



2017 CONNECT Congress Resolutions

Resolution 17-01

WHEREAS the CONNECT Executive Committee recommends a change of the CONNECT by-laws to eliminate the second vice chair officer position, and to update language to more accurately reflect the current roles of each officer position; and

WHEREAS revised by-laws were distributed to the full Executive Committee for review and comment two weeks in advance of this legislative session.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Congress acts on the recommendation of the Executive Committee to accept the revised bylaws, thereby altering the composition of the Officers slate and updating the bylaw language to more accurately reflect officer roles.

Resolution 17-02

To hear and act on the report of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee recommends the Congress to elect the following officers:

To elect as chair for a term of one year.

Marita Garrett, Vice President of Council, Borough of Wilkinsburg.

To elect as vice chair for a term of one year.

JR Henry, Mayor, Borough of West View.

To re-elect as secretary/treasurer for a term of one year.

Mary Ellen Ramage, Manager, Borough of Etna.

To appoint as immediate past chair for a term of one year.

Mark Sampogna, President of Council, Borough of Green Tree.

To re-elect as the Allegheny County Representative for a term of one year.

Rich Fitzgerald, County Executive, Allegheny County.

To elect as the Representative of the Mayor's Office of the City of Pittsburgh for a term of one year.

William Peduto, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh.

To elect as the Manager Representative for a term of one year.

Steve Beuter, Manager, Borough of Carnegie.

Resolution 17-03

Whereas the City of Clairton has requested membership in CONNECT; and

Whereas the City of Clairton met the criteria set in the "Policy on inviting new municipalities to join the Congress of Neighboring Communities" that was accepted by the CONNECT Executive Committee in February of 2015.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Clairton is accepted as a member municipality by the Congress of Neighboring Communities.

Resolution 17-04

WHEREAS CONNECT held a Strategy Session on January 18th of 2017 with its membership that resulted in the defining of four priority areas of focus for the organization for 2017; and

WHEREAS these priority areas were accepted by the CONNECT membership at the February 16th Executive Committee meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to:

- Examining organizational and funding options to determine a strong, sustainable model for the organization;
- Increasing efforts to engage its member municipalities;
- Working to raise the profile of the organization through media and public relations efforts; and,
- Continuing to push forward an aggressive policy agenda on behalf of the municipalities that comprise the urban core, with particular focus on our work around the coordination of construction and paving with utility companies.

Resolution 17-05

WHEREAS the responsible management of our regional sewer system has been CONNECT's top priority since our inception in 2009; and

WHEREAS CONNECT has been an active partner in a variety of efforts to improve the management and governance of our regional sewage and storm water collection system to ensure the affordable, comprehensive, and cost effective responses to regulatory municipal consent orders; and

WHEREAS the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) has been a reliable and responsive partner to CONNECT and our member municipalities throughout the process of our efforts; and

WHEREAS in 2016, ALCOSAN launched the Green Revitalization of our Waterways (GROW) program to provide financial assistance to municipalities to implement projects that remove excess water from sewers and help reduce sewer overflows into rivers and streams; and

WHEREAS in February of 2017, the GROW program provided \$9 million for 32 projects in 18 municipalities (of which, \$7,542,921 went to 28 projects in 14 CONNECT municipalities) that are projected to reduce wet weather overflows into the region's rivers and streams by an estimated 70 million gallons a year; and

WHEREAS ALCOSAN plans to continue to provide support to municipal projects through the GROW program with future rounds of funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses ALCOSAN's GROW program and commends the Authority for their continued commitment and support of their customer municipalities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to assisting in the promotion of the GROW program and encourages its expansion in future funding cycles.

Resolution 17-06

WHEREAS since 2011 CONNECT has supported the development of Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) that would provide economic benefit to municipalities; and

WHEREAS at CONNECT's 2016 Congress CONNECT passed resolution 16-05 that endorsed the TOD Guidelines put forth by the Port Authority of Allegheny County and committed to working with the Port Authority when appropriate to implement the standards outlined in the TOD Guidelines; and

WHEREAS 11 of the 13 municipalities identified in the Port Authority's TOD Guidelines as potential locations for TOD that would foster economic and community development are located in CONNECT; and

WHEREAS CONNECT's membership has indicated a strong interest in furthering the work that the Port Authority has begun by committing to work collaboratively to engage in the process of developing effective TOD.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to furthering development around transit in member municipalities by working collaboratively with the Port Authority, and other appropriate stakeholders, to identify funding sources that will allow municipalities to increase their capacity to address this opportunity and prioritize and implement this type of development.

Resolution 17-07

WHEREAS CONNECT has identified coordination with utility companies around construction and paving as one of our organizations top four priorities in the coming year; and

WHEREAS to date CONNECT has held two Utilities Summits and four joint meetings that have generated increased interest and attendance at each meeting; and

WHEREAS in 2016, CONNECT passed resolution 16-07 committing to serve as the convener and to bring municipalities, the City of Pittsburgh, utility companies, and the County together to engage in a process to select a data platform wherein construction and paving plans could be shared and coordinated; and

WHEREAS PA One Call has joined as a partner to CONNECT's efforts and is developing a common data platform through JMT Technologies that meets the criteria of a desired platform that was outlined by CONNECT and the utility companies in 2016.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses "Coordinate PA" as the common data platform for infrastructure planning.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to serving as a collaborative partner to PA One Call as "Coordinate PA" is introduced to member municipalities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT will continue to facilitate interactions and discussion between utility companies and member municipalities; hosting regular meetings, providing updated contact information, and encouraging coordination and collaboration between parties.

Resolution 17-08

WHEREAS Allegheny County has experienced a dramatic increase in deaths and overdoses from the abuse of opioids since 2008; and

WHEREAS every CONNECT member municipality has been affected by this epidemic; and

WHEREAS CONNECT's membership identified the opioid epidemic as a common issue of concern that is affecting their municipalities and their residents; and

WHEREAS CONNECT then established a working group that partnered with the Allegheny County Health Department, the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Center for Emergency Medicine, the Allegheny County EMS Council, and others to assess the scale of impact on member communities; and

WHEREAS CONNECT is committed to identifying collaborative solutions to issues of concern that are common to its membership.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to working collaboratively with the above mentioned partners to determine an effective role for local governments in the fight against the opioid epidemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to sharing any significant policy solutions and successful outcomes with our partners at the local Councils of Governments (COGs) and with governments outside of CONNECT, understanding that this is an epidemic that is affecting municipalities well beyond CONNECT's borders.

Resolution 17-09

WHEREAS the CONNECT Community Paramedic Program (CCPP) operated by UPMC's Center for Emergency Medicine has been providing in-home care to at-risk patients throughout Allegheny County since its launch in 2013; and

WHEREAS to date the CCPP has received more than 1,500 referrals from more than 25 sources and served more than 300 patients; and

WHEREAS the CCPP has demonstrated its financial responsibility by its ability to continue providing services well beyond the original two-year grant program on a no-cost extension and is working towards a self-sustainable funding model; and

WHEREAS the Allegheny County Health Department has identified the CONNECT CCPP as a potential model that could work with an at-risk population to help battle the opioid epidemic.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will continue to serve as an organizational partner with the CONNECT Community Paramedic Program and will identify new funding streams that will enable CCPP to continue to operate and to expand to serve more patients throughout and potentially beyond Allegheny County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses the current centralized CCPP model for Allegheny County, and discourages the creation of multiple regional community paramedic programs, as a centralized model will be able to provide more consistent, high quality service to patients throughout the County in cooperation with regional EMS agencies.