



NECCOG

Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments

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

Results through Regionalism

Meeting Minutes

February 2025 Regular Meeting

February 28, 2025 - 9:00 am Canterbury Town Hall & ZOOM

Representation from the following towns: Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Eastford, Killingly, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Thompson, Union, Voluntown.

1. Open Meeting - 9:07 Maureen Nicholson, Madam Chair

- a. Welcome remarks
- b. Previous Minutes approved
 - Motion made by Chris Lippke, second by Juan Roman.
- c. Public Participation-
 - Egzon Balidemaj of Eversource has announced his upcoming relocation, with Rebecca set to take over his role.
 - Mike Caplet, Homeland Security- Jim Larkin was selected to represent the Region 4 REPT on the Statewide Citizen Corps Advisory Council.
 - Erin McBride - Senator Murphys office- Resolution for the budget, individuals to reach out to the office for clarifications regarding federal funding or Executive orders.
 - Adam Richardson, Office of Congressman Joe Courtney- Presented [informational packet](#) on the congressional budget resolution.
 - Stephen Vagara , KB Ambulance - Staff highlighted the current status of staffing within the program, possibly Stephen Vagara provided an update on the current staffing levels, addressing the challenges and adjustments needed to maintain adequate coverage and performance. He also highlighted the rising costs of medical supplies, noting how these increases may impact budget allocation and service delivery. Regarding equipment, Stephen discussed recent updates to the cardiac monitors, including new models and enhancements designed to improve patient monitoring and outcomes. Additionally, it was noted that anesthesia is now provided on ambulances, allowing the team to manage critical care patients during transport with specialized equipment and trained staff. Looking ahead, the organization is actively working toward the ability to carry blood on ambulances, which will enable life-saving interventions during emergency transport, especially for trauma patients or those requiring immediate blood transfusions.

2. Program Updates Report -

- a. Community Connectivity Grant Funding
 - Improve Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety, Boost Access to Downtown Area. Municipal construction projects aimed at improving safety and accessibility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users in urban, suburban, and rural communities.
 - In October, the State Bond Commission approved \$12 million for 2025 Community Connectivity projects. The funding will cover construction activities ranging from \$100,000 to \$800,000.

Grant applications are available on the program's webpage and will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025

b. Safe Streets for ALL

- The Kickoff Meeting was held in November of 2024. Monthly meetings currently with BETA during data gathering phase.

c. Comprehensive Climate Action Plan Process. (CCAP) - Currently on hold due to a freeze in federal funding.

d. Active Transportation Grants – Mid to late March is the deadline to participate.

e. Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A)

- Based on the delay, currently amending the agreement with FHWA and updating the schedule.
 - Draft Plan: 12/31/2025
 - Completed Plan: 3/31/2026
 - Plan Adopted by NECCOG: 5/30/2026

3. Director's Report

a. Animal Control

- The ruling in the major Woodstock case was in our favor, granting custody of the animals and a monetary award to cover expenses for caring for around 100 animals. However, the defendant has filed an appeal, and we are awaiting the judge's decision, with the next hearing set for March 3rd. Despite operating with just 12 employees in the animal control department, our team has been working long hours to care for nearly 140 animals, including fostering 20 dogs to other facilities.
- The second Woodstock case is still progressing through the courts.
- Additional cameras have been installed in Norwich and are preparing to purchase body cameras and vests for our ACOs, while continuing to improve procedures and housekeeping at both locations.

b. Transit District

- In January, a meeting was held with SEAT to review their operations, which proved to be very informative. In December, a meeting with WRTD took place. In early February, the DOT Transportation Bureau Chief, along with the heads of bus transportation and capital for CT, visited in person. The meeting was highly productive, and they expressed strong support for the organization. Discussions focused on the building, fleet, and micro-transit. The transit team is currently evaluating various platforms to improve fleet management and tracking, with numerous options being considered.

c. Regional Town Administrator

- Mary Calorio and Jordan Lumpkins will be our first Regional Town Administrators. Both will work for the first three towns: Canterbury, Pomfret and Chaplin. We will utilize Mary's expertise partly in the Transit area and Jordan will help us with Grants and Economic Development for the rest of the NECCOG towns.

d. Regional Revaluations

- After many adjustments and negotiations, we are signing the contract. We were able to change the payment schedule with Vision to avoid two payments in the first year (due to the State pulling up Towns early).

e. Outreach

- Monthly appearances on WINY resumed on October 9, 2024. The Director's regular time will be the first Friday of each month at 9 a.m.
- The Director to continue meeting with towns individually.
- In January, the CEDS team (Jim, Delia, and David) presented on behalf of the Non-Profit Alliance of Northeast Connecticut. The presentation received high praise, with many impressed by the portal's wealth of data, making it a valuable tool for each of the Towns.

f. Other

- Legislative - Many are frustrated with the Governor's budget and its impact on Towns, Health Districts, and Schools. However, most Towns across the State are facing similar budget challenges. This is just the start of the budget season, and the Governor's proposal is not the final version. While Connecticut has been stable in recent years, uncertainty surrounding the national economy and federal spending remains.

- The budget is the increased funding for regional programs, with \$250k annually allocated to each COG for climate resiliency efforts, including inventory, assessment, and mapping of drainage systems, hazard mitigation, waste management, recycling, GIS, and more. This funding comes from the Regional Incentive Fund.

4. Discussion and Action Items

a. STIP Actions and Amendments - See Blow

ii. REG 70 AMD PACKAGE 01.28.2025

Motion to approve as presented made by barney Seney second by Allan Cahill.

b. Regional Referrals

i. Town of Killingly- Zone Map Change -Appl #25-1345 - Dayville Fire District (Applicant & Owners); 1076 High Street; GIS MAP 114; LOT 21; "0.43 acres; Medium Density; Seeking to change zone from Medium Density to Village Commercial to be uniform with all other property owned by the Dayville Fire District within the immediate surrounding area.

ii. Town of Thompson- PZC #25-02 - Application of Town of Thompson Planning and Zoning Commission, 815 Riverside Drive, Annual Update to Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations for 2024 according to Town of Thompson Zoning Regulations Article 3, 275.3.6. Proposed Amendments are attached.

Motion to approve as presented by Barney Seney second by Austin Tanner.

c. Other Agenda Items (requires 2/3 vote)

5. CEO Roundtable

- Discussion with the Director of Northeast District Department of Health- Luigi Sartori.

Motion made by Maureen Nicholson, seconded by Chris Lippke, for the Director to submit a letter of testimony advocating for the maintenance or increase of funding.

6. Adjourn- 10:23

Motion made Barney Seney second by Maureen Nicholson.

ID	Agency	Review Status	Plan Cycle	Revision
0170-3640	CTDOT	Pending Review	CTDOT / 25-28 STIP	REG 70 AMD PACKAGE 01.28.2025
Title	Change Reason	Change Reason Details	Type	Total Cost
SERVICE PLAZA MAINLINE SIGN AND SIGN SUPPORT REPLACEMENT	Project Changed	04 - Adjust existing projects for revised cost estimates	FHWA	\$6,700,000