

Regional Firing Range & Training Facility Project Blueprint

Draft v19

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WINBOURNE™
CONSULTING, LLC

1621 N. Kent St. Suite 704

Arlington, VA 22209

(p) 703.584-53 50 • (f) 703.935.1147

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Change Log

Version 19

- New Firing Range Cost Estimates based on Wilton Firing Range Quotes.
- Added estimates for usage capacity for an indoor range.
- Updated Facility Inventory.
- New Firing Range Capacity Survey Statistics. With Map!
- Community Project Funding Requests Status Update.
- 17 Preliminary Letters of Support.
- New Draft Letter of Support Language.
- Additional context regarding municipal usage of firing ranges. Bridgewater, New Fairfield, and Danbury Context added.
- Approached by Private Investors. Their context provided.
- Concerns with Bridgeport resources included.
- Add the survey to the appendix
- Facility Sharing and Scheduling software concept

Version 18

- Added change log.
- Added Project Committee and current members.
- Identified Interested Communities.
- Added Project Schedule.
- Added additional firing range considerations.
- Added RPIP Grant Information.
- An additional Ridgefield location was added
- FAW Appendix Added.
- Added Project Considerations.

Executive Summary

Background Information

This report is a follow-up to the WestCOG Public Safety Project - *Feasibility Study for the Sharing/Consolidation of Selected Public Safety Facilities and/or Services*. The project included analysis for a Regional Firing Range and Training Facility. Refer to the June 22, 2020 Findings and Recommendations report for additional information.

There is a substantial business case for a regional firing range and the value it can provide local law enforcement. After the Findings and Recommendations report, WestCOG requested the project team assess firing range and training facility options and implementation plan options.

The project was initiated in October 2020 with working groups from seven towns: Bethel, Brookfield, Darien, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Weston, and Wilton. The Fairfield County Police Training Officers Association (FCPTOA) was also engaged to participate in the project. A survey was distributed to 36 departments to establish the needs and requests of each department along with basic specifications for a firing range/training facility. 19 departments responded to the survey.

Supporting Communities

Greenwich, Wilton, Ridgefield, Darien, Norwalk, Redding, Westport, Newtown, Brookfield, Stamford, New Canaan, Weston, Bethel.

Additional Support. Western CT State University, Bridgeport PD, FCPTOA, Stratford, Fairfield County communities.

Proportional costs.

Project Council

- Chief David Kullgren, Newtown Police
- Captain Bishop, Newtown Police
- Captain Nicholas Fowler, Ridgefield Police
- Captain Thomas Conlan, Wilton Police
- Wilton Firearms Personnel (Contact Pending)
- Staff Corporal Charles Carr, Westport Police

Project Schedule

The project schedule is presented below with comments on progress provided in *■ blue font*. Target deadlines are in **bold font**. Completed tasks are marked in *✓ green font* along with their respective completion date. Identified action steps are provided in *// red font*.

1. Project Management *✓ 3/24/2022*
 - a. This initiative needs to move from “all talk” to tangible progress.
 - *Following the 3/24/2022 meeting, communities are committed to acquiring a regional firing range. WestCOG and Winbourne are facilitating the process.*
 - *WestCOG reached out to contacts seeking any additional supporters or comments.*
 - // WestCOG will provide sample language for the letters of support.*
 - b. Assign a Regional Firing Range/Training Center Project Manager. The Project Manager will be the single point of contact for all stakeholders involved in the project and responsible for driving the initiative forward.
 - *Mike Towle at WestCOG is serving as the project manager and established a Project Council to assist provide technical guidance.*
 - // WestCOG will reach out confirming if any additional contacts intend to join the project council.*
2. Project Champions
 - a. Identify Town and Police Department leadership that will commit to championing the project. Project champions are required for a multitude of factors including engaging political and law enforcement leadership and demonstrating to stakeholders and project team members there is executive support for the project.
 - *Following the 3/24/2022 meeting Hon. Lynn Vanderslice of Wilton, Chief John Lynch of Wilton and Chief David Kullgren of Newtown were identified as champions.*
 - b. Provide project champions talking points and tasks to complete to promote the project and move it forward
3. Project governance structure and funding
 - a. Provide a formal briefing to stakeholders regarding realistic options for the governance structure and options for funding (e.g., State legislation, grants, WestCOG Foundation, etc.)
 - b. Leveraging the information regarding range requirements and costs in this report, provide a reasonable project scope and budget the WestCOG believes could be successful
4. Focus on the best opportunity

