



Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

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

Results through Regionalism

January 2022 Meeting

January 28, 2022



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

January 2022 Meeting

January 28, 2022 - 8:30 am - Remote Meeting

Remote Link:

Agenda

1. Open Meeting - Tracey Hanson, Chair

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| a. Welcoming Remarks | c. Public Participation (2 minute limit per speaker) | d. Other Agenda Items |
| b. Previous Meeting Minutes | | |

2. Director’s Report - John Filchak, Executive Director

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| a. Transit Activities | f. GIS Staffing | k. ACIR Update (see attached) |
| b. Animal Services Program | g. Transportation Projects and Planning | l. Member Town Assistance |
| c. Paramedic Intercept Program | h. ARPA Program Update | m. 2022-23 NECCOG/NECTD Assessments |
| d. Crumbling Foundations | i. Regional Planning Activities | n. 2022 Legislative Session |
| e. Regional Election Monitor Activities | j. COVID Recovery | |

3. Discussion and Action Items

- a. Regional Referrals**
- i. Town of Brooklyn - Text Change for Adaptive Re-Use of an Agricultural Building, Section 6.B.3.1
 - ii. Town of Mansfield - Proposed Amendment to Article 3, Section A, Temporary and Limited Moratorium on Cannabis Establishments
- c. STIP Amendments/Actions (None)**
- d. 2022 Legislative Priorities**
- i. Continue Regional Service Grant to ensure stable funding for regional councils of governments
 - ii. Structural Property Tax Reform (see attached and <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bdf8da94eddec7efc3b5071/t/61b1a3cb9ca84b26dabedf4d/1639031757238/Property+Taxes+-+Opportunity+for+Change.pdf>)
 - iii. Animal Control Officers and Police Reform (see attached)
- d. Other Business** (if designated)
- e. CEO Roundtable**

4. Adjourn

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.

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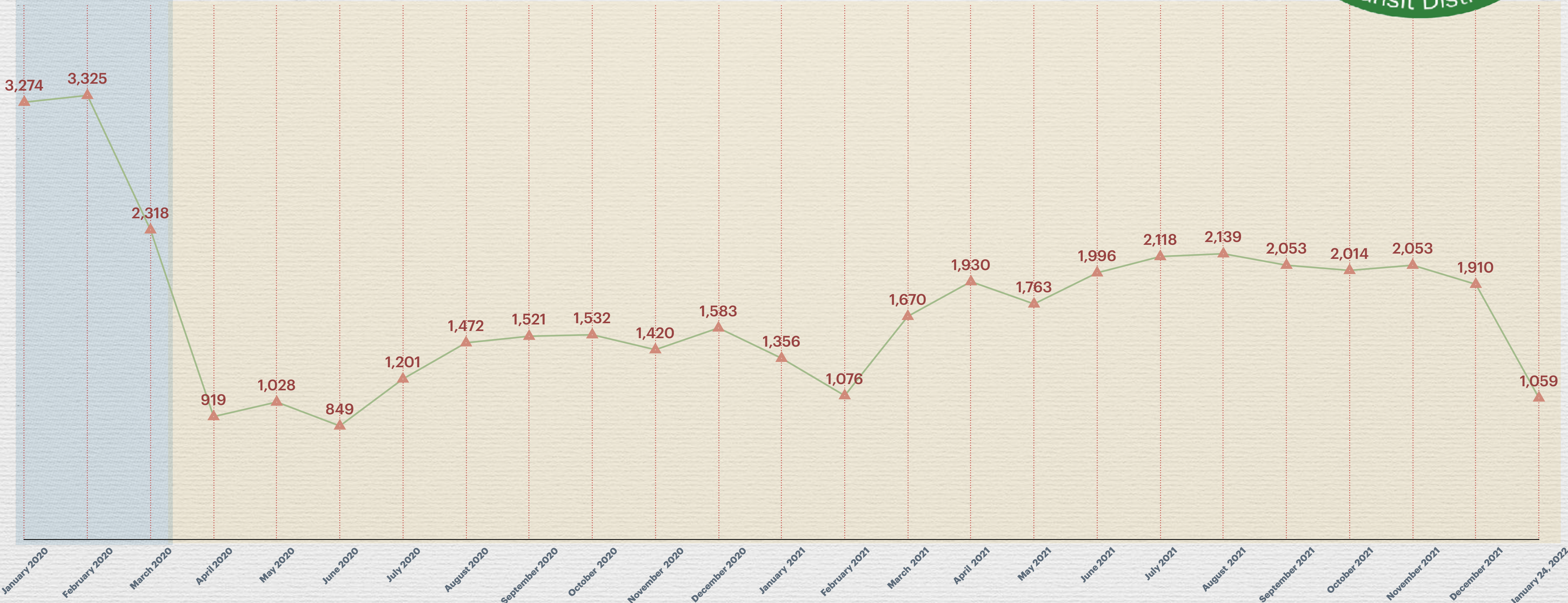
125 Putnam Pike, Dayville, CT

860-774-1253 - neccog.org



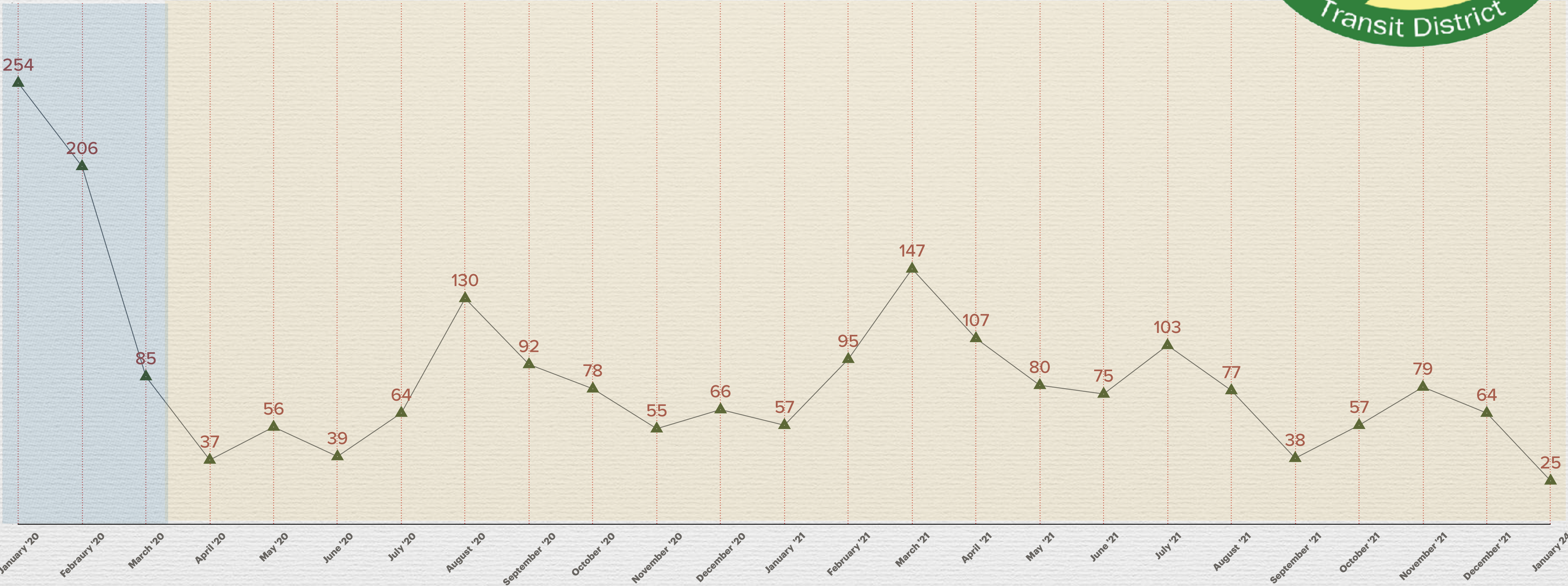
Deviated—Fixed Route Ridership

Serving Thompson, Putnam, Killingly and Brooklyn



Elderly-Disabled Ridership

Serving Sterling, Plainfield, Canterbury, Hampton, Brooklyn, Killingly, Putnam, Pomfret, Eastford, Woodstock and Thompson

