

What are some related links?

Connecticut Department of Transportation

<http://www.ct.gov/dot/site/default.asp>

Connecticut Transit

<http://www.cttransit.com/content/about.asp>

Federal Highway Administration

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/>

Federal Transit Administration

<http://www.fta.dot.gov/>

Metro North Railroad

<http://www.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr/>

Rideworks

<http://www.rideworks.com/>

Shore Line East

<http://www.shorelineeast.com/>

What is this report?

The purpose of this report is to document the actions carried out by the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) for public participation in transportation planning, pursuant to Title 23 CFR 450.316. It contains the policies and methodologies of involving the public in the transportation planning process. This document also provides a brief explanation of how the transportation planning process is conducted in the region.

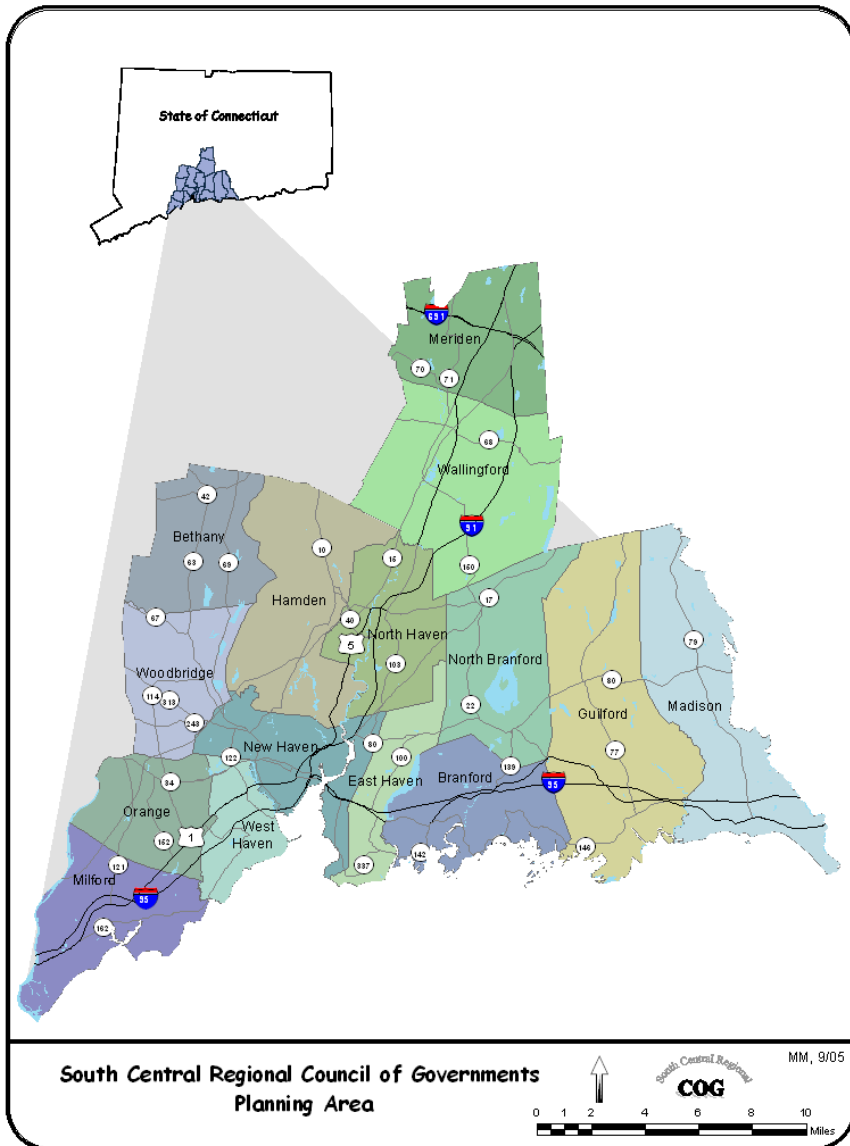
What is the SCRCOG region?

The SCRCOG region is comprised of the following fifteen cities and towns in South Central Connecticut:

Bethany	Madison	North Haven
Branford	Meriden	Orange
East Haven	Milford	Wallingford
Guilford	New Haven	West Haven
Hamden	North Branford	Woodbridge

There are 557,900 residents living in the region, with New Haven having the largest population, 124,700. There are 264,400 jobs in the region, with New Haven having the largest number of jobs, 75,600.