- a. Due to a variety of circumstances such as space requirements and availability; potential community opposition and geographic locations of WestCOG towns – there may be no perfect centrally located property for a single large facility. A more realistic solution may be multiple smaller sized indoor firing ranges
 - b. The Newtown Police Department is on 12 acres and was originally designed to have an indoor firing range. NPD is interested in hosting the firing range/training facility
 - c. In 2013, the Bridgeport Police Department purchased \$776,000 in firing range equipment that was never used. The equipment is still in the original shipping containers and the vendor advised the equipment should be in good working order. BPD advised they would share the equipment for a regional firing range solution
 - d. Identify departments interested in the Newtown PD location and form a Newtown Project Team
 - e. Assign the Newtown Project Team to:
 - i. Leverage information from departments that currently have indoor firing ranges (e.g., Norwalk, Darien, Shelton, etc.)
 - ii. Develop:
 1. Concept of Operations for the facility
 2. Three facility options (e.g., basic, moderate and optimum)
 3. Options for facility management and utilization
 - f. Determine the Total Cost of Ownership (e.g., initial and recurring costs) for the three options
 - g. Provide a formal plan to appropriate entities to fund the project.
5. Apply for Grant Funds **6/10/2022**
- a. Letters of Support by **4/29/2022**
// WestCOG will provide sample language for the letters of support
 - b. Incorporate the Bridgeport resources.
// MetroCOG is coordinating with Bridgeport regarding these resources and will follow up.
 - c. Leveraging input from the project committee and specs for facility. **6/3/2022**
 - d. Establish governance strategy **6/6/2022**
 - e. submit Grant Application **6/10/2022**
6. Consultant Selection
- a. Leveraging input from the project committee for RFP Details **8/29/2022**
 - b. RFP for Construction Bids **9/5/2022**

- c. Consultant selection
- 7. Facility Construction
 - a. Within a year of grant award if possible
- 8. Ongoing Use and Maintenance

Project Synopsis

In October 2020, the project began with a Zoom call with the Regional Firing Range/Training Facility working groups consisting of seven towns: Bethel, Brookfield, Darien, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Weston, and Wilton. After the initial call, a survey was distributed to establish the needs and requests of each department along with basic specifications for a firing range/training facility. The original survey dated October 16, 2020, is Appendix 1 and the response synopsis is Appendix 2.

After the original range survey was sent to participating towns, specifications were needed for a regional indoor/outdoor range and/or training facility. Winbourne staff contacted the President of the Fairfield County Police Training Officers Association (FCPTOA), who then sent the survey to the 36 departments/members of the association. This additional group survey resulted in responses from 19 departments.

The survey indicated several departments were not only extremely interested in participating in a regional range project but expressed a substantial need for a range, especially an indoor range. Unfortunately, inclement weather plays a major role for an outdoor range in Connecticut, as well as neighbors being opposed to the noise and perceived dangers. The respondents were asked to provide physical location options for a regional range, required range specifications/needs, desired range options, and other ideas for success. Responses included:

- "... even a two-lane indoor range would be a game changer."
- "An indoor range would offer year-round use and protect residents from noise pollution."
- "An outdoor range would allow training for a larger variety of weapons, to include rifles and shotguns as well as the opportunity to train day or night."

The Winbourne team was referred to Bridgeport Police Department, who has an inventory of range equipment in storage with nowhere to use it. The equipment was purchased and never used. The FCPTOA Survey Synopsis is Appendix 3.

