

## Resolutions for Third CONNECT Congress (June 17, 2011)

### Resolution 11-01

BE IT RESOLVED that the Nomination Committee recommends the following structure regarding Officer positions:

- 1- A new Ex-Officio Officer position is to be created and filled by the mayor of the City of Pittsburgh or the Chair of the Committee of Intergovernmental Affairs. This position will be a non-voting position when a representative from the City of Pittsburgh is serving as another officer.
- 2- Elected officials may be nominated and serve in positions of Chair, First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer and appointed officials may be nominated and serve in the Secretary/Treasurer position.

### Resolution 11-02

The Nominating Committee recommends the Congress elect the following officers:

#### *Resolution 11-02A*

To elect as chair for a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee recommends Patricia Schaefer.

#### *Resolution 11-02B*

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

The Nominating Committee recommends Daniel DeMarco.

#### *Resolution 11-02C*

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

The Nominating Committee recommends Kathy Coder.

#### *Resolution 11-02D*

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

The Nominating Committee recommends Marcia Taylor.

#### *Resolution 11-02E*

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

The Nominating Committee recommends Mayor Luke Ravenstahl.

### Resolution 11-03

WHEREAS CONNECT received funding from 3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW) for a Multijurisdictional Sewer Connection Management Study in December 2010 that reviewed and evaluated alternative models for managing and financing improvements to the multijurisdictional (or trunk) sewers located in 18 CONNECT municipalities that have a direct flow connect with the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA); and

WHEREAS upon receipt of the funding, CONNECT's water/sewer policy working group developed a request for proposals, solicited responses and selected Eckert Seamans to implement the study; and

WHEREAS Eckert Seamans has issued the report "CONNECT Multijurisdictional Sewer Connection Management Study" that identifies the following options for CONNECT's consideration:

- Use of existing municipal authorities or the creation of new, joint municipal authority to manage, operate and finance one or more trunk sewers.

- Formation of Environmental Improvement Compacts pursuant to state law.
- Continued use of intergovernmental cooperation agreements among municipalities sharing a particular trunk sewer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT:

- Accepts the report issued by Eckert Seamans.
- Authorizes the water/sewer policy working group to review the options and make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding implementation of one or a combination of options.

#### **Resolution 11-04**

A Resolution to amend Resolution 10-04.

BE IT RESOLVED that sections two and three of resolution 10-04 are hereby repealed and replaced with the following:

Policy working groups may be created by the Executive Committee. Each working group will appoint a chair and be comprised of CONNECT representatives who volunteer to serve as a member of the working group.

*Resolution 10-04 originally read:*

*BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT shall have three standing committees:*

- 1) An Executive Committee which shall provide overall direction for the operations of the organization. Additionally, it may act on behalf of the Congress between sessions. In all meetings, a simple majority of members present shall constitute a quorum.*
- 2) A Policy Committee which shall deal with issues relating to the 36 municipalities as a core community representing 680,000 residents. It will focus on policy-level discussions; identifying issues of collective concern; developing a unified voice for the urban core; and educating residents on relevant policy issues. The committee will serve as a recommending body to the Executive Committee.*
- 3) An Operations Committee which shall focus on intergovernmental cooperation among member communities. It will help to determine how CONNECT might facilitate and expedite shared services between the City and its contiguous communities; between subregions within CONNECT; and with CONNECT and existing intergovernmental organizations, such as Councils of Governments (COGS). The committee will serve as a recommending body to the Executive Committee.*

#### **Resolution 11-05**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of CONNECT will gather and evaluate the following criteria before entering into a formal partnership or agreement with another organization:

- Partnering organization's mission statement aligns with the mission of CONNECT in a way that collaboration will be beneficial to both parties;
- Partnering organization is a nonpartisan entity;
- Opportunities provided by partnership will be available to CONNECT communities;
- The work of the partnering organization either aligns with the mission of CONNECT or addresses the issues that are being examined by CONNECT's policy working groups;

- Joint funding opportunities with a partnering organization will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and entered into if advantageous for both parties;
- Potential conflicts of interest will be explored and publicly disclosed prior to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding;
- Both parties will be informed of each organization's current affiliation(s) and any future agreements reached with outside parties.

**Resolution 11-06**

A Resolution to amend Resolution 09-02

WHEREAS communities that do not share a common border with the City of Pittsburgh have contacted CONNECT to inquire about membership in CONNECT; and

WHEREAS in Resolution 09-02, membership in CONNECT was established to consist of the city of Pittsburgh and those municipalities that share a common border with the city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that municipalities that share a border with a CONNECT community and have expressed interest in becoming members of CONNECT shall be extended membership by the Executive Committee once their respective councils have unanimously passed a resolution requesting membership.

