

Resolutions for Second Congress (June 18, 2010)

Resolution 10-01

The Congress shall elect the following officers for one additional year, their terms concluding at the commencement of the 2011 Congress.

Resolution 10-1A

To elect a chair for a term of one year.

The executive committee recommends Mayor Luke Ravenstahl.

Resolution 10-01B

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

The executive committee recommends Patricia Schaefer.

Resolution 10-01C

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

The executive committee recommends Daniel DeMarco.

Resolution 10-01D

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

The executive committee recommends Marcia Taylor.

Resolution 10-02

A Resolution to amend Resolution 09-03.

BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT shall convene as a full congress once per calendar year.

Resolution 09-03 originally read:

Resolved that CONNECT shall convene as a full congress twice each calendar year.

Resolution 10-03

A Resolution to amend Resolution 09-07.

BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT shall have five officers: a chair, an immediate past chair, a first vice chair, a second vice chair, and a secretary/treasurer. The officers shall be elected annually from the membership of the Congress. A nominating committee will be established three months prior to the Congress for the purpose of developing a slate of nominees. The nominating committee will be comprised of three members of the Executive Committee.

Resolution 09-07 originally read:

Resolved that CONNECT shall have five officers, including a chair, an immediate past chair, a first vice chair, a second vice chair, and a secretary/treasurer. All officers will serve on the Executive Committee, as further defined in Resolutions 09-06 and 09-07.

The chair, first vice chair, second vice chair and secretary/treasurer shall be elected annually from the membership of the Congress. In the second year and each following year, a rotation will apply to the chairmanship such that the vice chair will become chair and the second vice chair will become vice chair.

Resolution 10-04

A Resolution to amend Resolution 09-05.

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 09-05 originally read:

Resolved that CONNECT shall initially have three standing committees, subject to future provisions of the bylaws:

- 1) *The Executive Committee shall serve as a steering group that provides overall direction for the operations of the organization. This committee will be initially charged with writing an official set of by-laws for CONNECT. Additionally, it is empowered to act on behalf of the Congress between sessions. In all meetings, a simple majority of members present shall constitute a quorum.*
- 2) *The Policy Committee shall deal with broad issues relating to the 36 municipalities as a core community representing 680,000 residents. This group will focus on providing an arena for policy-level discussion; identifying issues of collective concern; developing a unified voice for the urban core; and educating residents on relevant policy issues.*
- 3) *The Operations Committee shall examine the existing systems of intergovernmental cooperation among member communities to determine how CONNECT might facilitate and expedite shared services between the City and contiguous communities; between subregions within CONNECT; and with CONNECT and existing intergovernmental organizations, such as councils of governments.*

Resolution 10-05

A Resolution to amend Resolution 09-06.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee will be comprised of one representative from each CONNECT municipality and a representative of Allegheny County government (appointed by the County Executive) plus the following non-voting members:

1. A representative of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development;
2. A representative from Pittsburgh City Council;
3. A representative from the City Controller's office;
4. A representative of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC).

Each CONNECT member shall also hold one seat on either the Policy Committee or the Operations Committee for a term of two years, after which a community will serve on the opposite committee. The chair of each standing committee shall be elected annually by and from the membership of the committee. The city of Pittsburgh shall have a seat on both the Policy and Operations committee.

The Policy and Operations committees may include a representative from each of the COGs whose members are CONNECT member municipalities. In addition, the Policy and Operations standing committees may add non-voting ex-officio representatives deemed appropriate in facilitating committee business.

Should the designated representative of a member municipality need to miss a meeting of the Executive or standing committees, he or she may send one of the other two representatives from that member municipality to the meeting in their stead.

Resolution 10-06

WHEREAS CONNECT expeditors were established to provide a point person for contact regarding inter-municipal relations; and

WHEREAS the expeditors have helped to identify policy issues relevant to the CONNECT municipalities; and

WHEREAS the expeditors have become a source and conduit of information both internally and externally to the organization.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CONNECT expeditors will serve as the first point of contact for the CONNECT member municipalities by:

1. Identifying issues and opportunities for members of CONNECT to address;
2. Distributing CONNECT information to their municipalities,
3. Assisting in gathering municipal information to help inform the work of CONNECT.

