



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



Meeting Minutes February 2022 Regular Meeting

February 25, 2022 - 8:30 am - via ZOOM

Representation from the following towns: Ashford, Brooklyn, Chaplin, Canterbury, Hampton, Killingly, Plainfield, Pomfret, Scotland, Union, and Voluntown.

1. Open Meeting 8:30am- Maureen Nicholson, NECCOG Vice-Chair
 - a. Welcoming Remarks - Maureen Nicholson, NECCOG Vice-Chair
 - b. Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Motion made by Kevin Cunningham, second Allan Cahill - all in favor.
 - c. Public Participation -none
 - d. Other Agenda Items - none

2. **Special Presentation** - The Honorable Mark Boughton, Commissioner of Revenue Services and Senior Advisor to the Governor for Infrastructure - to coordinate multi-agency approaches to administering funds from the recently approved, bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - Slides are available at <http://neccog.org/about/agendas-and-minutes/>
 - Over Five Years, Connecticut will receive \$6B
 - Competitive grants will require in-depth analysis and strategic plans
 - Funding to be released when FY22 budget it passed
 - S.3011 allows ARPA funds to be used for non-federal IJA match
 - Federal agencies have 6-12 months to establish competitive grant programs
 - Overview of anticipated Federal Formula Funding :

Overview of Anticipated Federal Formula Funding

FHWA	Yearly Total	Program Size Relative to 2021 Program	Increase over 2021 Program	FTA	Yearly Total	Program Size Relative to 2021 Program	Increase over 2021 Program
2021	\$ 549,841,415			2021	\$ 200,684,201		
2022	\$ 788,243,862	143%	\$ 238,402,447	2022	\$ 249,586,741	124%	\$ 48,902,540
2023	\$ 801,552,715	146%	\$ 251,711,300	2023	\$ 254,675,083	127%	\$ 53,990,882
2024	\$ 815,127,746	148%	\$ 265,286,331	2024	\$ 261,505,210	130%	\$ 60,821,009
2025	\$ 828,974,277	151%	\$ 279,132,862	2025	\$ 267,029,567	133%	\$ 66,345,366
2026	\$ 843,097,737	153%	\$ 293,256,322	2026	\$ 273,990,153	137%	\$ 73,305,952

FHWA + FTA Formula Funding	Grand Total by Year	Program Size Relative to 2021 Program	Increase over 2021 Program
2021	\$ 750,525,616		
2022	\$ 1,037,830,603	138%	\$ 287,304,987
2023	\$ 1,056,227,798	141%	\$ 305,702,182
2024	\$ 1,076,632,956	143%	\$ 326,107,340
2025	\$ 1,096,003,844	146%	\$ 345,478,228
2026	\$ 1,117,087,890	149%	\$ 366,562,274

Note: These values do not include matching State funds.



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- Overview of Federal Formula Programs:
 - Bridge Program: \$561M Funding for repairs, replace and rehab bridges- bring them into a state of good repair
 - EV Charging Formula Funding. \$52.5M Allows state to build out CT's publicly accessible charging stations for the nation EV charging network on highway corridors and in communities.
 - Carbon Reduction Formula Funding: \$79M, Establishes a carbon reduction program to reduce transportation emissions in Connecticut, with brand eligibility and requiring DOT to develop a carbon reduction strategy.
 - PROTECT Formula Funding \$90M, will help make transportation assets in CT more resilient to weather and natural disasters and allow our state to rapidly recover/ continue operations.
 - CTDOT has recruited for 206 additional positions and back filling pending retirements. Also dedicated to equity analysis, as well as a new Sustainability& Resilience Unit, to align with USDOT for better compete for grants
 - Clean School Bus Program, \$5B nationwide for clean buses and \$2.5B exclusively for electric buses. Preventing outages NEW- \$100M- under-grounding, utility pole management, micro-grids, storage, hardening, vegetation management, transmission.
 - \$30M smart meters, grid modernization
 - Transmission Facilitation Program New- Enables DOE to serve as "anchor tenant" for transmission.
 - Civil Nuclear Credit Program NEW- \$6B nationwide
 - Clean Hydrogen- \$9.5B nationwide regional hydrogen hubs, grants for innovation production.
- Department of Energy and Environments Protection
 - Clean Energy Grid Resilience
 - Clean Energy, Grid Resilience: Energy Program, \$6.88M promote energy security, efficiency, state led energy initiatives.
 - Weatherization Assistance Program- \$42.21M (current level \$3.4M annually)
 - Grants for Efficiencies & Clean Energy Improvements at public schools NEW- \$5M
 - Hydropower- Incentives for efficiency and upgrades at certain hydroelectric facilities.
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \$1.6M for energy efficiency, renewable energy, zero emission transportation and associated infrastructure.
 - Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund- approx. \$2M-\$5M in capitalization for CT to support commercial/ residential revolving loans for energy audits or upgrades and retrofits.
 - Training, R&D Multiple competitive grants for training energy auditors, building code officials, building performance professionals, smart manufacturing.
- Clean Water & Land
 - Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund- \$38M (31% increase) to support municipal investments in wastewater infrastructure. Some portion may be set aside for grants addressing PFAS.
 - Emerging Contaminants/ PFAS NEW \$10.2M to address emerging contaminants (including PFAS) through project eligible under the Clean Water Act.
 - Wastewater Efficiency Grant municipalities NEW \$1M for AD, sludge & methane capture-grants directly to municipalities.
 - Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Muni Grants NEW \$14M for planning, construction & design grants to municipalities through DEEP for combined sewer overflow projects.
 - Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency NEW \$1.25M Planning, designing, and construction projects to increase resiliency.
 - Long Island Sound Study \$106M for projects within the LIS watershed to support the goals of the LIS Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan.