Regional Firing Range/Training Facility

With the highly publicized challenges law enforcement faces today, consistent training is imperative and shared or regional facilities are a growing trend to offset the high costs of individual facilities within each jurisdiction in proximity. The public safety agencies of Western Connecticut face qualification and training challenges with the limited availability of firing ranges, both indoor and outdoor. Indoor ranges are limited, and scheduling is difficult when shared with other agencies. Outdoor ranges face the issue of inclement weather.

A regional firing range and training facility could serve area public safety departments. A collaboration of WestCOG and local agencies to fund, design, staff, and share a modern, state-of-the-art range and training facility would provide numerous benefits to every agency involved. Depending on the facility size and design, other agencies could be invited to participate in the future. The facility could also generate income by renting the services, especially training room/areas, when not in use by member agencies.

In the public safety industry, there is a growing trend toward multiple jurisdictions/departments sharing a multi-use facility. For a shared facility, consider these questions:

- Community acceptance
- Governance structure of the facility
- Stakeholders that will be involved in managing and using the facility
- Funding – Initial and recurring
- Primary objectives of the facility – “Must have” items for the facility to be considered a success
- Facility location
- Facility rules
- Daily operations – Schedule, supplies, maintenance

Regional Training Facility

While a training facility is not a necessary component of a firing range, it would be an asset that would be used if available. For example, the facility could include:

- Classrooms that can be used for a wide range of training classes
- Special training rooms such as a Driving Simulator, Shoot/Don't Shoot and Defensive Tactics

Planning and Design

Building a firing range facility requires extensive planning and design which is why there are companies that specifically construct firing ranges. These companies are experts in the planning, design, and construction of professional and law enforcement firing ranges. When contracting with a specialist, plan to have an architect and civil/structural engineer even if they are not familiar with specific needs of designing and building a shooting range.

The first step is to decide what types of shooting activity will be held at the proposed range. Do the plans include a variety of firearms or shooting styles, such as handgun, shotgun, and rifles? What distances are needed to accommodate the different weapons? Will the target system be stationary or dynamic? What else is needed at the range? For examples, necessities would include multiple lanes, multiple distances, warning lights and PA system, target system, restrooms, parking, secure storage area for range items, temporary storage to secure personal items while using the range, cleaning station(s), and a check-in area/administrative office. Optional items could include any of the following:

- Extra training rooms for multiple uses or possibly leased to other agencies
- Multiple administrative offices for range or temporary staff
- Common area/break area/kitchen
- Locker rooms with changing area
- Shower(s)
- Multiple cleaning stations
- Secure storage area for range items. Note: Secure storage would need to be large enough to store ammunition, headsets, and targets while always remaining secure.

The suggested range specifications finalized by the FCPTOA are in Appendix 4.





Facility Considerations

- Pricing will likely be higher now than when originally estimated. This should be updated for 2022.
- It is important to keep into consideration that construction materials will likely be a challenge to obtain.
- What is the ongoing out-year cost to maintain the facility? This should be looked at for 5-, 10-, and 15-year increments.
- How will use be divided between the municipalities?
- All other ranges are currently at capacity. Does WestCOG have a standing list of ranges currently in use, at capacity, or that are accepting spaces for officers?
- To support the grant application, it could be useful to include the fact that other ranges are at capacity and/or are too far away for officers to drive to.
- Down the road, is there a possibility that the range would be open for off duty officers? It is difficult for officers to get into civilian ranges as well.

Professional Firing Range Construction Company

From **InVeris Training (IVT) Solutions** (a range construction vendor):

1. **Location.** Construct the gun range where it can best serve the users and respect the community.
2. **Quality.** Observe the best range management practices for design and implementation.
3. **Legal compliance.** Know and follow zoning and building regulations.
4. **Equipment acquisition.** Select shooting range equipment that best fits the space and training objectives.
5. **Environmental concerns.** Understand and handle environmental issues up front, like lead abatement and containment, as well as sound.