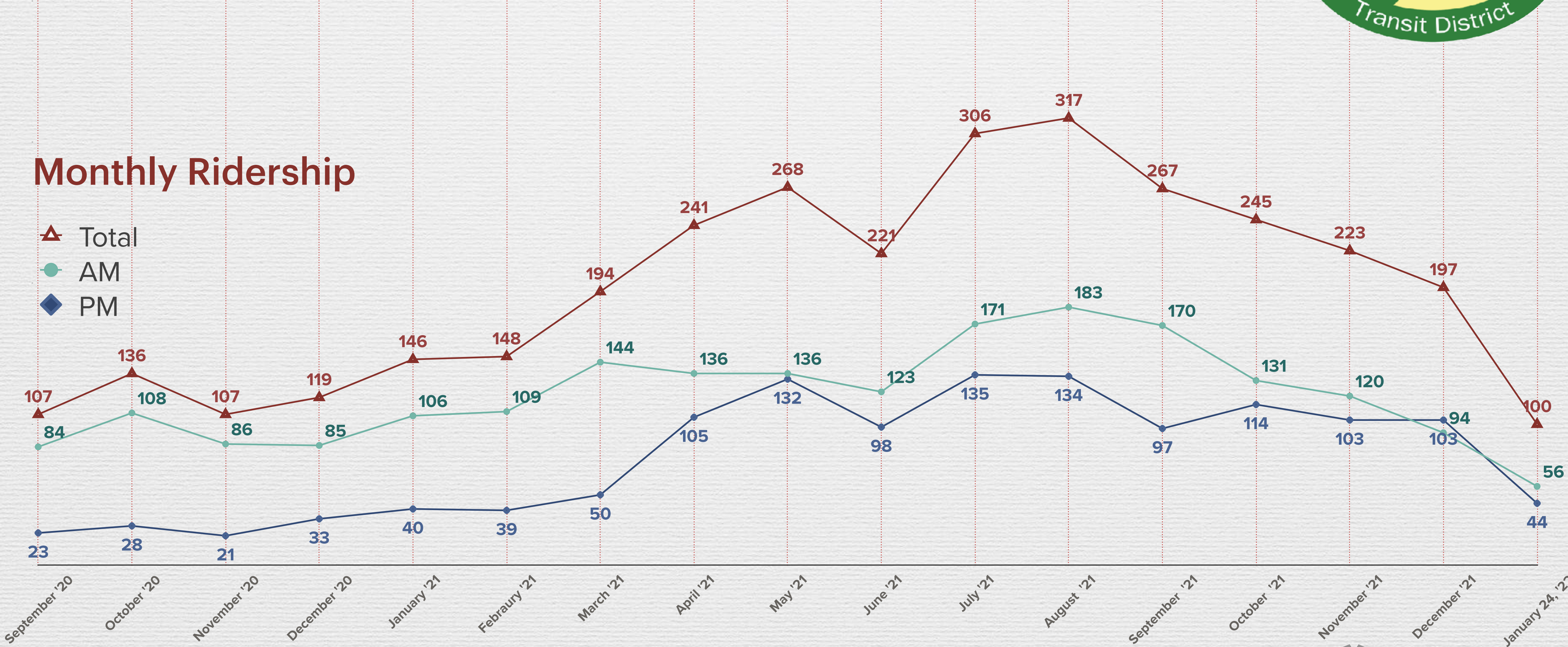


Plainfield Pilot

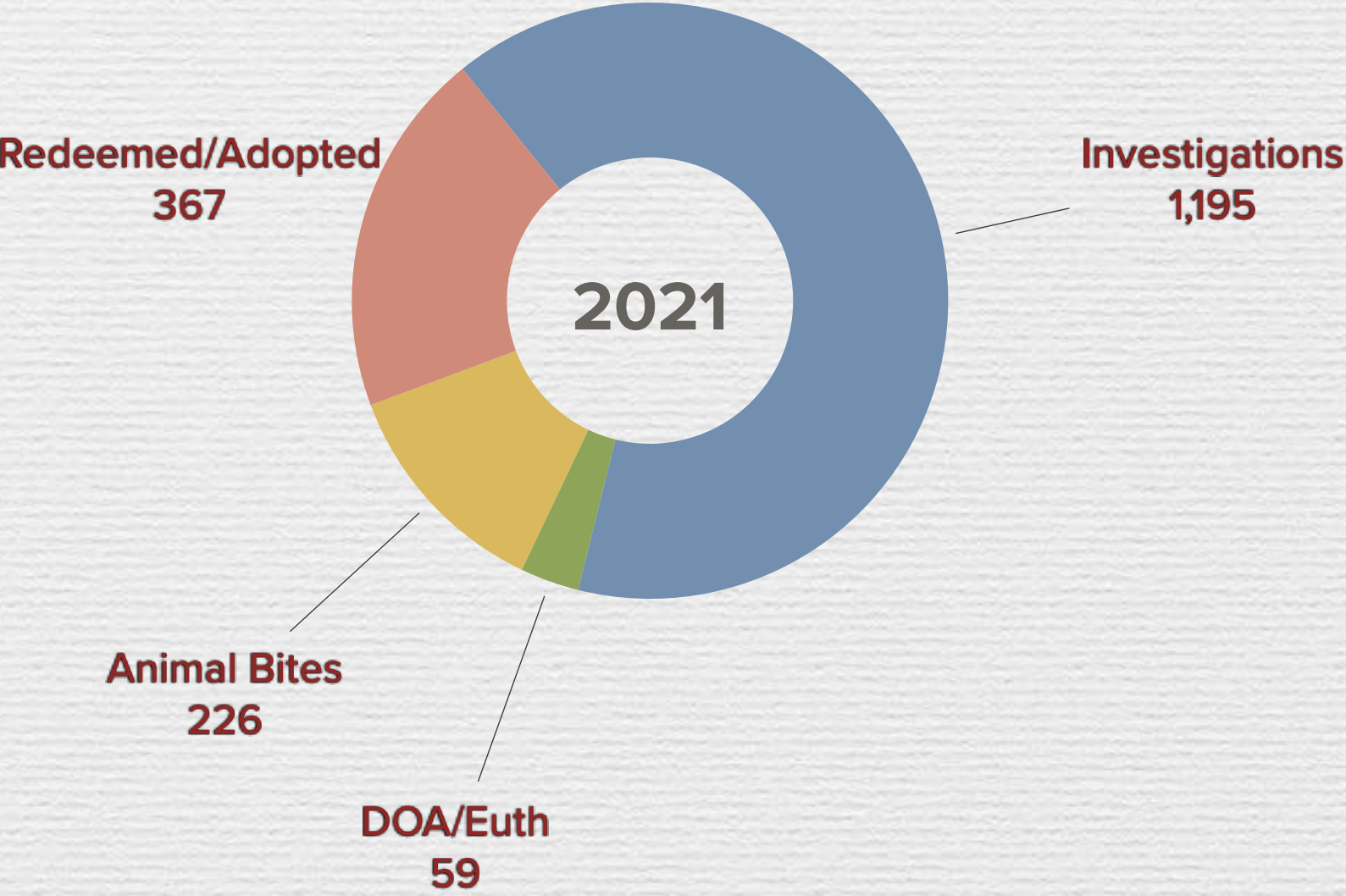
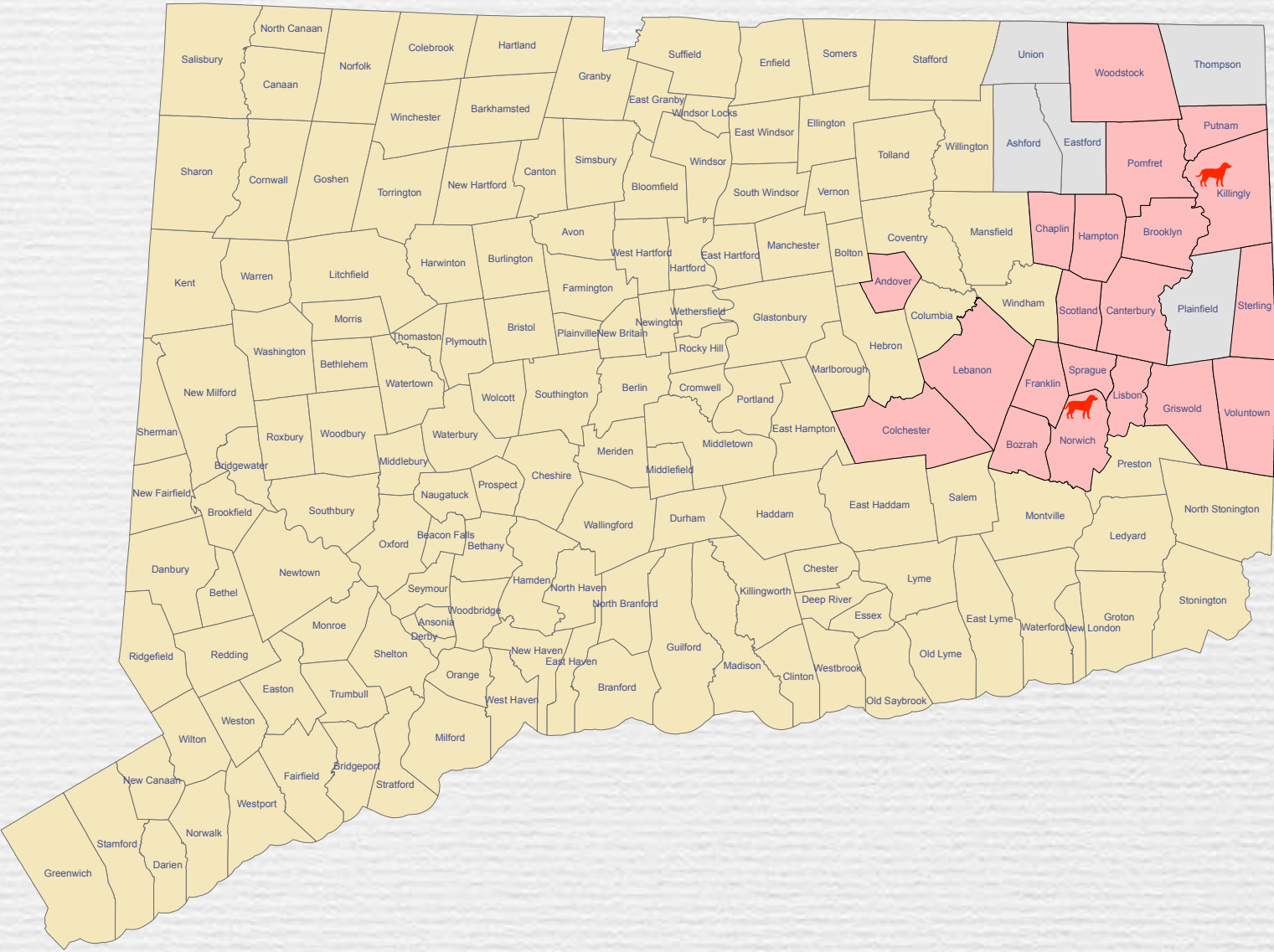
