



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

October 26, 2023

To: NECCOG Board of Directors
From: John Filchak, Executive Director

RE: October 2023 Director's Report

First, my apology for not being in attendance. This is the first time in nearly 29 years that this has occurred. Unfortunately, it could not be avoided.

- ❑ **NECTD** - The District continues to be hampered by a lack of drivers. As reported previously, we have not had a full complement of drivers since the pandemic. While this has hit our Elderly and Disabled service particularly hard - home deliveries and remote medical appointments has eased the impact on this population. It should be noted that the Plainfield Service, per our agreement with CONNDOT has remained fully staffed since it began and it continues to be a solid addition for the District and most certainly Plainfield. This past month the new leadership for transit from CONNDOT visited our offices - something that has not happened in many years - allowing them to hear first hand our issues and to tour our facility. During the meeting we shared with them that about half our fleet was quite old and becoming very costly to operate. The next day we were offered six buses from other districts - which we accepted - and they should be in operation sometime in November.
- ❑ **Animal Services** - While we are experiencing a larger than average number of dog and cat surrenders - our staff has been able to move most through the adoption process quickly. We have multiple cat hoarders we are dealing with presently - including one with possible wolf/dog hybrids. The situation in Sterling that has been previously discussed is still without resolution. Unfortunately, mediation, which the Department of Agriculture attempted, never materialized and our ability within the statutes is limited. We are now attempting, with the assistance of our legal counsel and the Department of Agriculture to pursue other options.
- ❑ **Paramedic Intercept Services** - We had intended to have an in depth discussion on this topic today - however, KB Ambulance has a new president and it was decided that I should meet with him first before we have such a discussion. I expect to have that discussion next week. Since the last meeting, I have also communicated with DKH and QVEC, Inc.
- ❑ **Crumbling Foundations** - The Bond Commission, on October 6, approved CFSIC's FY24 bond allocation of \$25 million - allowing it to shortly begin full activity once it receives the funds. CFSIC's just released 2023 Annual Report can be found at: https://crumblingfoundations.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Memo_CFSIC_Annual_Report2023-1.pdf This report provides a comprehensive look at CFCIC's operations and data regarding individual towns.
- ❑ **Environmental Depot** - We are still awaiting DEEP's final action on our grant application.

❑ **Transportation Planning Assistance and Projects**

- ▶ **Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)** - Balance of Program Funds \$996,845 - SFY 2024 LOTICIP allotment of \$ 812,000 has been requested. Current Total funds \$1,808,84

✓ Projects with Commitment to fund:

- **Putnam, Woodstock Ave/ Church St.** Roadway and Pedestrian Improvements - Project Completed and closed out
- **Putnam, Grove Street Sidewalk Replacement** - Total Cost \$ 1,894,716 - In process with estimated completion of this fall
- **Thompson, Riverside Dr./RT 12** Sidewalk Improvements - Total Cost \$ 2,108,400 - Two cross walks remain to be est. completed end of October.
- **Plainfield, RT 647 Lathrop Rd.** Pedestrian Safety Improvements - Current Cost Estimate \$743,600 - Final Design to be completed this fall.
- **Putnam, School Street/RT 44** Sidewalk Reconstruction - Current Cost Estimate \$1,418,601 - Final design submitted to NECCOG

✓ Application Submitted to NECCOG

- **Thompson, Main Street Reconstruction** - estimated cost \$3,05,560 (has also been submitted as a Community Investment Fund Project.

- ▶ **Safe Streets for All Grant Status** - Initial paperwork completed - with final approval anticipated in the next 30 days. RFP, once approval occurs, will be prepared and released to retain qualified firm to assist with the grant deliverables.
- ▶ **Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP)** - waiting on CONNDOT final determinations
- ▶ **Long Range Transportation Plan** - expect to go to public participation phase - with a vote in January

- ❑ **EDA Grant** - a one-year extension has now been granted. This will make approximately \$250,000 available to NECCOG for this work.

- ❑ **Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan** - Work is underway to put the region back into compliance with FEMA. Cameron James, our new regional planner, is the lead staff person on this project. He will be reaching out to each of the member towns asking to be on an upcoming agenda to explain the NHMP planning process and the importance of this plan.

- ❑ **2024 Legislative Issues** - Anna Shugrue has been reaching out to each of you for issue ideas and/or needs to form our 2024 Legislative Agenda. Please make sure to share with her your ideas.

❑ **Other**

- ▶ Work on our **annual audit** is well underway and on time
- ▶ A **new website** for NECCOG and NECTD is now past due. We are attempting to have our consultant move the project toward completion - however, it appears that it will take several more months. We have an immediate need for an upgraded site for Animal Services. Through

our IT company we are moving forward with an independent site (which can be linked to the new NECCOG site when completed). That should be completed by the end of November.

- ▶ Funding for the **Regional Elections Advisor** appears to be delayed until at least March of next year. This was not our understanding of the new law and we are attempting to expedite the funding.
- ▶ Item D on the Agenda - **RPIP Initiatives** - If it is agreeable, I would like to have a special meeting next Wednesday or Thursday at 9:00 am (we will find a site) to discuss the **Town Administration Services, Assessor Services** and **Inspection and Enforcement Services**. I would encourage members to bring other elected officials and/or staff to hear what we are proposing. I think it important that people hear first hand and have the opportunity, early in the process, to add their expertise, questions, concerns, etc.

The **Emergency Medical Services** proposal, while important, is not ready to move forward. I would like to invite Bob Holdsworth, who was our consultant for our 2019 study of EMS to meet with the Board and discuss his thoughts as to how best to proceed. This most likely would happen in January.

- ▶ **Representative Boyd** is working on setting up another **meeting with Governor Lamont** at the State Capital. No date in place yet. We had a very good meeting with him before COVID,

Thank you.