6. **Proper ventilation systems.** Because these systems account for a substantial amount of overall range cost, ensure that the system is appropriate for the air filtration and circulation needs.
7. **Range and shooter safety.** Pay special attention to acoustics, ballistic containment, and lead abatement.

Note: There are several vendors that specialize in gun/firing range construction.

Facility Sharing and Online Scheduling

A firing range capacity analysis reveals very limited space within existing firing ranges within proximity of the region. Police departments have a difficult time searching and calling for scheduling slots around the region. Scheduling software, combined with the use of regional MOUs would streamline scheduling operations and extract additional capacity from existing resources. The construction of a regional system should consider the use of a scheduling system with an online portal to allow for reviewing of scheduling and confirmation. It would operate similar to how hotel reservations are handled. It could even handle payment features. Lastly a small penalty could be applied for no shows and establish times for cancelation.

Facility Cost

Many range projects are delayed or abandoned due to high costs and budget shortfalls. If the budget process takes years to develop, it must be updated on a consistent basis to keep it realistic. Be sure to use local construction costs/estimates and contact community planners for assistance in the process.

A building quote from Wilton for an 8 Lane 25 Yard Facility came to roughly \$3.9 million. Extrapolating from this quote to the specs identified by the FCPOA, a 15 lane 50 yard facility ~ \$6.5 Million.

Previous rough order of magnitude (ROM) costs (from a year and a half ago) from a range construction company for a 15 lane 50-yard plan was \$1.5 Million.

Cost Sharing

There are multiple cost sharing models that can be employed. For example:

- Option #1
 - Total Cost of Ownership is divided by number of officers for each department that will use the range
- Option #2
 - All departments pay the same base fee - 50% of Total Cost of Ownership
 - Remaining amount is based on utilization formula

Funding

Funding could be obtained in several ways. Foundation donations, penny tax, external/internal annual leases, combination of current public safety funds from several agencies, assessments, etc.

Congressional Community project Funding. WestCOG applied for \$1 million in non-construction costs associated with the firing range under the Department of Justice COPS account. The request garnered 17 letters of support in a tight turnaround. Legislators asked about the project through the DOJ's COPS account and learned that the project is too closely associated to construction for funding consideration. They recommended us to consider exploring eligibility for funds through the USDA's Community Facilities Program.

Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP). RPIP was established to encourage municipalities to participate in voluntary intermunicipal or regional shared services projects. Current iterations of this grant are focused on existing tangible projects.

- \$5 Million total available.
- 25% Match.
- Rolling Deadline.
- [2022 RPIP Grant Details](#)

Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA), a tax credit program designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses who make cash contributions to these entities. Information can be found here:

[Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program](#)

- Maintenance obligations of the facility could be shared by all members who use it. Contractual requirements would include water, electric, building maintenance, housekeeping/cleaning, hazardous material (lead) removal and disposal, etc. These would be recurring costs
 - Note: While WestCOG cannot assess the towns for these costs, there is a precedent for invoicing each town, which has been done with other projects
- Depending on the size of the facility, full-time staff could be minimal with a single administrative position to manage day-to-day operations, scheduling, and daily contractual operations such as housekeeping staff and maintenance
- Each department could provide their own certified trainers/firearms instructors, eliminating the need for permanent or full-time trainer positions

Governance

Governance Model

- Governance of a regional range will require a formal contractual agreement such as an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), Inter-Local Agreement (ILA), Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Joint Powers Act (JPA)
- Since no Town leadership have engaged to this point, we were not able to obtain any actionable input regarding a governance model
- Governance models can be based on
 - Equal authority for all charter members
 - Authority is based on the cost sharing model – more money paid equals more authority
 - WestCOG could also be the “administrator” of the range and the departments are tenants
- The Department of Homeland Security has an MOU template that is perfect for this type of agreement and has been included in the report package

Project Leadership

While there is significant interest in a regional firing range/training facility from department personnel; to date there has been no single leader who has stepped forward to champion the project. This is due to a variety of factors including time/bandwidth, lack of subject matter expertise and not knowing how to get the project started.