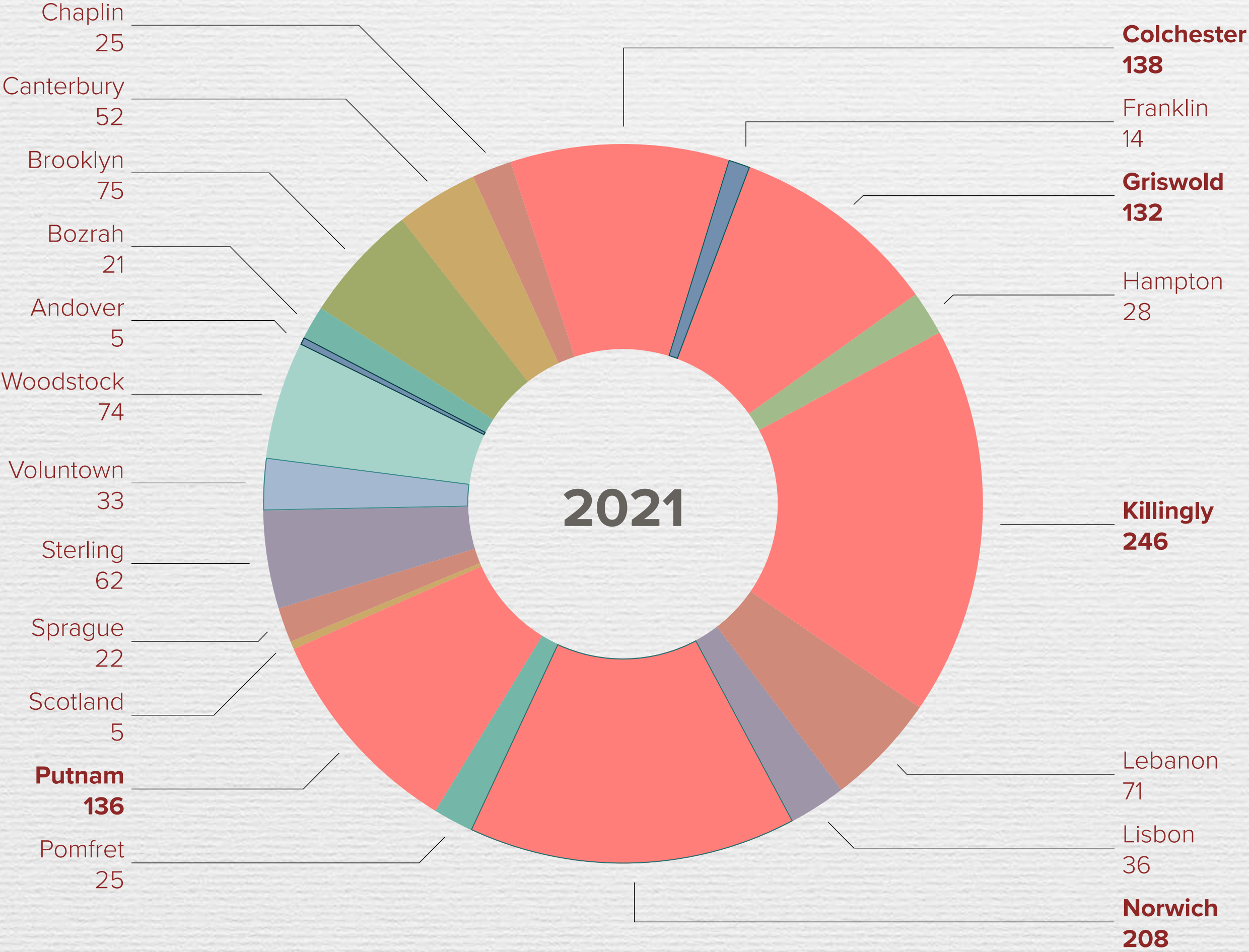
Serving Wauregan, Central Village, Moosup and Plainfield Village
(Begun September 8, 2020)