*Resolution 09-02 originally read:*

*Resolved that membership in the Congress shall consist of the city of Pittsburgh and those municipalities that share a common border with the city.*

**Resolution 11-07**

WHEREAS CONNECT members recognize the need for an ongoing, sustainable funding source for CONNECT operations; and

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities have received value through their affiliation and membership in CONNECT; and

WHEREAS since CONNECT's inception in 2008, a consortium of foundations have provided \$295,000 to support the work of the 36 municipalities; and

WHEREAS the same consortium of foundations have already pledged an additional \$180,000 (as of June 17, 2011) over the next three years to be matched by funds from other sources including federal, state and nonprofit grants, additional foundations and member municipalities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT members agree to accept the challenge grant and charge the Executive Committee with developing a plan to raise necessary funds over the three years (beginning with the next municipal budget cycle) in a fair and equitable manner.

**Resolution 11-08**

WHEREAS Resolution 10-10 empowered the executive committee to work with the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers in CONNECT, the municipalities, Allegheny County and the non-profit community, to identify adequate revenues and minimum standards for EMS providers in CONNECT; and

WHEREAS CONNECT established an EMS policy working group that is co-chaired by City Controller Lamb and Ross Commissioner DeMarco who have initiated discussions with the nonprofit community and Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS the City Controller has issued a one year report card updating the report “Critical Condition: The EMS Crisis in Pittsburgh and its Neighboring Communities” identifying the growing financial crisis that is facing EMS providers serving CONNECT municipalities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT:

- Recognize the financial burden these providers face and will continue to provide financial and in-kind support to their EMS providers.
- Authorizes Controller Lamb and Commissioner DeMarco to negotiate with the potential funders on behalf of CONNECT to establish the funding pool for EMS providers operating in CONNECT.

#### **Resolution 11-09**

WHEREAS Pennsylvania House Bill 160 (HB160) is an Act requiring insurers that approve claims for emergency services to directly reimburse organizations that provide such services; and

WHEREAS HB160 was referred to the Committee on Insurance on January 30, 2009 where it remains as of June 17, 2011; and

WHEREAS CONNECT has been working with EMS providers to identify adequate revenues for EMS providers in CONNECT; and

WHEREAS the passage of this bill would provide reimbursement fees directly to the EMS provider rather than the insured party thereby eliminating the possibility that the EMS provider will not receive the full reimbursement fee.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses this legislation and requests that members of the Pennsylvania House Insurance Committee vote to send the bill to the House of Representatives for consideration.

#### **Resolution 11-10**

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities believe that greater efficiency and effectiveness in the execution and implementation of intergovernmental agreements could be achieved between CONNECT municipalities by memorializing the terms of oral agreements between communities (handshake agreements) into written intergovernmental agreements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will develop a framework by which common handshake agreements could be transformed into written intergovernmental agreements, and said framework agreements may be utilized by CONNECT communities to draft written intergovernmental agreements.

#### **Resolution 11-11**

WHEREAS CONNECT passed Resolution 10-08, which stated that “CONNECT municipalities need to be able to develop, execute and implement agreements between its members in an expeditious manner;” and

WHEREAS a CONNECT Solicitor Working Group has advised that greater efficiency and effectiveness in the execution and implementation of intergovernmental agreements could be achieved by utilizing a standard framework for written intergovernmental agreements between CONNECT municipalities where possible; and

WHEREAS the sharing of public works equipment has been identified as a substantive area where CONNECT municipalities would benefit from a common framework for intergovernmental agreements.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Solicitor Working Group will develop a framework written agreement for sharing of public works equipment between CONNECT municipalities, and said framework agreement will then be available for CONNECT municipalities to draft written intergovernmental agreements.

**Resolution 11-12**

WHEREAS the members of CONNECT recognize that Alternative Dispute Resolution has been proven to be effective in managing conflict and disagreements between members of organizations in a manner that facilitates post-resolution cooperation; and

WHEREAS CONNECT acknowledges that cooperative working relationships between its members is vital to the founding principles and purpose of CONNECT; and

WHEREAS the Local Government Academy has a program called *Intergovernmental Consensus and Conflict Resolution* that can help local governments create flexible and lasting intergovernmental agreements; and

WHEREAS the Local Government Academy will offer a cooperative project, unique to CONNECT and its member municipalities and will schedule any mediations or collaborative sessions between CONNECT municipalities on an expedited schedule.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT member municipalities may utilize the Local Government Academy's *Intergovernmental Consensus and Conflict Resolution Program* as a means to provide low or no-cost conflict resolution services to any CONNECT community, regardless of ability to pay.