Since the project involves multiple jurisdictions, a single point of contact is required to keep all stakeholders involved and engaged. We recommend if possible WestCOG identify a solution to appoint a Project Manager that can be the primary contact for all stakeholders and is responsible for project progress.

Fairfield County Police Training Officers Association (FCPTOA)

Winbourne staff contacted the FCPTOA, to leverage their knowledge and efforts on a range project. The FCPTOA members provided valuable information and ideas for the project. A working group was established to assist with the project. The FCPTOA working group contact information is found in Appendix 7.

Facility Management

An entity to manage the facility must be identified and there are several options

- A lead municipality manages the facility
- An interlocal agreement is established

- A nonprofit is chosen or created to manage the facility
- WestCOG manages the facility.
- WestCOG delegates the management to a “Public Safety Training Committee” (e.g., formed with town members) and facilitate the legal/contract back to the COG.

Management of the facility is a separate discussion than for funding of the facility.

Legislation - Senate Bill 1202

New legislation was recently passed, Senate Bill 1202, page 257, Section 178, allowing the council of government to conduct actions without an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The full bill can be found here: [AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE AND OTHER ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.](#)

Sec. 178. Subsection (b) of section 8-31b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective from Senate Bill No. 1202 June Sp. Sess., Public Act No. 21-2 258 of 790 passage): (b) A regional council of governments may accept or participate in any grant, donation or program available to any political subdivision of the state and may also accept or participate in any grant, donation or program made available to counties by any other governmental or private entity. Notwithstanding the provisions of any special or public act, any political subdivision of the state may enter into an agreement with a regional council of governments to perform jointly or to provide, alone or in cooperation with any other entity, any service, activity or undertaking that the political subdivision is authorized by law to perform. A regional council of governments established pursuant to this section may administer and provide regional services to municipalities by affirmative vote of the member municipalities of such council, and may delegate such authority to subregional groups of such municipalities. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 7-339a to 7-339l, inclusive, the administration and provision of such services shall not require the execution of any interlocal agreement. Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by each regional council of governments, except as provided in subsection (b) of section 9-229 and section 9-229b, and may include, without limitation, the following services: (1) Engineering; (2) inspectional and planning; (3) economic development; (4) public safety; (5) emergency management; (6) animal control; (7) land use management; (8) tourism promotion; (9) social; (10) health; (11) education; (12) data management; (13) regional sewerage; (14) housing; (15) computerized mapping; (16) household hazardous waste collection; (17) recycling; (18) public facility siting; (19) coordination of master planning; (20) vocational training and development; (21) solid waste disposal; (22) fire protection; (23) regional resource protection; (24) regional impact studies; and (25) transportation.

Firing Range Utilization

Surveys revealed several agencies have or use ranges, but space is limited.

Existing Ranges and Capacity

A survey was submitted to firing ranges utilized by departments in the region to collect data regarding capacity and range specs (environment, length, lanes, rifle capable). See figure 1. for ranked facilities by capacity. A Capacity Score of 2 reflects that the range has capacity to consider an additional department. Score of 1 reflects potential for individuals to be added. Facilities with a score are at capacity or unable to offer their range for additional departments.

The “Capacity Potential” identifies facilities that do not utilize their facility on all possible days or hours. It does not account for limitations as to why operations may be limited, except in the case of outdoor facilities which can only operate during the day. A common note shared in the survey was that many facilities require a training officer on hand.