Resolution 10-07

WHEREAS 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 each member has appointed an expeditor to manage relationships with each other.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the expeditors will make a full faith effort to communicate their concerns to the expeditors of all relevant community members.

Resolution 10-08

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities need to be able to develop, execute and implement agreements between its members in an expeditious manner.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT members will advise their legal and administrative departments to give priority to processing agreements between CONNECT municipalities to the maximum extent possible.

Resolution 10-09

WHEREAS CONNECT is committed to working with the local Councils of Government (COGs) in order to complement the work of these existing institutions; and

WHEREAS CONNECT encourages cooperation with the COGs and views the system of COG-community relationships as a resource and will emphasize ways to leverage that system for communication and planning whenever possible; and

WHEREAS CONNECT serves as a unique resource for local COGs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT encourages each COG to appoint a member of their body to attend the Policy and Operations Committee meetings and participate in an advisory capacity in the annual Congress.

Resolution 10-10

WHEREAS Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is an essential service provided in all 36 CONNECT communities; and

WHEREAS there are 17 EMS providers operating in CONNECT; and

WHEREAS 67% of CONNECT municipalities representing 86.7% of the population of CONNECT have in the past or are currently providing in-kind support to their EMS providers; and

WHEREAS the City Controller has issued the report “Critical Condition: The EMS Crisis in Pittsburgh and its Neighboring Communities” identifying:

- The short-term and long-term financial crisis for EMS providers in Pittsburgh and its neighboring communities
- The widely divergent levels of staffing, training and service provided by EMS providers in the 36 CONNECT communities
- The need for new partnerships between EMS providers, the municipalities, Allegheny County and our non-profit community to solve this crisis; and

WHEREAS all of the CONNECT EMS providers are in agreement that additional dedicated revenues are needed in order to sustain their organizations and that rigorous minimum standards supported by proper training, education and staffing levels would help to improve service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT:

- Accepts the report of the City Controller identifying the urgency of finding additional revenues and the need to establish minimum standards for EMS providers;
- Will charge the Executive Committee with initiating discussions with the EMS Council of Allegheny County;
- Will charge the Executive Committee with initiating discussions with the nonprofit community and Allegheny County;
- Will work with the EMS providers, the municipalities, Allegheny County and the non-profit community, will identify adequate revenues and minimum standards for EMS providers.

Resolution 10- 11

WHEREAS the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) Development Plan is based on investing in brownfields and the transit corridors that cover those areas; and

WHEREAS sustainable communities require coordination of transit corridors; and

WHEREAS transit corridors span a number of municipalities; and

WHEREAS transit corridors need to be developed comprehensively by all municipalities in the corridor; and

WHEREAS a number of multi-municipal efforts are currently being undertaken including, but not limited to Routes 51, 60, 376, 380, 65, 19, 79, 8, 50, 121, 88, 400, 885, 837.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT:

- Encourages its members to participate fully in all appropriate corridor planning efforts;
- Encourages municipal and county governments not in CONNECT but part of the transportation corridor to join CONNECT members in corridor planning;
- Calls on the SPC, the state of Pennsylvania and other appropriate funders to place a high priority on funding transit corridor planning efforts within CONNECT municipalities.

Resolution 10- 12

WHEREAS CONNECT represents 86% of all Port Authority Transit (PAT) system usage, 74% of PAT route miles, and nearly three quarters of the county's transit dependent population; and

WHEREAS 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 the loss of potential revenues through the tolling of I-80 compounds the annual structural deficit facing the Port Authority; and

WHEREAS closing the annual deficit of the Port Authority without new revenues is likely to result in severe service cutbacks that will be detrimental to our residents and employers; and

WHEREAS the Port Authority has achieved \$50 million in savings over the past two years through internal reform actions; and

WHEREAS no other community in Pennsylvania has been as negatively impacted by transit funding as Allegheny County under Act 44.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 36 municipalities of CONNECT call upon the state legislature to provide a long-term plan for sufficient funding to ensure that public transit remains a viable public service to our citizens and a critical component of our area's transportation infrastructure.