Monthly Ridership

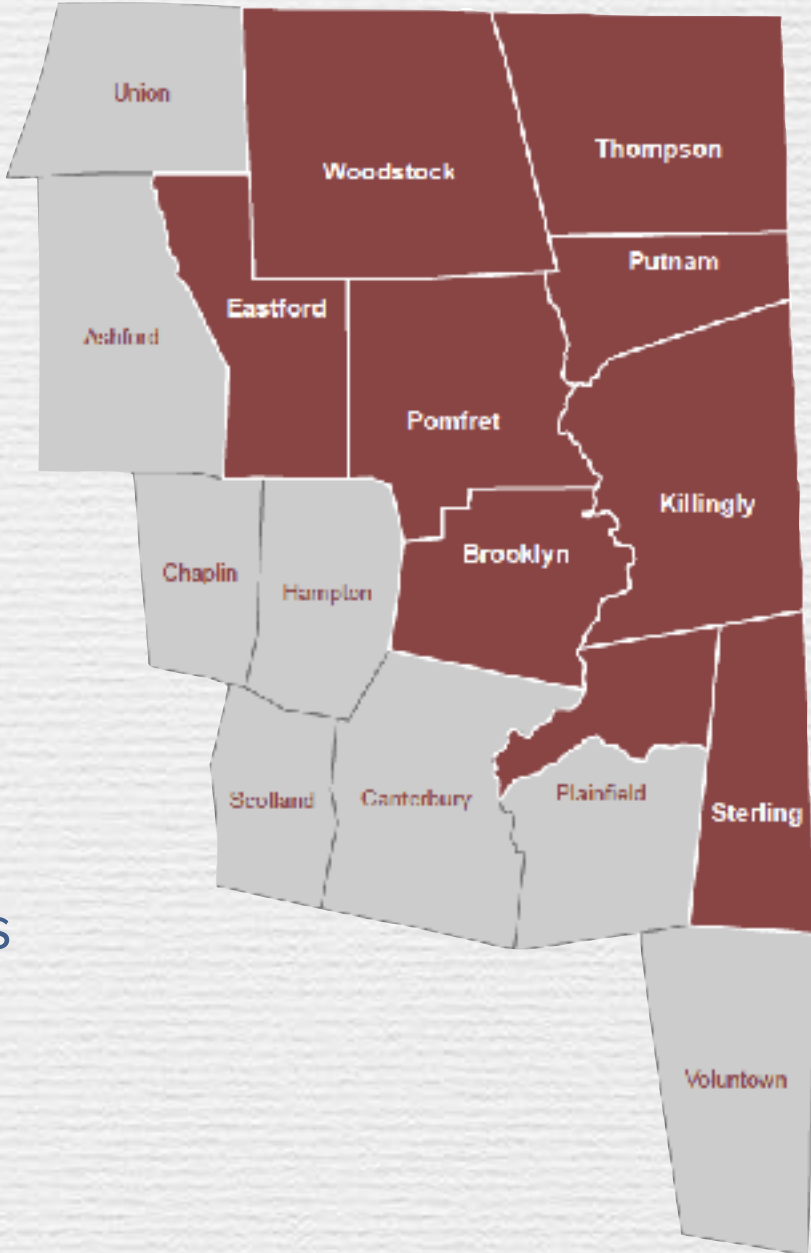
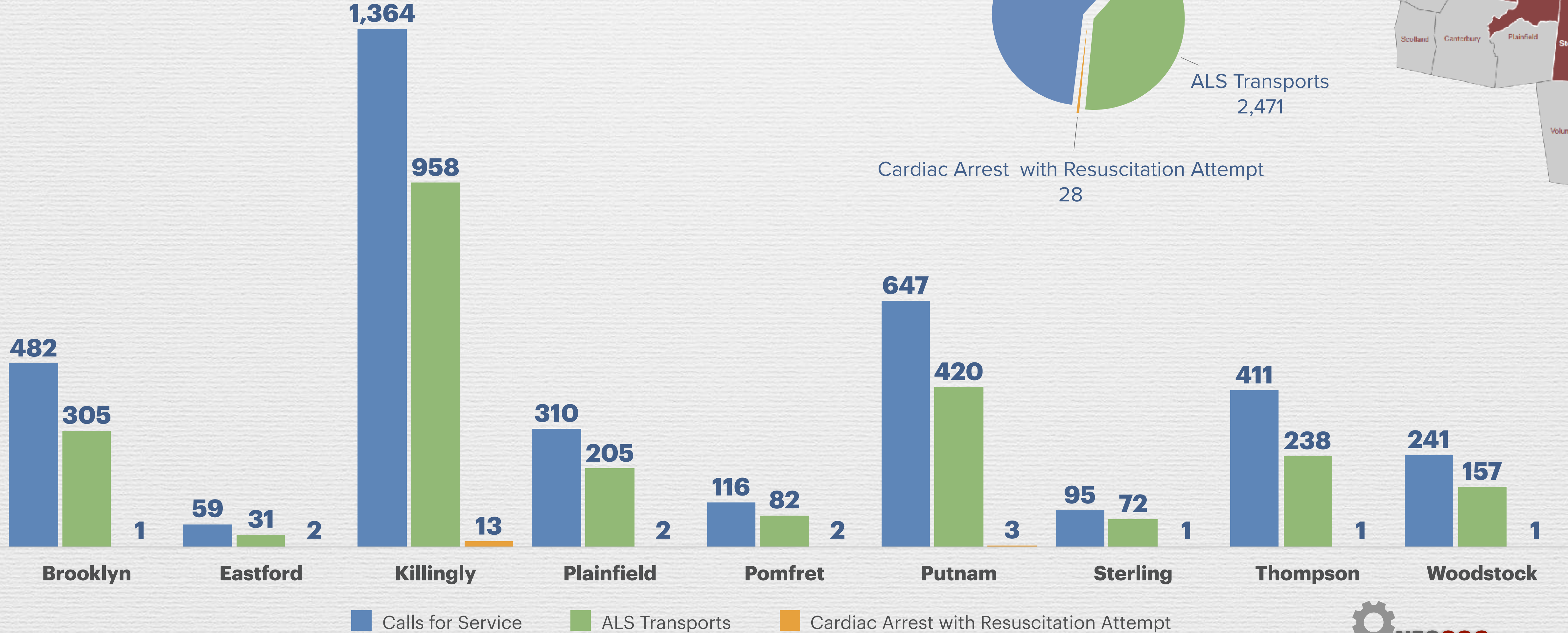