Facility	Capacity Score	In/Out	Lane Count	Range (Yards)	Rifle?	Capacity Potential?
Stratford Police Department Indoor	2	In	5	20	Yes	No
Stratford Police Department Outdoor	2	Out	10	50	Yes	Yes
Watertown Police	2	Out	6	100	Yes	Yes
Berlin Police Range & Mattabasset Pistol and Rifle	2	Out	0	100	Yes	No
Trumbull Police Department Indoor Range	1	In	4	999	No	No
Greenwich Police Department Range	1	In	6	25	No	Yes
Fairfield Police Department Headquarters	1	In	6	25	No	No
Bethel Police Department	1	In	5	25	Yes	No
O and G Quarry	1	Out	5	100	Yes	No
Westport PD Indoor Range	0	In	3	16	No	No
Fairfield Police Department	0	In	5	24	Yes	No
Danbury Police Department	0	In	6	25	Yes	Yes
Milford Police Department	0	In	5	25	No	No
Stamford Police Department	0	In	8	25	Yes	Yes
Trumbull Police Department Outside Range	0	out	99	999	No	No
Fairfield Police Department Outdoor Range	0	Out	18	100	Yes	No
Wilton Outdoor Range	0	Out	6	25	No	Yes
Monroe Police Department	0	Out	10	75	Yes	No
Wooster Mountain (Danbury, Ct.)	0	Out	6	50	Yes	No
Easton Police Department	0	Out	6	33	Yes	Yes
Naugatuck Police Department	0	Out	10	100	Yes	No
Darien Police Department		In				
Norwalk Police Department		In	7		No	

Figure 1 Firing Range Capacity Survey Results. Capacity Score of 2 reflects that the range has capacity to consider an additional department. Score of 1 reflects potential for individuals to be added. Facilities with a score are at capacity or unable to offer their range for additional departments.

Note on Wooster Mountain. Several agencies use (lease or pay per use) the Wooster Mountain Gun Shooting Range, State Property located on Sugar Hollow Road in Danbury, Connecticut. Availability is limited, and scheduling is difficult. Currently Wooster Mountain is being challenged regarding the frequency of officer training hours. Currently 24 hours per week are allotted for

officer training but proposed cancelations by deep would squeeze this allotted time to 12 hours a week. Proposed For more information on Wooster Mountain Shooting Range: [Wooster Mountain home page](#).

Department Range usage

The towns below provided responses to the current-state questions in the surveys (these include agencies from the FCPTOA).

Bethel: In November, Bethel reported they utilize multiple ranges depending upon availability; however, their own range would be completed soon. Later comments were added, “Bethel’s new range was not built to be a regional range nor is there adequate parking to accommodate such.” *Bethel does not support their range being used as a regional facility.*

Brookfield: Brookfield utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability.

Darien: Darien uses their own indoor range. They reported, “We are fortunate to have our own indoor pistol/rifle range here at Darien PD. The training hours are high in the survey because officers are trained individually throughout the year.”

New Canaan: Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability but primarily uses Wooster Mountain.

Norwalk. Utilizes a 7-lane indoor range for pistol training. They rely on Wooster Mountain for rifle training.

Redding: Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability.

Regional 5 Town Emergency Response Team (SWAT): Wilton reported, “the Regional 5 Town Emergency Response Team (SWAT) would use a regional range 4-6 times per year. Team includes Wilton, Trumbull, Darien, Monroe and Easton.”

Ridgefield: Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability.

Shelton: Shelton has an indoor 4-lane range.

Stamford: Stamford uses the Wooster Mountain Range as their primary outdoor range and reports *availability is extremely limited*. Survey: SPD - Indoor Range 725 Bedford Street Stamford, CT 06901 – this is not Wooster Mountain as reported on another survey.

Watertown: Watertown has an outdoor range but would like access to an indoor range.

Weston: Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability.

Westport: Westport has an indoor range at their department. The range was manufactured by MEGGIT which is now called InVeris. *Note: Winbourne requested a ROM quote from InVeris for the regional range project.*

Wilton: Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability.

Sherman. Utilizes a resident trooper.

Bridgewater-Roxbury. Have a difficult time finding space for officers. Resident Trooper.