The following map illustrates the South Central Connecticut planning area.



STP-U – Surface Transportation Program–Urban - A block grant type program that is used by localities for any roads (including NHS) that are not functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors.

TAZ – Traffic Analysis Zone - The division of a region into subunits or zones allowing for a more detailed level of analysis.

TCM –Transportation Control Measure - Methods for controlling auto-induced emissions through travel modifications.

TDM – Transportation Demand Management - Programs and policies to reduce peak demand for transportation and maximize efficient use of the transportation system, including encouraging flexible work schedules, ride-sharing and vanpooling, and congestion pricing.

TEA-21 – Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century - The Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century was passed in 1998 as a reauthorization of ISTEA. As of 2005, it was up for, but had not been reauthorized.

TIP – Transportation Improvement Program - A short-term transportation planning document covering at least a three-year period and updated at least every two years. The TIP includes a priority list of projects to be carried out in each of the years.

Title VI – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 – Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in federally funded programs and activities.

TMA – Transportation Management Area - An urbanized area with a population more than 200,000, as determined by the most recent decennial census.

UPWP – Unified Planning Work Program - A description of the transportation planning work tasks for an MPO and their funding sources for a period that usually covers a 12-month time span.

VMT - Vehicle Miles Traveled - The amount of vehicle travel on a designated set of roadways, multiplied by the total mileage of those roadways.

PE – Preliminary Engineering - A general term to describe early phases of technical studies undertaken to determine all relevant aspects of transportation location, to identify feasible route alternatives or design options, and to assess various cost and benefit parameters before advancing the project into more detailed final design.

ROD – Record of Decision – A formal decision granted by the federal lead agency that provides a written record of the agency’s decision on a Final Environmental Impact Statement. The ROD documents any conditions or mitigation measures committed to in the FEIS.

ROW – Right of Way – This is the land set aside for use as a highway corridor. Rights of way are purchased prior to the construction of a new road, and usually enough extra land is purchased for the purpose of building sound walls, retaining walls, and other mitigation features.

SCRCOG – South Central Regional Council of Governments – SCRCOG is the metropolitan planning organization for the 15 towns in and around New Haven, Connecticut and is responsible for allocating federal transportation funds in the region.

SIP – State Implementation Plan - A state plan mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) that contains procedures to monitor, control, maintain and enforce compliance with national standards for air quality.

SOV – Single Occupant Vehicle – A vehicle with only one occupant, the driver, traveling in it.

STC – State Traffic Commission - The STC promulgates regulations establishing a uniform system of traffic control signals, devices, signs and markings for public highways. The STC also adopts regulations in cooperation and agreement with local traffic authorities governing the use of state highways and roads.

STIP – Statewide Transportation Improvement Program- short-term, state-wide transportation planning document covering at least a three-year period and updated at least every two years. The STIP includes a priority list of projects to be carried out in each of the years. Regional TIPs are incorporated into the STIP.

What does SCRCOG do?

SCRCOG brings together local governments to cooperate on a variety of topics including land use planning, housing, and transportation planning. The Council provides a forum to foster communication, coordination, and collaboration in identifying and addressing regional issues.

SCRCOG is dedicated to:

- Enabling cities and towns, through regional cooperation, to work together to accomplish projects they cannot do as efficiently or cost effectively by themselves;
- Creating a sense of pride in the region by aspiring to the highest quality of life and economic wellbeing that can be achieved; and
- Increasing voluntary cooperation in the region to achieve productive results that benefit the region.

SCRCOG maintains a regional plan of development and reviews land use changes that affect member municipalities. The regional plan has goals and objectives related to density, jobs, housing, transportation, and regional educational, employment, and open space facilities.

SCRCOG is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is responsible for allocating federal transportation funds in the region. As the MPO, SCRCOG is required to develop a number of documents related to transportation. They are the long-range transportation plan, the short-range Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Unified Planning Work Program.

How is SCRCOG organized?

SCRCOG is organized according to the Sections 4-124i through 4-124p of the General statutes of the State of Connecticut and as further provided by a set of By-Laws.

