

**Joseph Giuliatti**  
**Commissioner**  
**State of Connecticut Department of Transportation**

Joseph J. Giuliatti was appointed Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation in January 2019. A 46-year veteran of the public transportation industry and a native of Connecticut, “Joe” Giuliatti served as President of Metro-North Railroad from 2014 to 2017, and as Deputy Executive Director and then Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) from 1998 to 2014.

Giuliatti was tapped by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to serve as President of Metro-North and return it to a culture of safety, after a series of derailments and other mishaps. During his tenure at Metro-North, rail ridership reached an all-time record of 86.1 million, giving a significant boost to the economic health of the region the railroad serves.

**Amanda Kennedy**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments**

Amanda Kennedy, AICP, Assistant Director, Southeastern CT Council of Governments  
Amanda Kennedy directs strategic projects for the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), a regional agency in Norwich, Connecticut with 22 member municipalities. Amanda's work at SCCOG includes developing guidance on regional housing needs and building local capacity to address housing challenges, supporting local actions related to climate change/resiliency, and working with U.S. SUBASE New London on intermunicipal growth challenges. She joined SCCOG in 2015 after working as Connecticut Director for the Regional Plan Association in New York City and Stamford, CT. Amanda is a board member of Connecticut Main Street and the CT Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA), and has served as CCAPA's Government Relations Co-Chair for the last four years. She holds a B.A. from Yale University and a Masters in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy.

**David Kooris**  
**Deputy Commissioner**  
**State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development**

David Kooris joined the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) in March of 2018. He is responsible for orchestrating the place-based components of the state's economic development strategy including transit-oriented development, brownfields, capital projects, waterfront, and tourism. His focus is to coordinate public sector infrastructure investment to best prepare communities for private sector growth while enhancing environmental sustainability and quality of life for all.

Prior to joining DECD, Mr. Kooris was Director of Resilience for Connecticut's Department of Housing. There, he managed two federal grants totaling nearly \$65 million for coastal resilience planning across Fairfield and New Haven Counties and the design and construction of several pilot projects for green infrastructure, raised mobility corridors, distributed energy generation, and 21st century flood protection in the City of Bridgeport.

Before state service, Mr. Kooris was the Director of the Office of Planning and Economic Development and Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency for the City of Bridgeport. There, he oversaw ten departments in the creation of the city's revitalization strategy and its execution in tangible public and private investments. Mr. Kooris began his career at the Regional Plan Association where he held several positions, most notably Vice President and Connecticut Director. His work there focused on helping individuals, communities, and agencies better understand the link between social, economic, and environmental factors and better position the tri-state region and its neighborhoods for a sustainable future through coordinated land use and transportation planning.

As an independent consultant, Mr. Kooris has worked on high-speed rail-oriented development, sustainability, and urban revitalization projects throughout the Northeast corridor as well as in Canada, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Spain, South Korea, Taiwan, and Turkey. He received an Honors Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Geography from McGill University in Montreal, Canada and a Master's in City and Regional Planning and a Master Certificate in Urban Design from PennDesign at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

He lives in Stamford with his wife and two daughters.

**Mary Tomolonius**  
**Executive Director**  
**Connecticut Association for Community Transportation**

Mary Tomolonius has led CACT as Executive Director since 2010, where she works with a volunteer board to promote public transportation initiatives, including holding a well-attended annual Legislative Breakfast highlighting the status of public transportation in Connecticut. A resident of Canton since 1976, Mary is actively involved in the Canton community and served as Canton's First Selectman from 2001-2007. She currently serves as Vice-Chair of Canton's Board of Finance and is active with the Canton Education Foundation and Cherry Brook Garden Club. Mary's formal education includes a Bachelor of Science in Art Education from CCSU and attending the Women's Campaign School at Yale University.

**Jill Watson**  
**Manager of Special Grants & Projects**  
**Workforce Alliance**

Jill is the Manager of Special Grants and Projects for Workforce Alliance; South Central Connecticut's Workforce Development Board. She oversees multiple state and federal grants targeted to low-income and unemployed individuals that are focused on creating measurable impact in the areas of education and income stability.

Jill began her career in workforce development in 1989 as a provider of job training for adjudicated youth. Prior to her current position, Jill worked for nine years as the Regional Director of the South Central American Job Centers providing administrative leadership and oversight to four One Stop Career Centers and staff in the region.

Jill has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Gettysburg College and coursework from the University of Connecticut School of Social. Jill has co-chaired the Economic Security Workgroup of the Greater New Haven Continuum of Care as well as the Connecticut Nursing Collaborative-Action Coalition.