Danbury. They have a personal range and access to an outdoor prison range. Access at the prison range is not consistent.

New Milford. Police department has access to an outdoor range. But would generate some complaints from people in the area. Adjacent to hiking and recreation area. Usage is heavily restricted.

New Fairfield. Constabulary is under the state police. Usually, they use the indoor range with Danbury. Unsure where they perform rifle training.

Firing Range Equipment - Bridgeport Police Department

In March 2021, the president of FCPTOA referred Winbourne to Bridgeport Police Department, a member of the FCPTOA. Bridgeport PD had been tasked with building an indoor range, but an appropriate location could not be agreed upon.

Bridgeport PD purchased over \$776,000 of firing range equipment that has been stored in the original packaging.

Bridgeport reported the location of a firing range has the potential to be a political issue. Some citizens do not want a range in their area, regardless of the quality of range construction/sound elimination or positive influence of police presence in the area.

The exact condition of the equipment is unknown since it has remained in storage since purchase in 2013. Bridgeport PD staff was able to obtain copies of the original purchase orders/invoices for the equipment but did not compare these to the actual stored equipment. Numerous attempts were made to verify the inventory; this could be addressed again in the future. The vendor is: Action Target, Provo, UT 84606, 801-377-8033 <https://actiontarget.com/>.

If a regional range is constructed close to Bridgeport, they offered their unused equipment as a possible option for use (saving funds). During a meeting on March 29, 2021, Bridgeport Chief Rebeca Garcia said she supports the concept. She planned to meet with Bridgeport management to gain political support and direction for this plan.

Since they could not gain access to the actual inventory, Bridgeport PD staff contacted Action Target to obtain details on the previously purchased equipment. Action Target provided invoices from 2013. A table of the invoice information is below.

Bridgeport has not confirmed any agreement for partnership. They may be a good fit to work with private investors to provide firing range materials for a range in Bridgeport.

There are concerns that the Bridgeport resources are an unknown factor regarding condition and functionality, now that they are 10 years old in storage.

Bridgeport Private Investors

Bridgeport Police Department Range Equipment Purchase			
PO 1302165-00			
5/3/2013	Action Target	Complete line of fire range system	\$ 73,000.00
		Complete high-power match shoot house	\$ 195,000.00
		Complete factory installation	\$ 30,000.00
		Shipping/handling	\$ 6,215.00
Invoice Total			\$ 304,215.00
PO 1302166-00			
5/3/2013	Action Target	Roof structure canopy for complete line of fire range	\$ 214,000.00
		Backstop/bullet trap	\$ 34,305.00
Invoice Total			\$ 248,305.00
PO 1302167-00			
5/3/2013	Action Target	Ventilation system \$13,500 per lane x 12	\$ 162,000.00
		Bullet trap/back stop \$2691.50 per lane x 12	\$ 32,298.00
Invoice Total			\$ 194,298.00
PO 060388			
6/25/2012	Action Target	8 Target Packages	\$ 30,000.00
GRAND TOTAL OF INVOICES			\$ 776,818.00

Copies of the Bridgeport/Action Target invoices were obtained.

Firing Range Location

Location is the most important decision of a range project and a thorough professional site analysis is a necessity. The location should not only fit the needs of today, but also allow for future needs 5, 10, 15 years from now.

Neighborhood Opposition

There is potential for neighborhoods to oppose a firing range. Community engagement is important to educate citizens regarding modern range construction which includes noise baffling and environmentally sound hazardous waste removal and disposal. Additionally, some neighborhoods may benefit from increased security with constant police presence.

Potential Locations for New Regional Range/Training Facility

A number of facility locations were raised over numerous meetings each with varying levels of potential, from casually mentioned to seriously contemplated. Each is detailed below.

Newtown 1: Newtown reported they own property that was intended for a range, but the range is on hold indefinitely due to lack of funding. If WestCOG acquired funding to build a range on the Newtown property, they “will make it happen.” The property is located at 191 S. Main St, Newtown, CT, 06470. Owner: Town of Newton, CT.