The Council, or the decision-making body of the organization, makes a large number of area wide transportation planning decisions. It is comprised of 15 members, one mayor or first selectman from each municipality. The Council meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. These meetings are open to the public.

The following table displays the membership (as of October 2008) of the Council.

Town	Member	Title
Bethany	Derrilyn Gorski	First Selectwoman
Branford	Anthony DaRos	First Selectman
East Haven	April Capone Almon	Mayor
Guilford	Carl A. Balestracci, Jr.	First Selectman
Hamden	Craig B. Henrici	Mayor
Madison	Alfred Goldberg	First Selectman
Meriden	Michael S. Rohde	Mayor
Milford	James L. Richetelli, Jr.	Mayor
New Haven	John DeStefano, Jr.	Mayor
North Branford	Michael Doody	Mayor
North Haven	Janet McCarty	First Selectwoman
Orange	James Zeoli	First Selectman
Wallingford	William W. Dickinson, Jr.	Mayor
West Haven	John M. Picard	Mayor
Woodbridge	Edward M. Sheehy	First Selectman

The Transportation Committee is comprised of chief elected officials. This committee recommends key transportation planning and programming proposals for adoption by the Council. The Transportation Committee is comprised of six Council members. The committee meetings allow a more intensive review of proposals than possible at the monthly Council meetings. The committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at noon. These meetings are open to the public and are informal to encourage public participation.

ISTEA – *Intermodal Surface Transportation Act* - A federal highway, safety, and mass transit act passed in 1991.

ITS - *Intelligent Transportation Systems* - The application of technology that provides real-time information to vehicle operators and passengers about transportation system conditions.

LOS - *Level of Service* - A qualitative measure used to characterize the operating conditions of a transportation service. LOS is typically used to describe traffic operations, where the designations range from A (free flow traffic) to F (long delays). Roads with a level of service "F" are generally prioritized for improvements and innovations to make the roadway better.

MOU – *Memorandum of Understanding* - document providing a general description of the responsibilities to be assumed by two or more parties in their pursuit of an identified goal.

MPO - *Metropolitan Planning Organization* – The regional organization responsible for comprehensive transportation planning and programming in an urbanized area.

NAAQS - *National Ambient Air Quality Standards* - Federal standards developed by the Environmental Protection Agency that set allowable concentration for various pollutants including carbon monoxide, transportation hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter.

NEPA – *National Environmental Policy Act* - The federal law, going into effect on January 1, 1970, that established a national policy for the environment and requires federal agencies (1) to become aware of the environmental ramifications of their proposed actions, (2) to fully disclose to the public proposed federal actions and provide a mechanism for public input to federal decision making, and (3) to prepare environmental impact statements for every major action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

NHS – *National Highway System* - The National Highway System was designated in 1995 for all roads that are of national importance. Generally, this includes all Interstate routes and some U.S. and state routes.

DEP - *Department of Environmental Protection* – The state’s regulatory agency responsible for conserving, protecting and improving the natural resources and environment of the state.

EA – *Environmental Assessment* – A study to determine the potential impacts on the environment from a project.

EIS - *Environmental Impact Statement* – Documentation that reports the environmental, economic, cultural, aesthetic, etc. impacts that can result from a major transportation project.

EJ - *Environmental Justice* – Federal policy that requires that the benefits and burdens of federal programs and funds are balanced among racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic populations.

EPA - *Environmental Protection Agency* -- The federal agency that is charged with protecting the natural environment.

FHWA - *Federal Highway Administration* - The branch of the Department of Transportation that administers the federal highway programs.

FTA - *Federal Transit Administration* – The branch of the Department of Transportation that administers the federal transit programs.

FY – *Fiscal Year* - A 12-month period for which an organization plans the use of its funds. A fiscal year will always reflect the date of the calendar year in which it ends. The federal fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 30.