**Resolution 11-13**

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities have identified implementing energy efficient programs in their communities as a priority; and

WHEREAS CONNECT has committed to researching the option of replacing current street lighting with energy efficient lights; and

WHEREAS Duquesne Light is the electric distribution company of all 36 CONNECT municipalities and CONNECT is interested in working with Duquesne Light to pilot energy efficient lighting technologies in the municipalities; and

WHEREAS Duquesne Light is establishing an advisory board to garner input on the adoption of energy efficient technologies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to working collaboratively with Duquesne Light to implement energy saving programs in CONNECT communities; to appoint members to the new advisory board; to research energy efficient lighting technologies and street lighting replacement options; and to work collaboratively to discover areas where cooperation would be mutually beneficial for Duquesne Light and the CONNECT municipalities.

**Resolution 11-14**

WHEREAS CONNECT passed Resolution 10-16 which recommended CONNECT retain a firm to perform a telecommunications and utility audit of the CONNECT municipalities beginning August 2010; and

WHEREAS significant savings have been realized as detailed in a report issued to each participating municipality.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT encourages additional member municipalities to participate in the telecommunications and utility audit.

**Resolution 11-15**

WHEREAS CONNECT passed Resolution 10-16 which recommended CONNECT municipalities perform a telecommunications and utility audit beginning August 2010; and

WHEREAS participating CONNECT municipalities were able to save money by participating in the audit; and

WHEREAS the Energy/Green Initiatives policy working group recommends that CONNECT retain the services of a firm to perform an energy usage audit that could provide the municipalities additional cost savings that have not been examined in the prior audit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will develop a request for proposal, solicit proposals, establish an ad-hoc committee appointed by the Executive Committee to perform due diligence, and select a firm to perform an energy usage audit for CONNECT municipalities that choose to participate.

**Resolution 11-16**

WHEREAS green infrastructure is a combination of management approaches and technologies that utilize and enhance the natural hydrologic cycle; and

WHEREAS these technologies include (but are not limited to) rain gardens, green roofs, porous pavement, infiltration planters, trees and tree boxes; and

WHEREAS these technologies can be used to prevent rainwater from entering the sewer systems thereby reducing the number of overflow events.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT is committed to implementing green infrastructure projects when possible and will work with partners to develop a database of funding opportunities for green infrastructure projects that support the implementation of these technologies in member municipalities.

**Resolution 11-17**

WHEREAS CONNECT represents nearly 90% of all Port Authority Transit (PAT) system usage, more than 75% of PAT route miles, and an estimated three quarters of the county's transit dependent population; and

WHEREAS an estimated 40-50% of employees in downtown Pittsburgh, the most significant employment and economic force in CONNECT, use transit as their primary mode of getting to work; and

WHEREAS the vitality of our communities' economies, infrastructure and quality of life depends on reliable public transit to move citizens in convenient, affordable and efficient ways; and

WHEREAS PAT transit cuts implemented March 27, 2011 represent a discouraging trend in Port Authority's provision of services to CONNECT communities; and

WHEREAS current state funding formulas are written such that Port Authority's responsible budgetary decisions results in further losses of state funding.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 36 municipalities of CONNECT call upon the state legislature to equalize the state funding formulas such that the Port Authority is not penalized for efficient and prudent fiscal actions.

**Resolution 11-18**

WHEREAS Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects increase transit ridership and reduce automobile congestion, providing value for both the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS CONNECT communities view TOD as an optimal way to address residential and business redevelopment by capitalizing on an existing local asset; and

WHEREAS a need exists to link CONNECT communities and developers who are mutually interested in pursuing TOD projects; and

WHEREAS some CONNECT communities have already successfully planned, financed and completed TOD projects in their municipalities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to working multi-municipally and with strategic partners to develop the following initiatives:

- TOD funding education program which will provide CONNECT communities a starting point for TOD funding; and
- A community-developer networking initiative to facilitate matching TOD demand with private developer supply; and
- Advocacy program to solicit funding support at the state level.

