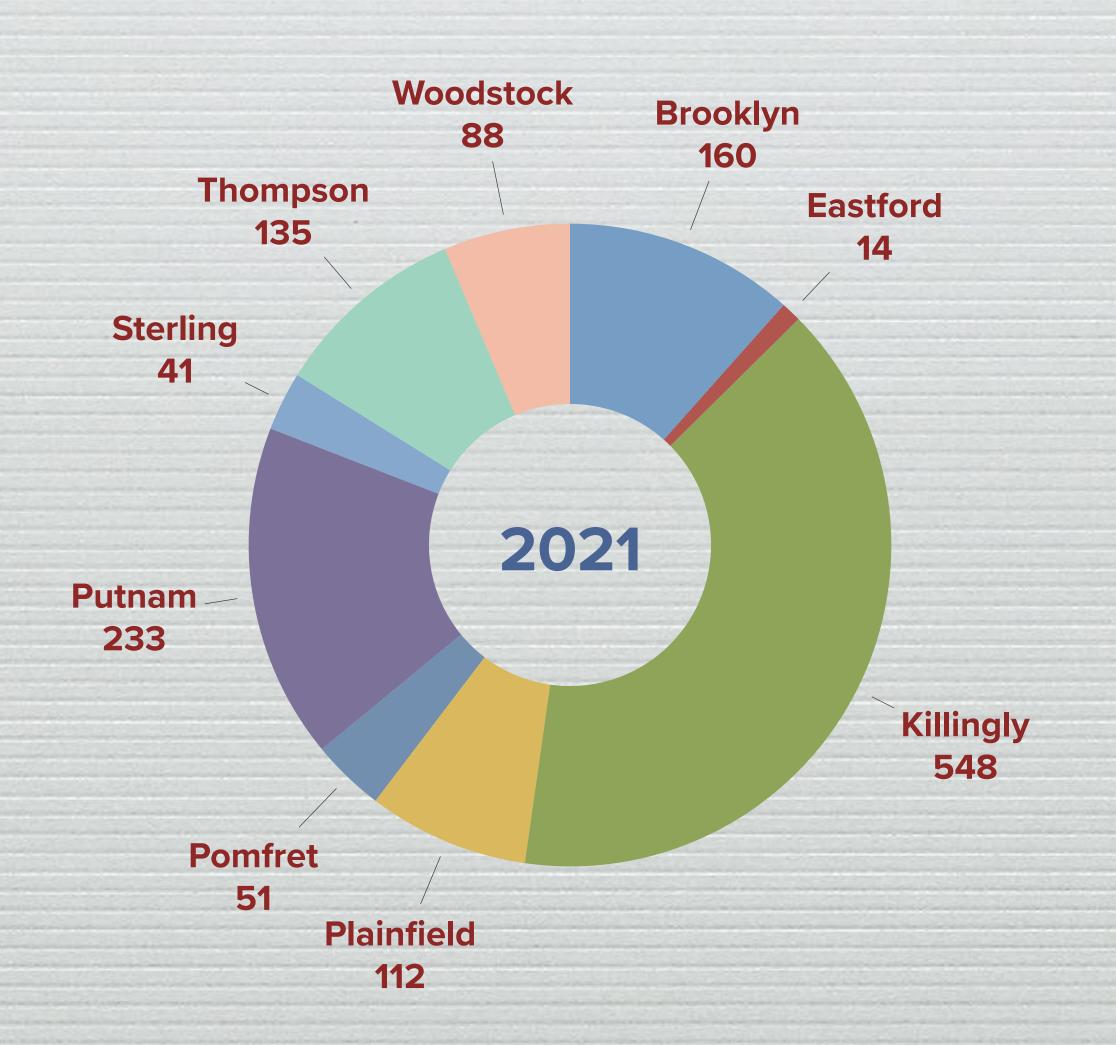


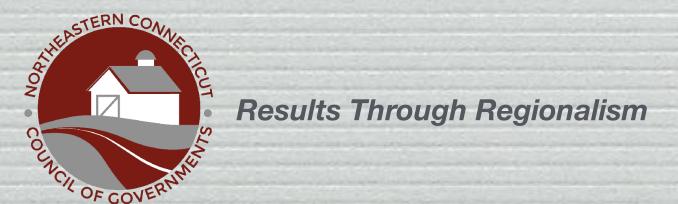


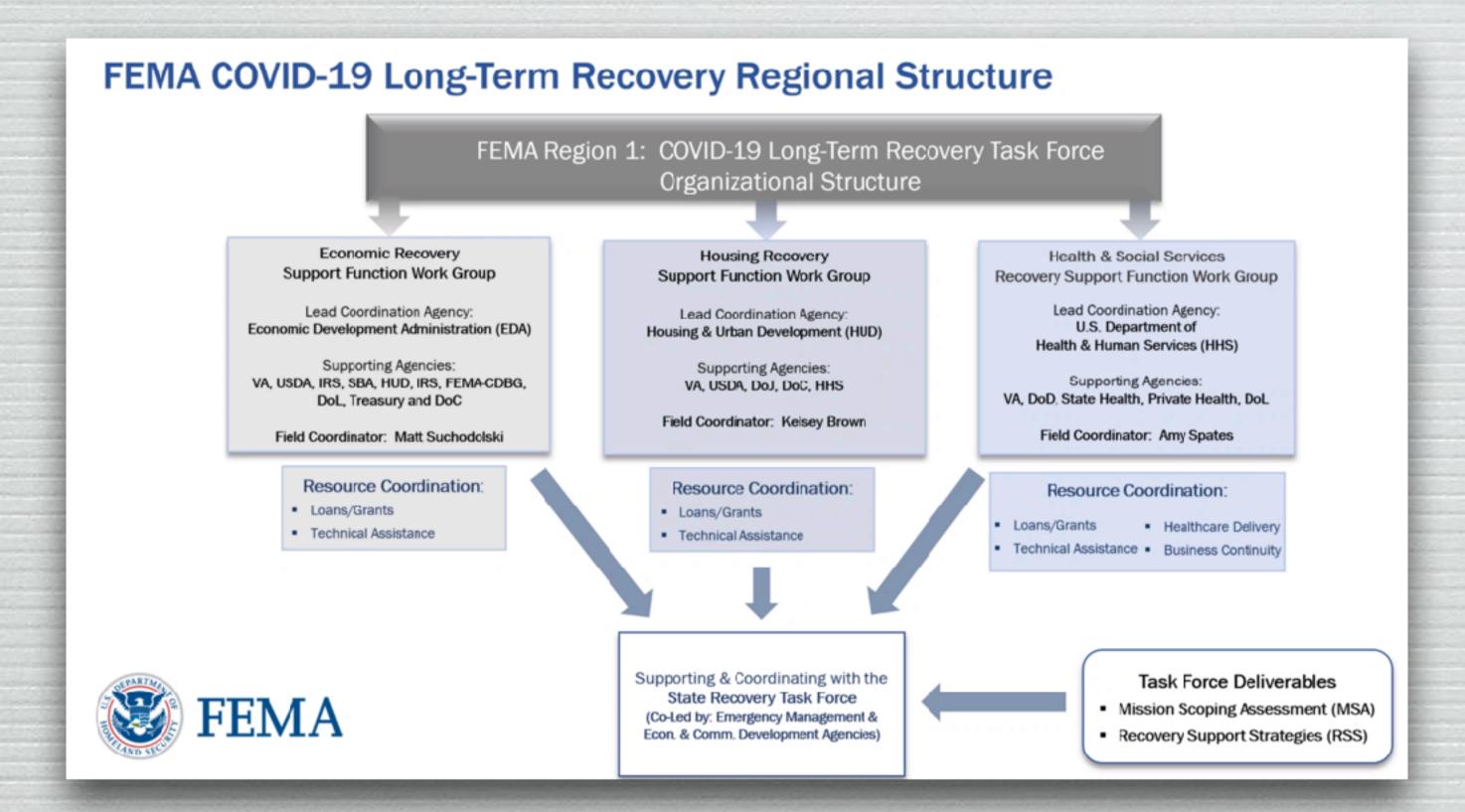
Regional Paramedic Intercept Program Activity

January - July

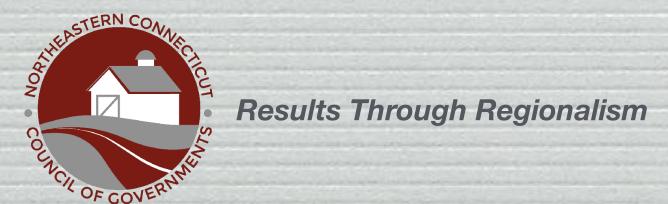
1,382 - Total Transports







- **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)





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

CONNECTICUT'S PROCESS FOR CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS IN NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS Revised June 2021

Purpose and Background

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) the Rural Regional Planning Organizations, now refer Governments (nural COGs), in the preputation of the State? (STIF) and the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Planis a requirement that each State develop a document metropolitan local officials in the statewide transportati process is designed to 'kiffill this requirement by then COGs in the statewide transportation planning process.