Animal Services Program



Regional Paramedic Intercept Program

2021



Crumbling Foundations



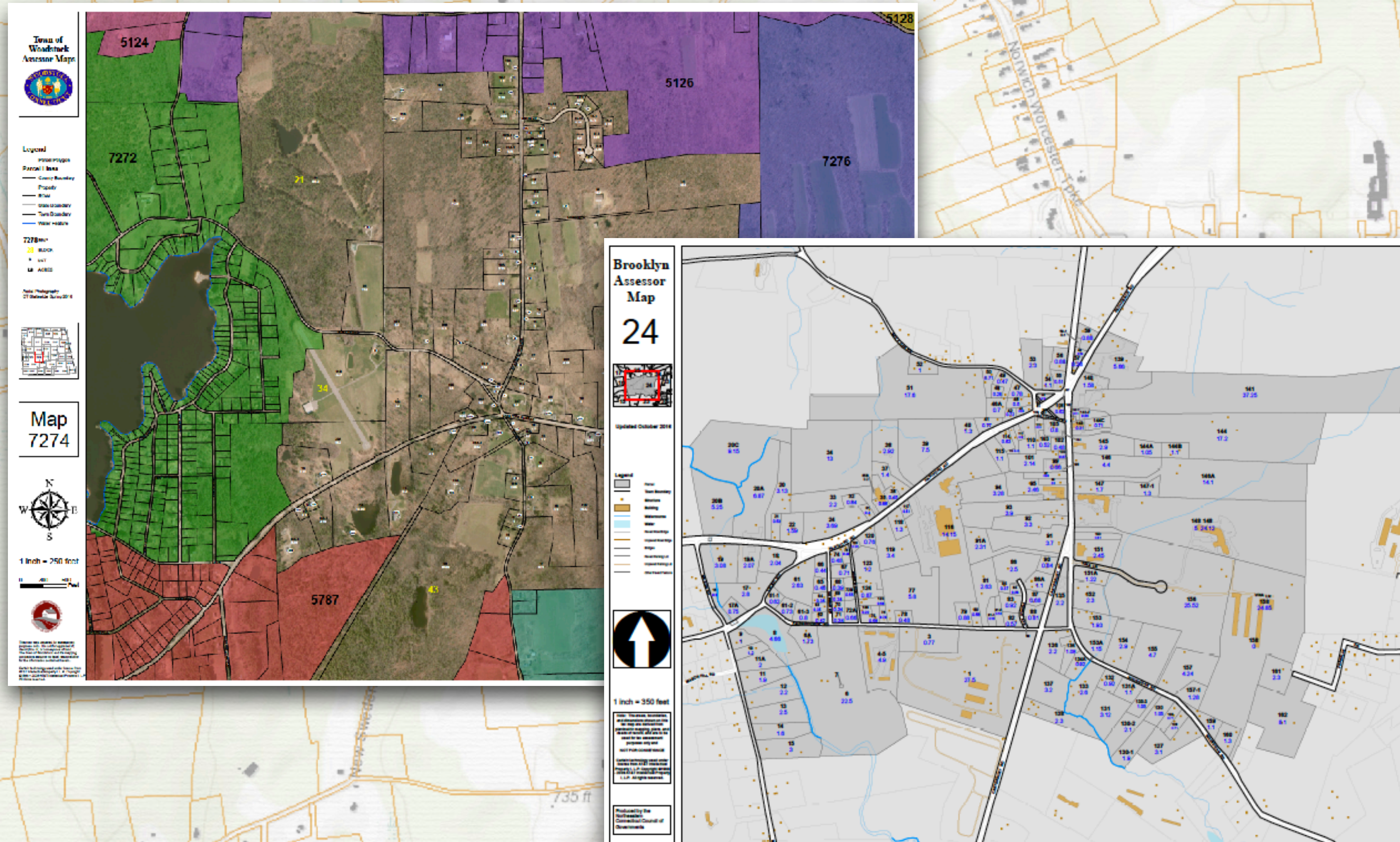
- **1,913 registered claimants** in the CFSIC system;
- **773 claims covered by Participation Agreements**, and therefore eligible for funding;
- CFSIC has put **459 families back in homes with new foundations, inclusive of 47 condominium units**;
- CFSIC has made \$84,188,161 in claim payments to date.
- The **cap on allowable construction costs will rise to \$190,000** from \$175,000 for stand-alone homes, and to \$76,000 from \$70,000 for condo units, **effective 9:00 AM on January 5, 2022**

crumblingfoundations.org

Regional Elections Monitor

- Changes in Senate districts
- House district changes
- Voting district's polling sites
- Town Clerks and ROVs
- 2020 Census Impacts
- Redistricting
- Thompson's two post election random audits (Dec 1 and Dec 8)

Regional GIS Staffing



Transportation

Funding Available to a Range of Recipients

Program Examples	State	MPO	Local	Tribe	PA*	Territory	FLMA*
Apportioned programs (formula)	✓						
Bridge Program (formula)	✓			✓			
National Electric Vehicle Formula Program	✓		✓				
Safe Streets and Roads for All program		✓	✓	✓			
PROTECT Grants (discretionary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Congestion Relief Program	✓	✓	✓				
Bridge Investment Program (discretionary)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Rural Surface Transportation Grants	✓		✓	✓			
INFRA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Nat'l Infra. Project Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Local and Regional Project Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Note: This table does not include all BIL programs or eligible entities, and there are additional nuances not represented in this table. Additional programmatic information is provided in later slides. FHWA will administer most, but not all, programs listed.

* "PA" means a special purpose district or public authority with a transportation function; FLMA means Federal Land Management Agency

Transportation

LOTICIP Road Projects as of 1/25

- Projects with Commitment to fund
 - **Putnam, Woodstock Ave/ Church St. Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements** - Low Bid \$ 1,780,669 Waiting on CT DOT Authorization to Award
 - **Putnam, Grove Street Sidewalk Replacement** Current Cost estimate \$ 1,784,893.18 - Waiting on CT DOT Authorization to Advertise
 - **Thompson, Riverside Dr./RT 12 Sidewalk Improvements** - Current Cost Estimate \$ 1,990,000 - Addressing final design comments from CT DOT
 - **Plainfield, RT 647 Lathrop Rd. Pedestrian Safety Improvements** - Current Cost Estimate \$743,600 - Starting survey and design
 - **Putnam, School Street/RT 44 Sidewalk Reconstruction** - Current Cost Estimate \$1,428,000 - Starting Design
- Application Submitted
 - **Killingly, Maple Street Reconstruction** - Current Cost \$ 1,207,849.00 - Road base testing still in Progress

ARPA

Some notable changes within the Final Rule:

- **Expanded the non-exhaustive lists of uses that recipients can use to respond to COVID-19.** This includes clarifying that recipients can use funds for certain capital expenditures to respond to public health and economic impacts and making services like childcare, early education, addressing learning loss, and affordable housing development available to all communities impacted by the pandemic.
- **Expanded support for public sector hiring and capacity**
- **Streamlined options to provide premium pay for essential workers**
- **Broadened eligible water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure projects**
- **Simplified the program for small localities seeking revenue recapture** through the option to elect a standard allowance of \$10 million for revenue loss rather than calculating revenue loss through the full formula.
 - ✓ Recipients **may elect a “standard allowance” of \$10 million** to spend on government services through the period of performance.
 - ✓ Treasury **presumes that up to \$10 million in revenue has been lost due to public health emergency** and recipients are permitted to use that amount (not to exceed the award amount) to fund “government services”.