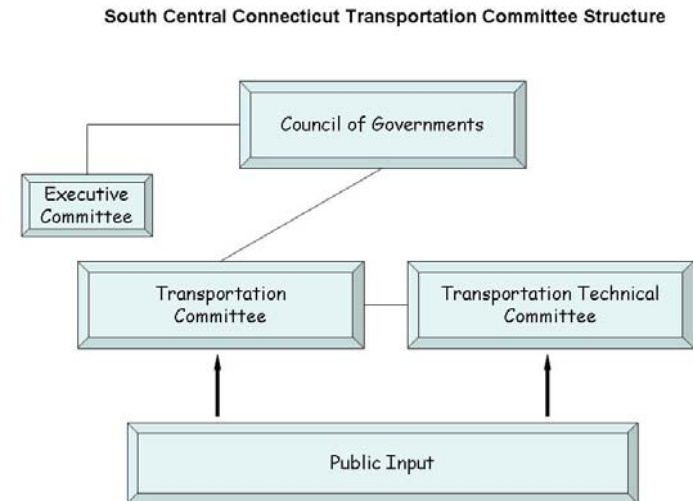
HOV lane – *High Occupancy Vehicle lane* - A lane designated for the exclusive use of vehicles that have at least two occupants, such as carpools, vanpools, and buses. The HOV lane is often the far left lane, and jersey barriers or other forms of access control separate the HOV Lane from the main lanes.

IM – *Interstate Maintenance* - The Interstate Maintenance program provides funding for resurfacing, restoring, rehabilitating and reconstructing most routes on the Interstate System.

The Transportation Committee is chaired by Mayor Dickinson of Wallingford. The other five members of the committee are selected annually in January.

The Transportation Technical Committee includes municipal staff, state personnel, transit operators, and other interested persons. The Transportation Technical Committee meets jointly with the Transportation Committee on the second Wednesday of each month at noon. The purpose of this dual meeting is to allow the elected officials on the Transportation Committee, who typically are not professional engineers or planners, to interact with such staff and make more informed recommendations to the Council.

The following figure illustrates the transportation committee structure of SCRCOG.



How does the planning process work?

The South Central Connecticut transportation planning process involves the preparation of regional long-range plans, transportation improvement programs, citizen brochures, and administrative documents. Public interest varies depending on the product and the intensity of the issues that may be involved with each document. The purpose of the South Central Connecticut public participation process is to recognize differences in public interests and provide opportunities for involvement to meet the needs of the various interests. This public participation guideline constitutes a general framework rather than a specific program.

The transportation planning process begins with the regional long-range transportation plan, *South Central Regional Transportation Plan: 2007-2035*, which was adopted in May 2007. *Mobility* includes the region's transportation needs, traveler responses, and public sector cost constraints. The *Plan* includes fiscally constrained highway and transit projects that are expected to be funded in the next 25 years. The *Plan* also includes additional needs for the region that are beyond the financial constraints. Projects which increase capacity must be in the fiscally constrained portion of the long-range transportation plan. The long-range plan is updated at least once every three years. Public participation activities are conducted during this update process and are discussed in the public participation section of this document.

The next phase of the transportation planning process includes the preparation of the TIP. The TIP is a program that illustrates how federal transportation funds will be allocated in the region over the next five years. The current TIP program is for years 2007-2011, and was adopted in July 2006. All projects which receive any federal funds must be in the TIP. The TIP is updated at least once every two years, and is amended on a regular (monthly) basis. Public participation activities conducted during the TIP process are discussed in the public participation section of this document.

What are those acronyms?

AADT – *Average Annual Daily Traffic* – The total number of all vehicles counted on a roadway segment in a year divided by 365 days.

ADA - *Americans with Disabilities Act* – A federal civil rights law enacted in 1990 that mandates the provision of access to public facilities for persons with disabilities.

ADT – *Average Daily Traffic* - The total volume of traffic during a given time period divided by the number of days in that time period, representative of average traffic in a 24-hour period of time.

CAAA - *Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990* – Federal legislation that establishes allowable levels for various air pollutants. If these standards are not attained, officials must take specified actions within a certain timeframe or face sanctions, such as loss of federal highway funds.

CE – *Categorical Exclusion* - A classification given to federal aid projects or actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment. Categorical Exclusions do not require extensive levels of environmental documentation.

CMAQ - *Congestion Mitigation Air Quality* – A federal funding program that directs funding to projects that assist in meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. CMAQ funds can go towards such projects as transit-related, traffic signal timing, and transportation demand management projects. CMAQ funds cannot go toward new capacity for single occupant vehicles.