Specifically, 23 CFR 450.210(b) states that 'The State cooperating with nonnerropolitan local officials repregavenment and/or local officials with responsivitivy discrete from the public involvement process and provi in the development of the long-range statewide transp two runi COGs in the state of Connecticut: 1 Governments and the Northwest Hills Corneil of Gov General Statutes, COG Boards are made up of governments in the rural areas are involved, as Iransportation Planning Process through their parties

The Department's Council of Governments (COG) between the Department and the rural COGs and linisous are assigned to specific COGs to enable beneficial reistionships with the local elected office the issues and concerns specific to each region. If meetings and are in continuous communication with

The niral COG Boards help the Department project selection and project development transportation issues Each fiscal year, the Difuncs to the rural COGs for highway and ir rural COGs in developing their Unified Plan major transportation issues in their regions on them. In addition, the rural COGs conduct undertaking transit and highway comder et

Regional Transportation Plan

To ensure statewide planning coverage, the Department recommends and encourages each rural COG to update its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four years, which is consistent with the requirement on the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in non-attainment areas to applicate their Metropolitan Transportation Plans[73] CFR and consultative review of and comment on the documents by the Region. The needs and pricrities identified in the RTPs and MTPs are taken into and consultative review of and comment on the documents by the department point to adoptionly the Region. The needs and possities identified in the RTPs and MTPs are taken into consideration in the development of the State's Long-Rassoc Transportation Plan. as specification in the development of the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

The Department drafts the STP for rural portions of the Mate, consistent with 23 CFR and 24 Color for evertual inclusion in the the Department atoms are STP for area pointers of the state, consistent with 23 CFR 450-218(c). Member towns submit projects through their total COGs for eventual inclusion in the STP maker several federal constraint (See Sec. Temporalistics Flock Gross eSTPG). Other Union 450.213(c). Member towns submit projects through their rend COOs for eventual inclusion in the STIP and executed programs (Sta face Transportation Elock Grant (STBG)-Other Union Quality (CMAQ), and the Scenie Byways Program (TAF), Congestion Mitigation Air projects and, depending on ecosplexity, need control of the Department submits the converge on the projects listed for their area.

discussion at publicly noticed rural CCG period of 30 days for any Statewide Transpa 14-day review period for netions saturated to forwarded to the Department by the rural OO is incorporated into the final STD.

The Department's Office of Capital Nervi Executive Director/Manager and the Dep Oversees the transit services provided by the operating needs are met. The ITA Section in the Department's 5-year Capital Plan. I Bural Transit District are then submitted to eventually inecaperated into STIP.

Project solicitation

STEG-Rural Funding is made two lable to Major/Miner Cellector Program. Funding year, and the non-federal state to avail percent with the Department absorbing to its set assect for the rural COGs and Mps is set essee for the rural COG's responsibility

Capital Plan

The Department descripts a yearly draft 5-year Capital Plan which is consistent with the surfaced by the legislature. The Berni Coxes are asked to review and property and program of the Pant.

Of the Pant.

The Department uses other reschools to have degoing and recurring consultation with much consultation and COG and the MPO Quanterly Coordination Meetings of the with much much principle retrievely and haids are they coordinate on Meetings at the Department the CHOOL and the USDOT to discuss meetings provide a front for the rural COGs, where discuss follows information. The Department sequents the coards are considered and present and present and present and present and common problems and present and common problems.



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.



SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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

18 August 2021

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCL 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.

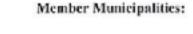
This recommendation is consistent with the updated guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued on July 27th, which encourages people who live in high-transmission communities to wear masks in indoor public spaces, even if they've been vaccinated. The CDC has placed five of 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



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 Si necesita asistencia lingüística, por favor comuniquese a 860-889-2324, 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.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

5 Connecticut Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut 06360 (860) 889-2324/Fax: (860) 889-1222/Email: 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 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, 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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860.522.2217 | 241 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106 | crcog.org

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

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://uso2web.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

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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

Next Regular Meeting Friday, September 24