Finalizing a model procurement policy to conform to federal purchase requirements

Planning

- Woodstock Town Planner Services
- Eastford Land Use Services
- Brooklyn and Canterbury POCD Updates
- Affordable Housing Plans - Union, Eastford, Pomfret, Canterbury, Chaplin and Woodstock
- Pomfret Marketing Strategy

COVID Recovery

Task 1 Develop an Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan - integrated into the CEDS.

Task 2 Provide disaster recovery support to the DEMHS Region IV Recovery Steering Committee and subcommittees.

Task 3 Implement the provision of technical assistance through virtual and in-person sessions that bring together new, existing, minority, women-owned and other businesses

Task 4 Develop and put in place an interactive (GIS based) regional map directory that provides resources for small agricultural and niche business on marketing, grant opportunities and best practices for adapting their business - providing opportunity for sustainability.

Task 1 - Develop an Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan - integrated into the CEDS.

Primary:

- **Update CEDS**
 - **Clearly articulate** the region's stakeholder's **social equity issues, needs and strategies necessary to correct identified deficiencies.**
 - Develop and put in place set of **metrics**, incorporated into the CEDS, to measure the **region's position and progress with regard to social, economic and racial equity.**
 - Metrics will be used as part of the CED's **project scoring criteria.**
 - **Increase** the **CEDs oversight committee** to include minority populations, residents of varying socio-economic status, education, and employment.

Secondary:

- Put in place an **interactive GIS map for social service.**
 - **Establishes a data base of resources** for individuals seeking housing, health, employment, mental health, mortgage assistance and other services.
- Develop and put in place a **universal release form to account for the number of residents in the region using services, what services they utilize, and the number of people using multiple services.**
- Scheduled **training seminars for municipalities and social services on the new GIS mapping program** regarding social services and programs available to residents.
- Develop **Model zoning regulations and complementary training** to (Task 3):
 - Accommodate those looking to age in place, alternative housing options, live-work options, ADU's, Duplexes, owner-occupied rentals and affordability.
 - Allow for an efficient process for home occupations, turnover of businesses and new businesses and creative commercial development options for small business development.

Task 2 -Provide disaster recovery support to the DEMHS Region IV Recovery Steering Committee and subcommittees

- **Provide staff and planning support for DEMHS Region IV Steering Committee and Working Groups** - Health, Social Services and Housing Working Group, Economic/Natural & Cultural Resources Working Group and Community Planning, Capacity Building, and Infrastructure Working Group
 - Meeting facilitation, coordination for Oversight Committee and Working Groups
 - Identification of unmet needs and actionable strategies to act on those unmet needs
 - Research in support of Oversight Committee and Working Groups regarding issues raised by these groups
 - Drafting of reports and related documents for each group
 - Ensuring full public participation in accordance with FOIA, LEP, ADA and Title VI/ Environmental Justice
- **Economic Recovery Plan for Region IV**
 - Measurable and achievable strategies to correct identified unmet needs
 - An inclusive strategic approach to economic recovery that addresses persons marginalized by society
 - Economic revival for small business - especially minority and persons of color owned/operated
 - An expanding green economy
 - Housing policies will foster affordable and safe options for residents

Task 3 - Implement the provision of **technical assistance** through virtual and in-person sessions that bring together new, existing, minority, women-owned and other businesses

- **Facilitate a series of entrepreneurial meetings** (in-person and virtual) and webinars that **bring together new, existing, minority, women-owned and businesses located in a designated opportunity zones and the region generally** with the goal of **raising the opportunities** for those in our region who heretofore have been left on the sidelines.
 - Prioritizes **social, economic and racial equity**
 - **Focuses on food access and local production** (new farmers) to make meaningful connections and in building resilient and healthy communities.
 - **Small businesses** that characterize the **mill villages** have been identified as revitalization areas for small businesses, including the **Putnam Special Services Opportunity Zone**.
 - **Niche agricultural and small businesses with a focus on sustainability**, are a potential growth sector in the region
- **Research the gaps** that exist for training new farmers and aiding small business-owners with a focus on equity while bringing together new and existing businesses and engaging women and minority-owned businesses and other disenfranchised groups. This will be accomplished by directly engaging minority-owned/operated, women-owned/operated businesses, traditional regional economic stakeholders and organizations.
- **Develop a regional marketing strategy** to promote locally grown foods and small businesses leveraging regional values held by consumers. Freshness and flavor of locally grown foods, keeping money in the community, lowering negative environmental impacts such as food miles.
- **Establish information networks** by engaging towns' economic development commissions and agricultural commissions to compile lists of local farmers and small business owners that may benefit from webinars and create an email list to engage them via monthly E-Newsletters which will include a calendar of events and list of e-commerce resources and strategies to help growing businesses and increasing small business and farm resilience through online sales, new business strategies, etc.
- **Coordinate short term themed promotions or events** to help businesses draw in a cautious customer base as well as explore other promotional, regional approaches such as a loyalty program that rewards customers for shopping/dining locally
- **Provide guidelines** so towns can continue to allow businesses to continue outdoor dining when the season allows.
- **Host workshops to help businesses rethink and retool their business plans to deal with the post COVID-19 realities** that they are facing, provide small business resilience training, and develop a toolkit to help safely re-open and resume business in the region.

Task 3 - Implement the provision of **technical assistance** through virtual and in-person sessions that bring together new, existing, minority, women-owned and other businesses

Anticipated Results

- A **centralized collection of resources**, including access to recorded webinars on how to effectively market and foster an online presence to increase exposure as part of a greater regional branding effort to highlight small businesses and farm operations that are unique to Northeastern Connecticut.
 - Data base small business owners and farmers that will be notified and have assistance with upcoming grant opportunities, networking events, marketing ideas, and other relevant webinars hosted by NECCOG and regional partners and will be useful in the future for information dissemination and post-incident coordination.
- The **result will be a growing small business resiliency guide** to ensure less of a negative impact on the demand for locally produced goods and consumer spending in the wake of significant events in the national economy and an **overall increase in economic resilience in the region**.
- **List of researched and identified gaps in resources** currently offered that will equitably promote businesses unique to the Northeast region.
- A platform for training new farmers and providing resources for small businesses to offer online sales, financial assistance programs, resiliency training and toolkits, and marketing ideas based on researched regional values.
- Highlight women-owned and minority-owned farms and small businesses via the NECCOG interactive map directory website to increase visibility.
- Cultivate a list of small business owners and farmers that may benefit from monthly emails with a list of events and resources to help grow their businesses and improve consumer awareness.