CMS - *Congestion Management System* – A program that evaluates mobility and congestion on the region's transportation system and evaluates methods to improve mobility.

ConnDOT – *Connecticut Department of Transportation* – The state agency responsible for the transportation system in the state. The agency largely focuses on managing facilities and managing travel to get the most efficient use out of our existing transportation facilities and resources.

How can you participate?

- Send your comments in writing to:

SCRCOG
127 Washington Avenue
4th Floor West,
North Haven, CT 06473.

- Send your comments by email to:

jgott@scrcog.org

- Comment by telephone at:

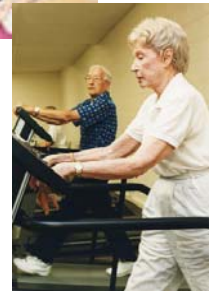
203-234-7555 or fax
203-234-9850

- Offer input / discussion at SCRCOG Committee Meetings
- Share your views with your mayor / first selectperson



Who exactly is the public?

- Residents
- Property owners
- Business owners
- Interest groups
- Freight shippers and carriers
- Elected and appointed officials
- News and other media
- Drivers in the region
- Transit users in the region
- Others



What types of organizations need outreach?

- Human service
- Community development
- Economic development
- Health
- Business
- Employer
- Disability rights
- Minority
- Environmental
- Neighborhood groups
- Others

What are the federal requirements for public participation?

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU), signed into law in August 2005, requires that transportation planning be “continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive to the degree appropriate [23 USC SEC.134(c)(3)]. The public participation process should include those key stakeholders who have not traditionally been involved. In other words, transportation planning must be conducted in conjunction with state and local officials, transit operators, and the public.

The joint Federal Highway Administration / Federal Transit Administration Joint Planning Rule (23 CFR part 450, 49 CFR part 613) requires metropolitan planning organizations to conduct a locally-developed public participation process. The public involvement process must “provide complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and early and continuing involvement of the public in developing plans and TIPs” [23 CFR part 450.316(b)(1)].

How can you get information?

- Log on to the SCRCOG website at www.scrco.org and view the meeting agendas, publications, and quarterly newsletter.
- Contact the SCRCOG offices by phone at 203-234-7555.
- Sign up to be on the mailing list.

SCRCOG Agenda August 24, 2005

SCRCOG MEETING NOTICE
August 24, 2005
127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West
North Haven, CT 06473
10 AM
Full SCRCOG Agenda materials can be found at our website www.scrco.org

1. Minutes of July 27, 2005 Secretary, Major Carl Anzani	Page 2 - 4
2. Treasurer's Report month ending July 2005 Treasurer, First Lieutenant Andy Morelli	Page 7 - 8
3. Transportation Committee Report FY 05 TIP Amendment Item (Action) Planning a New Transit Enhancement Program - State (Action) T201 Glenbrook-Hatfieldford/Concordia agreement (Action)	Page 9 - 20
4. Budget Transfer	Page 21
5. Executive Director's Report	Page 22 - 27
6. Regional Cooperation/Other Business	
7. Adjournment	

Special needs: Hearing impaired closed audio loop and/or sign language interpreter and Braille/English proficiency translator will be provided upon two weeks notice. Applicants can be requested in a language other than English by contacting SCRCOG.

127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West
North Haven, Connecticut 06473-7773
Website: www.scrco.org

Relax
Opportunity
Employer

Phone (203) 234-7555
Fax (203) 234-8850
E-Mail: info@scrco.org

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Newsletter of the South Central Regional Council of Governments

Editor: Jennifer, Ron Farn, Deborah, Elaine, Madeline, Michele, Mitchell
The Names: Mark Woodard, Hank Kern, George, Walsdorf, Tom Kern, Walsdorf

July 2005, Executive Director

Summer 2005

Coverings & Givings...
In March, **Osmer Goodson** moved on from his position as Regional Land Use Planner to relocate with his wife to Washington, DC where she has recently been selected for a Congressional Fellowship. Daniel reports that they have recently found an apartment in the District Circle area.

Also in March, **Josh Law** joined the COG staff as a Transportation Planner. Josh's prior background includes transportation planning work for the City of New York and several private consulting firms. He and his wife Jill live in Madison with their 14 year old son, Max. Josh serves as project manager for several transportation studies.