Resolution 10-13

WHEREAS the members of CONNECT continue to recognize the importance of clean water to public health, recreation, economic development and the quality of life in our region; and

WHEREAS CONNECT believes that inter-municipal partnerships will create cost-effective solutions to regional watershed problems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to establishing a dialogue with its member municipalities and working with Three Rivers Wet Weather to develop a regional approach to address wet weather issues.

Resolution 10-14

WHEREAS CONNECT continues to commit to the principal of eliminating sewage overflows by rehabilitating the sewage collection and conveyance system connected through its member municipalities; and

WHEREAS CONNECT calls on ALCOSAN to demonstrate to CONNECT that ALCOSAN is working to implement green initiatives to create alternatives to source reduction before designing and constructing grey infrastructure. "Grey infrastructure" refers to new brick and mortar facilities built to store or treat flows in wet weather; and

WHEREAS CONNECT believes that where new "grey" facilities are required, in the interest of environmental justice, they should be owned by a regional entity so that the costs and benefits of construction and operation are fairly shared.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will continue to work inter-municipally and with ALCOSAN to implement green initiatives which will result in money saved and less infrastructure to manage, and will help rehabilitate the sewage collection system.

Resolution 10-15

WHEREAS CONNECT members are very interested in identifying and implementing energy efficient and sustainable practices in their municipalities; and

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Act 129 of 2008 declared that the health, safety and prosperity of Pennsylvanians is dependent on have having adequate, reliable, affordable and environmentally sustainable electric service and that the public interest will be served by the adoption of energy efficient and conservation measures and by expanding the use of alternative energy; and

WHEREAS CONNECT recognizes that the implementation of energy efficient street lighting technology will provide both an environmental and cost-savings benefit to the CONNECT communities; and

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities have common and shared relationships with service providers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will create a framework for retrofitting and upgrading street lighting in the member municipalities.

Resolution 10-16

WHEREAS CONNECT, as a union of 36 municipalities has considerable economic assets; and

WHEREAS many of the CONNECT municipalities do not have the ability to hire an energy efficiency consultant because the size of their community is not cost-effective for a for-profit consultant; and

WHEREAS at the same time, Allegheny County is offering CONNECT municipalities' funds to conduct an audit of their facilities with the understanding that each municipality will implement an energy-related retrofit based on the county-wide facility audit; and

WHEREAS the ad hoc committee appointed by the Executive Committee recommends that CONNECT retain the services of an energy auditor to perform a CONNECT-wide audit of phone, electricity and gas usage for cost-saving purposes; and

WHEREAS an ad hoc committee appointed by the Executive Committee has performed due diligence by soliciting requests for proposals from energy auditors.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in an effort to provide additional cost-savings that are not addressed in the County audit, the ad hoc committee recommends that CONNECT retain the services of Eric Ryan Corporation to perform the energy audit beginning in August 2010 for CONNECT members who chose to participate.

Resolution 10-17

WHEREAS Edgewood Borough, Millvale Borough, city of Pittsburgh and Wilkinsburg Borough took part in a recent Western PA Electricity Aggregation program (reverse energy auction) hosted by the city; and

WHEREAS the participating communities saved the following amounts annually:

- Edgewood \$1,088 (contract volume 262,208kWh, contract savings \$3,173)
- Millvale \$4,901 (contract volume 1,181,332KWh, contract savings \$14,294)
- City of Pittsburgh \$168,386 (contract volume 40,588,876, contract savings \$491,125)
- Wilkinsburg \$7,611 (contract volume 1,834,700kWh, contract savings \$22,200); and

WHEREAS this auction provided the participants an opportunity to work together to create savings for all involved in the process; and

WHEREAS CONNECT encourages the solicitors in each municipality to endorse and take part in energy auctions.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will provide joint bidding opportunities to its member municipalities in the area of energy savings.

Please 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.