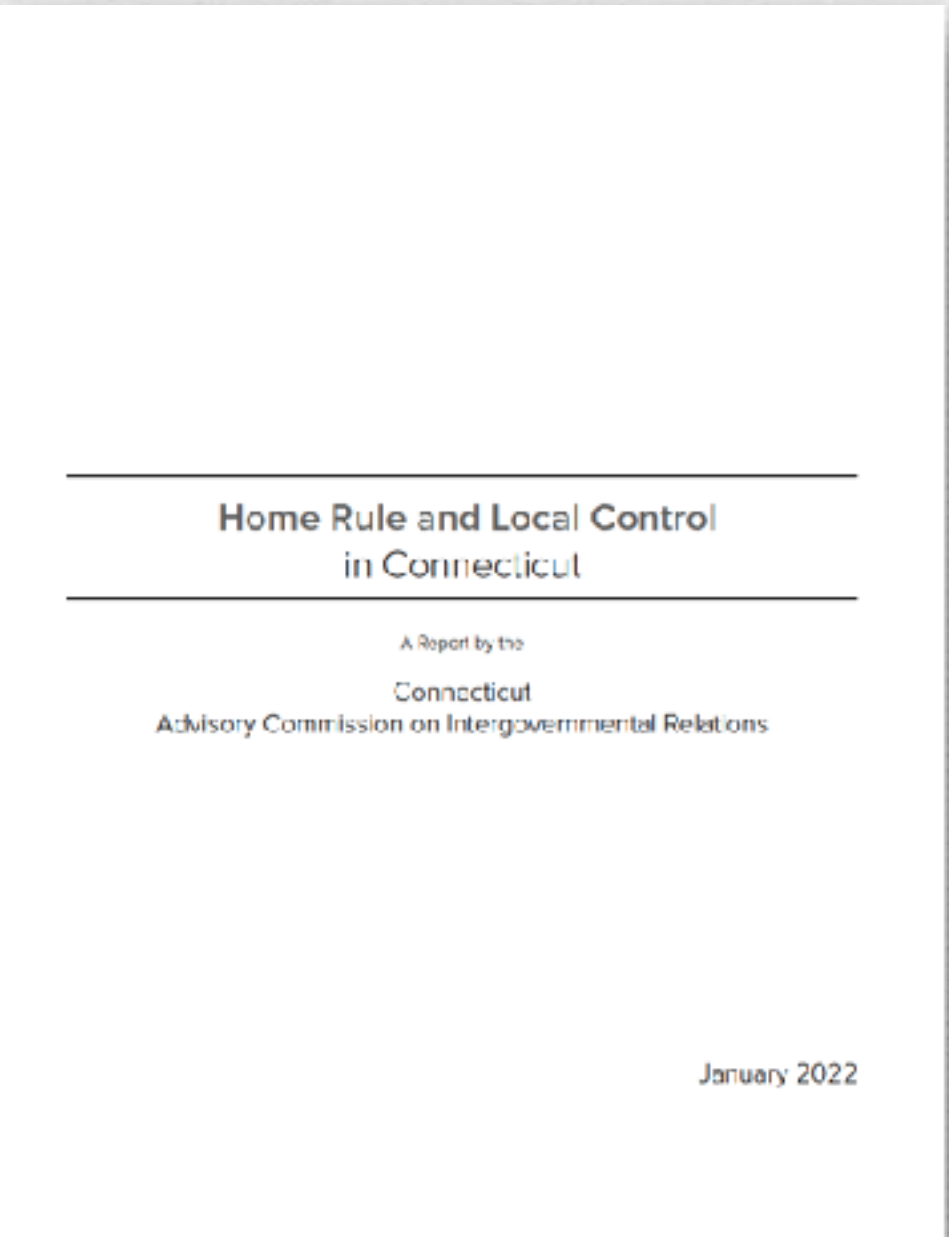
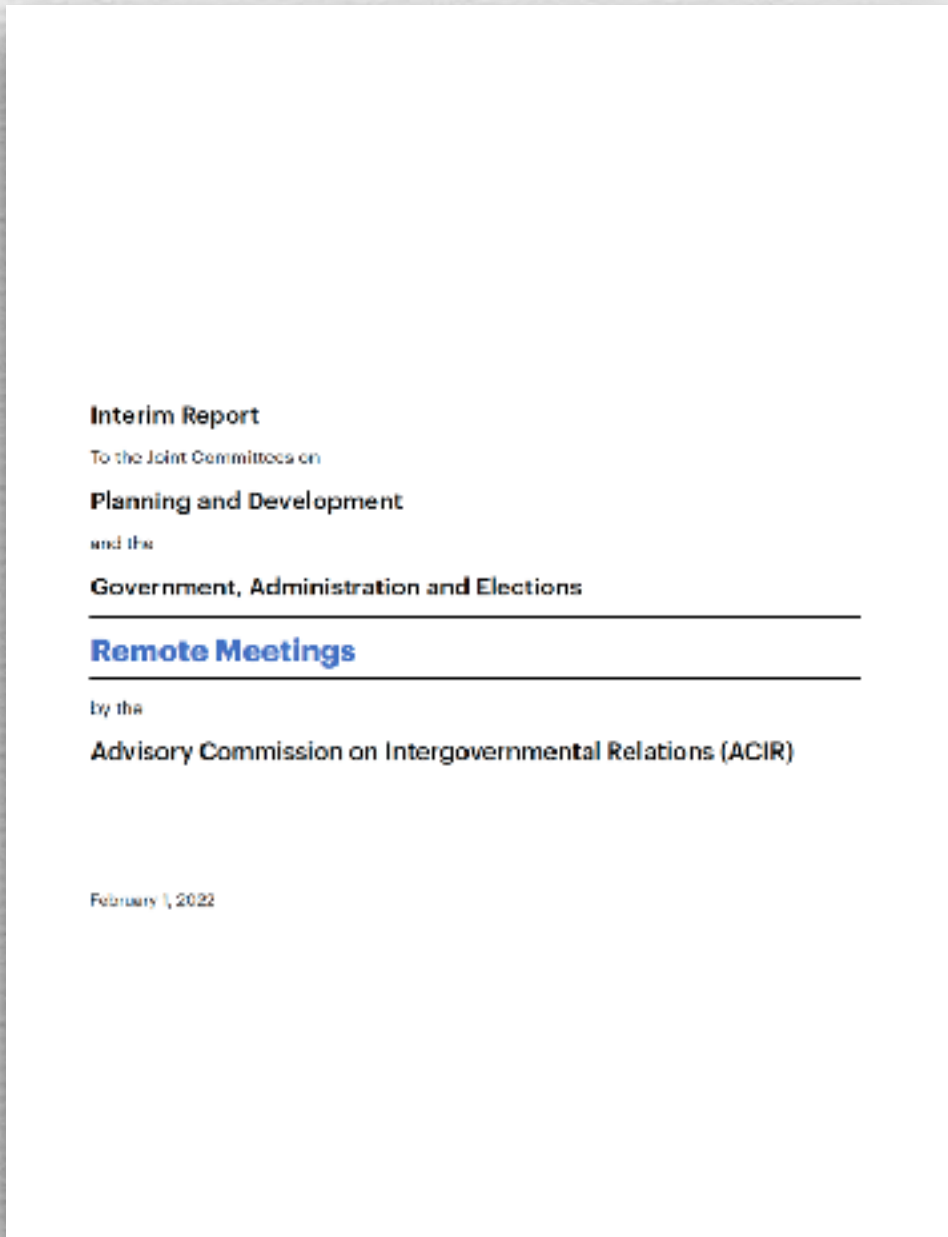
Task 4 - Develop and put in place an interactive (GIS based) regional map directory that provides resources for **small agricultural and niche business** on marketing, grant opportunities and best practices for adapting their business - providing opportunity for sustainability.