In June, **Elizabeth Morgan** started work as Regional Land Use Planner. In this position, Elizabeth comes on the heels of a Regional Planning Commission staff person. She and her husband, Angie, have a two-year old son, Ethan. They recently returned to Midford where she grew up. Previously Elizabeth worked as a land use planner in Stamford, CT and in West Hollywood, CA.

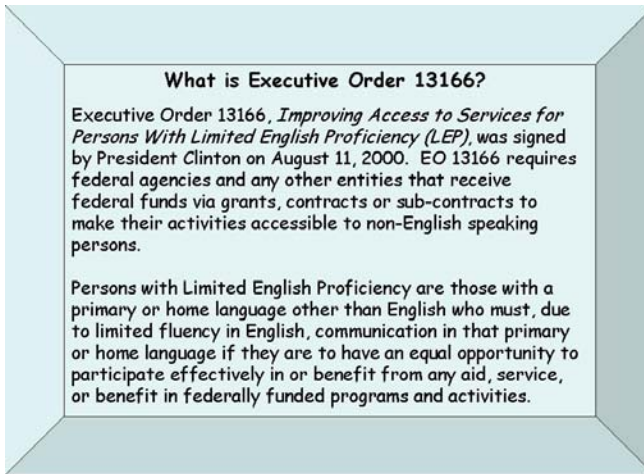
July 6 Ribbon-Cutting for Artspace Project Highlights Transit Enhancement Efforts
For the last five years, SCRCOG has been able to obtain Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding for a number of Transit Enhancement projects throughout the region. This project was initiated as a cooperative effort between the City of New Haven, the Greater New Haven Transit District and the Artspace organization.

A June 9 New Haven Register article describes the project as "an exciting make-over" for the property at 812 Chapel Street. When project landscaping is completed in July, "The plans [designed by Inverwell Landscape Architects of Norwalk] will provide a new line of shrubs and other materials for containers, along with an open-air art gallery." Artspace will install seating and sculpture exhibits in the plaza area.

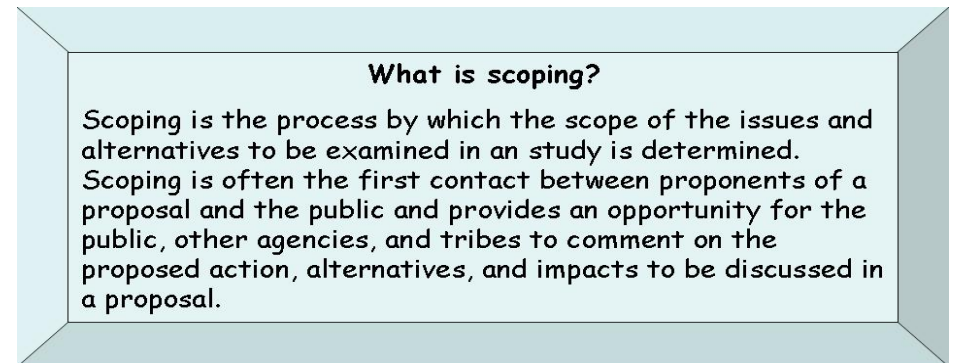
In 2004, the Greater New Haven Transit District completed the SHIF Street Transit Enhancement Project in Haverhill which includes the bus shelter located at that stop and constructed ramping into the adjacent shopping center to allow wheelchair access. A similar project is under construction at the Kaul's Plaza shopping center on Chapel Avenue in Haverhill. The other completed enhancement project incorporates landscaping and signage located at the Long Wharf Information Center along the waterfront in New Haven.

Meet News 2006...
U.S. Census Figures Detail Changing Demographics for the Region - Page 2
Regional Transit Study Nears Completion - Page 2
Upcoming SCRCOG Meetings - Page 3
Name Your My Desk - July 2005, Executive Director - Page 5

SCRCOG will identify potential communities, add them to the transportation mailing lists, and define methods to engage them in transportation programs and projects. Staff will largely identify potentially underserved communities through maps that depict large proportions of these populations. Also, the New Haven environmental organization, composed of community representatives, will continue to assist in opening the channels of communication. These efforts will be in accordance with Executive Order 12898, “Federal Actions to Address Minority Populations and Low Income Populations” dated February 11, 1994, and Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency” dated August 11, 2000.