- Brownfields Response Grant \$12M in competitive grants and revolving loan funds to investigate, remediate Brownfield properties and complete job training programs
- Broadband
 - G State Equity Capacity Program- \$8M support digital equity.
 - Enabling Middle Mile Broadband- \$10M to reduce cost of connecting and unserved and underserved areas. Create alternative network connection paths.
 - Broadband Affordability Fund- \$14.2B, provides \$30 discount for qualifying homes.
 - Rural E-Connectivity Broadband Pilot- \$1.9B for USDA Reconnect program. Grants for Broadband Deployment- \$42B, \$100M minimum allocation to each state.
- Community Resilience

Community Resilience

- **NOAA Coastal Resilience Fund** ~\$17M Grants for NGOs, Academic, State and Municipal applicants to create and restore natural systems for community resilience, while improving habitats for fish and wildlife species.
- **NOAA Community-based Restoration** ~\$10M grants for coastal habitat restoration.
- **FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC)** \$5M in formula & ~\$10M competitive grants for state & municipalities to protect critical infrastructure (IIJA only). Additional ~\$35M competitive through previous authorizations for FEMA BRIC.
- **FEMA Dam Safety** ~\$7.3M in grants for state to enhance dam safety and rehabilitate or remove aging dams.
- **FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance** ~\$35M to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program.
- **FEMA STORM Act NEW** ~\$25M federal funds to capitalize state revolving loan fund for hazard mitigation and climate resilience projects.
- **WILDFIRE Risk Reduction NEW** ~\$5.0M to implement wildfire protection for communities.
- **US Army Corps Coastal and Inland Flood Risk. NEW** ~\$50M in agreements with USACE for flood protection projects.



3. Director's Report - John Filchak, Executive Director

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| a. Transit Activities | e. Regional Election Monitor | i. COVID Recovery |
| b. Animal Services Program | f. Transportation Projects and Planning | j. Member Town Assistance |
| c. Paramedic Intercept Program | g. ARPA Program Update | k. 2022 Legislative Session |
| d. Crumbling Foundations | h. Regional Planning Activities | |

4. Discussion and Action Items

- Regional Referrals** - motion made by Maureen Nicholson, second by Allan Cahill - no discussion.
Town of Voluntown - proposed text amendment to the Voluntown Zoning Regulations concerning a moratorium on recreational cannabis facilities
- STIP Amendments/Actions** - none
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update** - Alexis Meehan, NECCOG Regional Planner
- Presentation** - Eastern Connecticut Land Bank (ECLB) - Mary Ann Chinatti, President Eastern Connecticut Land Bank, Inc.
 - Connecticut corporation and certified non-profit entity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
 - CT Public Act 17-214 authorized CT DECD to certify "Connecticut Brownfield Land Banks"
 - To partner with municipalities in Eastern Connecticut to support the return of distressed, underutilized, blighted, brownfield and historic properties to productive uses consistent with local Plans of Conservation and Development.
 - Federal Infrastructure Bill includes **\$1.5 Billion** in Brownfield funding
 - ECLB has no staff – all functions are currently accomplished by volunteers on our Board of Directors

- Seeking Financial Assistance
 - Salary, benefits, and business expenses of a full-time Executive Director for ECLB
 - Legal services and other professional expenses; to date, ECLB's general counsel has generously provided hundreds of hours of pro bono services.
 - Help with business administrative and clerical expenses, including website design and maintenance, domain fees, IT services, cloud storage, office equipment, and supplies

e. Other Agenda Items - none

f. CEO Roundtable

- Gary Greenburg, Town of Scotland First Selectman
 - Reverse 911 calls to help facilitate to appropriate personal. Funding to be \$4,500 per year, possibly on a per capita basis, and include all municipalities.
 - Bridges Scour Critical issues have increased. Include with infrastructure grants funding.

5. Adjournment - 9:45am - motion made by Allan Cahill, second by Gary Greenburg - all in favor.