Outcomes/Results

- A website that provides resources for small agricultural and niche business on marketing, grant opportunities and best practices for adapting their business - providing opportunity for sustainability.
- The development of the dedicated website will provide a location for business resources that can be utilized by local businesses as they prepare to reopen or reimagine their future business models. The materials will also promote collaboration and cooperation between local and regional economic development partners and organizations. The website will also provide a streamlined resource that connects the public to recovery services related to housing and access to food.
- A dedicated web map (Directory) for agricultural and small businesses in the NECCOG Region that will connect consumers to products/services as well as provides resources to citizens in need of housing or food assistance.
- Increased resilience for agricultural and small businesses against future disruptions of in person commerce.
- Platform that can also be utilized by regional and local partners for marketing businesses and providing recovery assistance to the public within the region.
- Increased online presence provided by the website and map directory will result in increased online traffic for agricultural and small businesses in the region as well as the development of more resilient business practices while connecting citizens to local, regional and state resources to assist in recovery.

ACIR

- Remote Meeting Study
- Home Rule/Local Control Study



2022 - 2023 Program Assessments

- **Professional Service fees** are proposed to increase from \$55 to \$65 per hour
- **Animal Services Program** currently at \$3.15 per capita is proposed to be increased to \$3.30 per capita. The increase is based on increased costs related to wages, benefits, veterinarian care, fuel, utilities, feed - including cat litter
- **All other assessments are proposed to have no change**

2022- 2023 NECCOG Program Assessments

Town and 2020 Population (CT DPH Numbers)		Basic Assessment @\$1.10	Transit Services			Paramedic Services			Regional Engineering @ \$2.45 per capita	GIS Program \$500 base and \$0.45 per capita	Shared Social Services/ Veteran Services Advocate @ \$0.65 per capita	ARPA Technical Assistance and Administration
			Basic @ \$1.75 per capita	Elderly Disabled \$1,500 plus \$0.35 Per capita	Veteran's Transportation	Estimated Transports	Transport Cost \$69 per transport with DKH Subsidy	Transport Cost \$105 per transport w/o Hospital Subsidy				
Ashford	4,185	\$4,603.50							\$10,253.25	\$2,383.25	\$2,720.25	\$2,176.20
Brooklyn	8,451	\$9,296.10	\$14,789.25	In-Kind		350	\$24,150	\$36,750	\$20,704.95	\$4,302.94	\$5,493.15	\$4,394.52
Canterbury	5,041	\$5,545.10							\$12,350.45	\$2,768	\$3,276.65	\$2,621.32
Chaplin	2,141	\$2,355.10							\$5,255.25	\$1,463	\$1,391.65	\$1,113.32
Eastford	1,650	\$1,815.00		\$2,077.50		45	\$3,105	\$4,725	\$4,043	\$1,242.50	\$1,072.50	\$858.00
Hampton	1,729	\$1,901.90		\$2,165.67						\$1,278.05	\$1,123.85	\$899.08
Killingly	17,738	\$19,511.80	\$31,041.50	In-Kind		1,000	\$89,000	\$105,000	\$4,236	\$8,482	\$11,269.70	
Plainfield	14,984	\$16,482.40	\$26,222.00	In-Kind		225	\$15,525	\$23,625	\$36,711	\$7,243	\$9,739.60	
Pomfret	4,270	\$4,697.00		\$2,994.50		95	\$6,555	\$9,975	\$10,462	\$2,421.50	\$2,775.50	\$2,220.00
Putnam	9,219	\$10,140.90	\$17,745.00	\$4,726.65		450	\$31,050	\$47,250	\$22,586.55	\$4,649	\$5,992.35	
Scotland	1,576	\$1,733.60							\$3,861	\$1,209.20	\$1,024.40	\$819.52
Sterling	3,581	\$3,939.10		\$2,753.35		80	\$5,520	\$8,400	\$8,773	\$2,111	\$2,327.65	\$1,862.12
Thompson	9,185	\$10,103.50	\$16,073.75	\$4,714.75		250			\$9,185	\$4,633	\$5,970.25	
Union	784	\$862.40		Admin.					\$1,921	\$852.80	\$486.20	\$407.68
Voluntown	2,564	\$2,820.40	\$67,805.00						\$6,282	\$1,653.80	\$1,666.60	\$1,333.28
Woodstock	8,228	\$9,050.80		\$4,667.78		175	\$12,075	\$18,375	\$20,159.00	\$4,202.60	\$5,348.20	
	95,326	\$104,858.60	\$105,871.50	\$24,100.20		2,670	\$186,980	\$254,100	\$69,261.50	\$19,546.64	\$8,127.60	\$18,705.04

NECCOG Animal Services Program

Participating Town	2020 DPH Est. Population	Per Capita Assessment @ \$3.30
Andover	3,149	\$10,391.70
Bozrah	2,422	\$7,992.60
Brooklyn	8,451	\$27,888.30
Canterbury	5,041	\$16,635.30
Chaplin	2,141	\$7,065.30
Colchester	15,548	\$51,308.40
Franklin	1,863	\$6,147.90
Griswold	11,411	\$37,656.30
Hampton	1,729	\$5,705.70
Killingly	17,738	\$58,535.40
Lebanon	7,142	\$23,568.60
Lisbon	4,191	\$13,830.30
Norwich	40,152	\$132,501.60
Pomfret	4,270	\$14,091.00
Putnam	9,219	\$30,422.70
Scotland	1,576	\$5,200.80
Sprague	2,973	\$9,810.90
Sterling	3,581	\$11,817.30
Voluntown	2,564	\$8,461.20
Woodstock	8,228	\$27,152.40
Total	153,389	\$506,183.70

3. Discussion and Action Items

a. Regional Referrals

- i. Town of Brooklyn - Text Change for Adaptive Re-Use of an Agricultural Building, Section 6.B.3.1
- ii. Town of Mansfield - Proposed Amendment to Article 3, Section A, Temporary and Limited Moratorium on Cannabis Establishments

2022 Legislative Session

Potential Issues of Focus

- **Property Tax Reform**

- ✓ Fully fund Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT),
- ✓ Eliminate partial exemptions from local property taxes unless fully replaced by state aid,
- ✓ Tighten the administrative application “490” to minimize its misapplication, especially for open space lands,
- ✓ Make adjustments to PILOT to accurately reflect the value of open space and forest lands,
- ✓ Fully fund special education or, at a minimum, increase state funding for the cost of special education.
- ✓ Reject seductive proposals, such as:
 - Providing cities and towns with a means for **revenue diversification** (local option sales tax or local option income tax). The competition for a robust property tax base would simply be replaced by competition for sales tax base or income tax base, and towns that are not fiscally healthy would continue to be disadvantaged.
 - Eliminating property taxes on motor vehicles with no replacement revenue to towns/regions.
 - Taxing previously tax-exempt property such as manufacturing equipment.
 - Granting additional property tax exemptions without full PILOT reimbursement.
- ✓ Provide policymakers with up-to-date facts and independent analyses - Conduct a tax incidence study on a biennial basis, as is required by law

- **Remote Meetings**

- **Funding GOGs and Regionalism**

- **HVAC Systems**

- **Body Cameras and Dashboard Cameras for ACOs**

- **Education Funding Formulas**

- **Land Use**

- ✓ Reducing lot-size mandates to 1/8 acre or less, anywhere there is sewer and water infrastructure.
- ✓ Allow commissions to merge to streamline permitting and save on costs

CEO Roundtable

Other Agenda Items

Adjournment