- **Non-Profit and Special Interest Organizations** – SCRCOG staff seeks opportunities to meet with organizations addressing equal opportunity, poverty, transportation, and/or environmental issues. Staff share officially adopted regional policies and programs and emerging Council work to foster input from these groups.
- **Major Council Corridor (Subarea) Studies, Special Studies and Joint ConnDOT Corridor Studies** – Maximum public participation and feedback is pursued throughout the above significant studies. For these significant studies, staff will conduct/participate in a detailed scoping process, timely work sessions addressing incremental products, and public meetings. Public comments offered in writing or summarized by staff accompany relevant agendas and are shared with committees and elected officials.



3. Permit substantive interchange.

SCRCOG will encourage substantive interchange between:

- Members of the public and staff;
- Members of the public with one another at public meetings, open houses, and other events where any public is present; and staff share officially adopted regional policies and programs and emerging Council work to foster input from these groups.

The following table displays different public notifications and meeting types that are employed for the different transportation products and processes in the regions.

Public Notifications and Meeting Types by Product

Council Actions	Type	Minimum Notice (days)*	News Release	Direct Mail	SCRCOG Agenda	Public Meeting	Work Session	Trans Tech Comm Mtg	Trans Comm Mtg	Council Mtg
Public Participation Guidelines	Major	45	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Unified Planning Work Program	Major	30	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Transportation Plan Draft	Major	45	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regional Transportation Plan Final	Major	45	✓	✓	✓	✓	maybe	✓	✓	✓
TIP	Major	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TIP Amendments	Major	15	✓	✓	✓		maybe	✓	✓	✓
SCRCOG/ConnDOT Corridor Study	Major	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Related Priorities	Major	15	✓	✓	✓		maybe	✓	✓	✓
Technical Memo	Minor	30		✓			maybe	✓		
Special Study - Minor	Minor	15	maybe				✓	✓	✓	✓
Special Study	Minor	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Consultant Selection	Minor	15	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

* prior to Council meeting where formal action occurs

What are SCRCOG policies for public participation?

SCRCOG has four policies related to public participation. They are:

1. Conduct proactive outreach.

Council staff, per Transportation Committee guidance, is responsible for continuously seeking to involve organization and individuals with potential interests in transportation planning efforts. In short, SCRCOG's goal is to inform and present information on transportation planning products and process to the public.

Proactive outreach must also include timely insight on processes, analyses, and decision points. SCRCOG will provide timely information on its role, technical capacity, relationship to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, annual transportation planning work program development process, triennial transportation plan review process, and TIP development / amendment process.

2. Conduct outreach to traditionally under-served individuals and communities, which include but are not limited to low income, minority, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons.

What is Executive Order 12898?

Executive Order (EO) 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low Income Populations*, was signed by President Clinton on February 11, 1994. The EO reinforced the requirements of Title XI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and focused federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority and low income communities. It promotes non-discrimination in federally funded programs as well as access to public information and equal opportunities for public participation for minority and low income communities.

The EO is directed at project level decision making in the engineering and design phases of projects AND at long-range and programming activities.

Council staff also seeks opportunities to meet with persons, groups, and / or organizations relative to transportation planning and programming efforts. Any meeting that is scheduled with Council staff must:

1. occur at the Council's office, in a place of business, or in a public place;
2. be open to any member of the public; and
3. occur in an environment accessible to people with disabilities.

There are a number of types of meetings that the SCRCOG will conduct to foster public participation. They include:

- **Periodic Council-Convened Work Sessions** – Late afternoon or early evening work sessions permit interested people and organizations to address current Council planning and programming efforts. They can offer an alternative if one cannot attend midday Transportation Committee or Transportation Technical Committee meetings. Work sessions are intended as an informal interchange between staff and interested parties. Newspaper display advertising and committee agendas announce work sessions. Any public insight, interests, and / or concerns are shared with the committees and Council via attendee-provided material or staff written notes.
- **Transportation Plan and / or Transportation Improvement Program Meetings** – Public work sessions conducted for the development of these plans assist in developing goals, estimates, alternatives, and proposals. These work session also help staff shape options for committee and Council review. Public comments, offered in writing or summarized by staff, accompany relevant agendas and are shared with committees and elected officials.
- **Municipally Sponsored Meetings** – Council staff, upon request, participate in meetings initiated by chief elected officials, municipal staff, municipal planning and zoning commissions, and transit districts.