**Resolution 11-19**

WHEREAS the CONNECT municipalities have valuable transportation assets that are intrinsic to our economic vitality; and

WHEREAS aging transportation infrastructure and growing transportation needs require new investment in roadways; and

WHEREAS the ideal of smart transportation requires that transportation planning be integrated with financial, community, land use, and environmental needs; and

WHEREAS new resources have been created, such as the Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI), which provide funding to transportation redevelopment projects embodying the principles of smart transportation; and

WHEREAS these new resources still address only a small fraction of the smart transportation funding need.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will:

- Create a mechanism wherein information about smart transportation funding programs will be shared among the CONNECT communities;
- Work with CONNECT communities and PennDOT to develop projects in CONNECT that can take advantage of smart transportation funds;
- Call upon PennDOT to increase funding awards for municipal transportation redevelopment projects which incorporate the principles of smart transportation; and

- Work with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) and local organizations to design or discover new resources to support projects which incorporate the principles of smart transportation in CONNECT communities.

#### **Resolution 11-20**

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities face significant incidences of residential single family houses and multi-unit apartment buildings that are blighted, abandoned or vacant; and

WHEREAS blighted, abandoned and vacant buildings affect the health, safety, and welfare of a community; and

WHEREAS blighted, abandoned and vacant buildings are an impediment to sustainable development, perpetuate crime, create liability to municipalities and danger to adjacent homeowners, and have adverse impact on quality of life; and

WHEREAS CONNECT municipal officials are challenged because of limited resources and uncooperative property owners to address blighted, abandoned, and vacant properties in their communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will work to address this important community economic development issue on a multi-municipal level by working with local community development organizations, relevant municipal entities, and Allegheny County to develop a uniform method of data collection and storage to facilitate the identification of blighted and abandoned property. This data will help further efforts to mitigate blight through land banking, code enforcement, and vacant property registration with the goal of redevelopment, rehabilitation, and long-term neighborhood stability in CONNECT.

#### **Resolution 11-21**

WHEREAS students from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs prepared a report and tool to create and implement a risk indicator for the potential of blight occurring in CONNECT municipalities; and

WHEREAS information in this report was developed using publicly available data and data available through the Pittsburgh Neighborhood Community Information System (PNCIS); and

WHEREAS the blight risk indicator creates a standard metric that is applicable to all CONNECT municipalities despite their varying degrees of blight, abandonment and vacancy; and

WHEREAS the report outlines the limitations of consistent collection, reporting and storage of information necessary to implement the risk indicator and recommendations across all CONNECT communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT members empower the blighted/abandoned property policy working group to assess and accept the report, consider its recommendations, and propose methods of implementation on a multi-municipal level across CONNECT.

#### **Resolution 11-22**

WHEREAS the members of CONNECT recognize the harmful impact of blighted and abandoned property on municipalities and communities; and

WHEREAS Pennsylvania Act 90 of 2010, the Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Act, which provides municipalities throughout the Commonwealth with new tools to combat blight and abandonment issues became effective on April 25, 2011.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT recognizes the enactment of Act 90 and commits to exploring ways that member municipalities might utilize the enhanced revitalization tools of Act 90.

**Resolution 11-23**

WHEREAS CONNECT has successfully brought together the local government of the urban core to work together to address many issues confronting our urban core; and

WHEREAS economic development is a function of local government and is a very important tool for creating thriving communities; and

WHEREAS CONNECT communities have a variety of economic development entities operating in member communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will bring together all of the community and economic development entities operating in CONNECT to determine if and how they can work together to benefit the urban core.

**Resolution 11-24**

WHEREAS economic development tools, regulations, rules and procedures utilized by CONNECT members vary from municipality to municipality; and

WHEREAS the variety of economic development tools, regulations, rules and procedures utilized by CONNECT members creates a complicated path to project implementation for developers interested in investing in economic development projects in CONNECT municipalities; and

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities want to encourage development in CONNECT.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will develop a framework for economic growth in the CONNECT municipalities.

**Resolution 11-25**

WHEREAS CONNECT members must adhere to procurement requirements and abide by request for proposal (RFP) procedures set forth in Pennsylvania law; and

WHEREAS CONNECT members strive to support and promote locally-owned businesses to ensure the economic health of our region.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT municipalities agree to procure locally-sourced goods and services whenever possible in a manner consistent with applicable federal, state, and local law.

**NOTE:**

1. *Member*– A member is a municipality.
2. *Representative* – A representative is an individual duly appointed by a member.
3. *Participant* – A participant represents an organization that has been invited to participate in CONNECT, and may or may not have voting privileges.