- Members of the public and members of the Transportation Committee, Transportation Technical Committee, and Council. In addition, SCRCOG will encourage broad public participation in all of these meetings.

4. Consider public input in decision making.

The Council will consider public input in its decision making. SCRCOG staff will consider public input as it is drafting and refining documents, plans, and programs. Most importantly, proposals and viewpoints will be considered in *advance* of decisions.

How does SCRCOG carry out its public participation policies?

SCRCOG provides information to the public by the following methods:

- **Advertising** – SCRCOG uses display advertisements in the New Haven Register for *TIP* and *Transportation Plan* notifications. SCRCOG takes out legal advertisements when updating *Public Participation Guidelines*.
- **SCRCOG Web Site** (www.scrcog.org) – Reports, meeting notices, and link provide information and facilitation communications.
- **Memos and Reports** – Memos and reports share Council proposals, analyses, plans, and programs. Monthly Transportation Committee and Transportation Technical Committee agendas and news releases announce publications. SCRCOG recently began publishing a quarterly newsletter, call the *South Central Quarterly*, which is posted on the website.
- **News Releases** – Before major Transportation Committee and Council actions, news releases are faxed to:
 - o Regional newspapers (New Haven Register, Connecticut Post),
 - o Local newspapers (Meriden, Milford and community-scale),
 - o Public service cable television channels,
 - o Connecticut commercial television channels, and
 - o Connecticut radio stations.

The faxes note SCRCOG’s planning and programming role and provides a focus for broader inquiries. The complete media distribution list follows.

Media Distribution List	
A Quinnipiac Chronicle	WQUN
Amity Observer	NHT 20
Branford Review	North Haven Post
Bulletin	Shoreline Times
Cable TV - Telemedia	The Sound
Connecticut Post	The Source
CTV	Totoket Times
East Haven Advertise	WELI
Government Access	West Haven News
Guilford Courier	West Haven Voice
Hamden Chronicle	WFSB (3)
Hamden Journal	WLAT - 910 Htfd
Hartford Courant	WPLR
Inner City Newspaper	WRYM - 840 New Britain
M New Haven Elm City	WTIC (61)
Meriden Rec Journal	WTNH (8)
Milford Mirror	WVIT(30)
New Haven Register	

- **Meeting Notices** – Direct mailings for the Transportation Committee, Transportation Technical Committee, and Council provide interested persons meeting agendas and relevant background materials. Non-governmental parties are added to the mailing lists upon request.
- **Mailing List** – Any member of the public requesting to be placed on the mailing list will receive a basic agenda for each of the above meetings. Upon request, they will receive detailed agendas and all related materials.
- **Special Needs** – All meeting announcements suggest that closed audio loops and / or a sign language interpreter will be available upon request. SCRCOG requests two weeks notice to secure a closed audio loop. SCRCOG requests two weeks notice to secure a sign language interpreter, via the Connecticut Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired.

Foreign language translation currently is not provided at meetings. However, SCRCOG will make efforts to translate transportation planning-related information in other relevant languages.



Bethany - Branford - East Haven - Guilford - Hamden - Madison - Meriden - Milford
New Haven - North Branford - North Haven - Orange - Wallingford - West Haven - Woodbridge

Public Participation Guidelines

For

Transportation Planning

South Central Regional Council of Governments
127 Washington Avenue – 4th Floor West
North Haven, CT 06473-1715

October 2008

How can YOU get information?

- Log on to the SCRCOG website at www.scrkog.org and view the meeting agendas, publications, and quarterly newsletter.
- Contact the SCRCOG offices by phone at 203-234-7555.
- Sign up to be on the mailing list.

How can YOU participate?

- Send your comments in writing to SCRCOG, 127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West, North Haven, CT 06473.
- Comment by telephone at 203-234-7555 or fax at 203-234-9850.
- Offer input / discussion at SCRCOG committee meetings.
- Share your views with your mayor / first selectperson.