Newtown 2: Another location in Newtown was reported as a possible site for a Training Facility: 63 S. Main St, Newtown, CT 06470 Owner: Taunton Press. It is a large office building that is currently for sale. Newtown

Wilton 1: Wilton identified their transfer station as a potential site as it currently offers limited outdoor shooting. The location is moderately remote from residential locations and has geographic features to help contain potential sound. Additionally, the space has been used for 20 years without complaint. Current regulations only allow shooting 10 days a year and when school is in session.

Wilton 2: The property is adjacent to train property and Wilton owns the property. It is close to other residential properties. There may be environmental clean up needed. The size is limited but might be enough to suffice.

Wilton 3: Wilton Police Station was mentioned without further discussion.

Danbury: Wooster Mountain Shooting Range is a common firing range used by numerous departments.

Redding: Wire Mill Property, is a centralized property in the region. However the location is planned for mixed use development and will require substantial environmental clean up. This site is unlikely.

Ridgefield 1: Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Club in Ridgefield is an existing indoor private range.

Ridgefield 2: A second location in Ridgefield was shared, details pending.

Norwalk: Fairfield County Firearms & Archery

Bethel: Bethel Police Department has a shell for its own firing range.

New Canaan: New Canaan has considered plan to build their own firing range near their Police Department.

Westport: Westport has developed a personal range, but no discussions with Westport have occurred regarding regional usage.

Darien: Darien Police Department currently has a small range within their police department. It is considered too small for consistent regional usage. It also has limited shooting scenarios.

Stamford: Stamford Police Department was added for exploratory options only, as Stamford has the highest number of sworn officers in the region. No discussions within the working groups regarding a Stamford Firing Range have taken place as of the printing of this blueprint.

Bridgeport: The owners of property at 726 Union Avenue, Bridgeport contacted the Westport Police Department. The owners would like it to be considered for possible development. The property was scouted and found to be “massive”, and an aerial photo is shown below. Westport reported the property has potential, but further research is required to ensure it meets the needs of a regional range. This property also has interest from private investors such as Tim Kennedy owner of Sheepdog Response. The property owners have an interest as well. This may be an option for Bridgeport to capitalize with their existing resources and interested private funders.

Location Analysis

WestCOG performed a location analysis to quantify travel times to potential firing range against from police departments and police officer origin points. The analysis aims to provide insight for two scenarios of locating a firing range where:

1. Officers report to Police Department before traveling to the range.
2. Officers can report to the range from their origin point.

The first option is currently in practice and requires officers to pick up and drop off materials from the police department before heading to the firing range. Also, for many departments, reporting to the department is a requirement for officers to receive compensation for travel time or mileage reimbursement. Officer count data was collected by survey and where not available drawn from a 2018 report.

The second option allows officers to report to a firing range directly from their origin point (home). In this scenario the officer would have to have access to firing range resources, potentially in storage or picked up earlier from their department. This option could offer additional convenience by aligning with commute paths. Data was collected from 10 of the 18 communities (Wilton, Newtown, Darien, New Fairfield, Ridgefield, Weston, Bridgewater, Norwalk, New Milford, Redding) regarding officer origin locations. It is clear most officers originate from outside the region, around 1,000 of the 1,200 officers as depicted in Figure 1.

Shortest Travel Time

When calculating the geographic location with the lowest travel times by all officers starting from their respective department, Wilton was identified as the top location. When using officer origin points as the start, a location in Newtown was identified as having lowest commute time. These “Best-Fit” geographic locations are based on census blockgroup centroids and do not account for traffic patterns or time of the day. Conveniently, these Best-Fit locations occur near proposed firing range locations with the Wilton Location occurring nearly on top of the Wilton Transfer Station and within 2 miles of two Newtown locations (Taunton Press, and 191 Main St). The Best-Fit locations are depicted in figure 2 and figure 3.

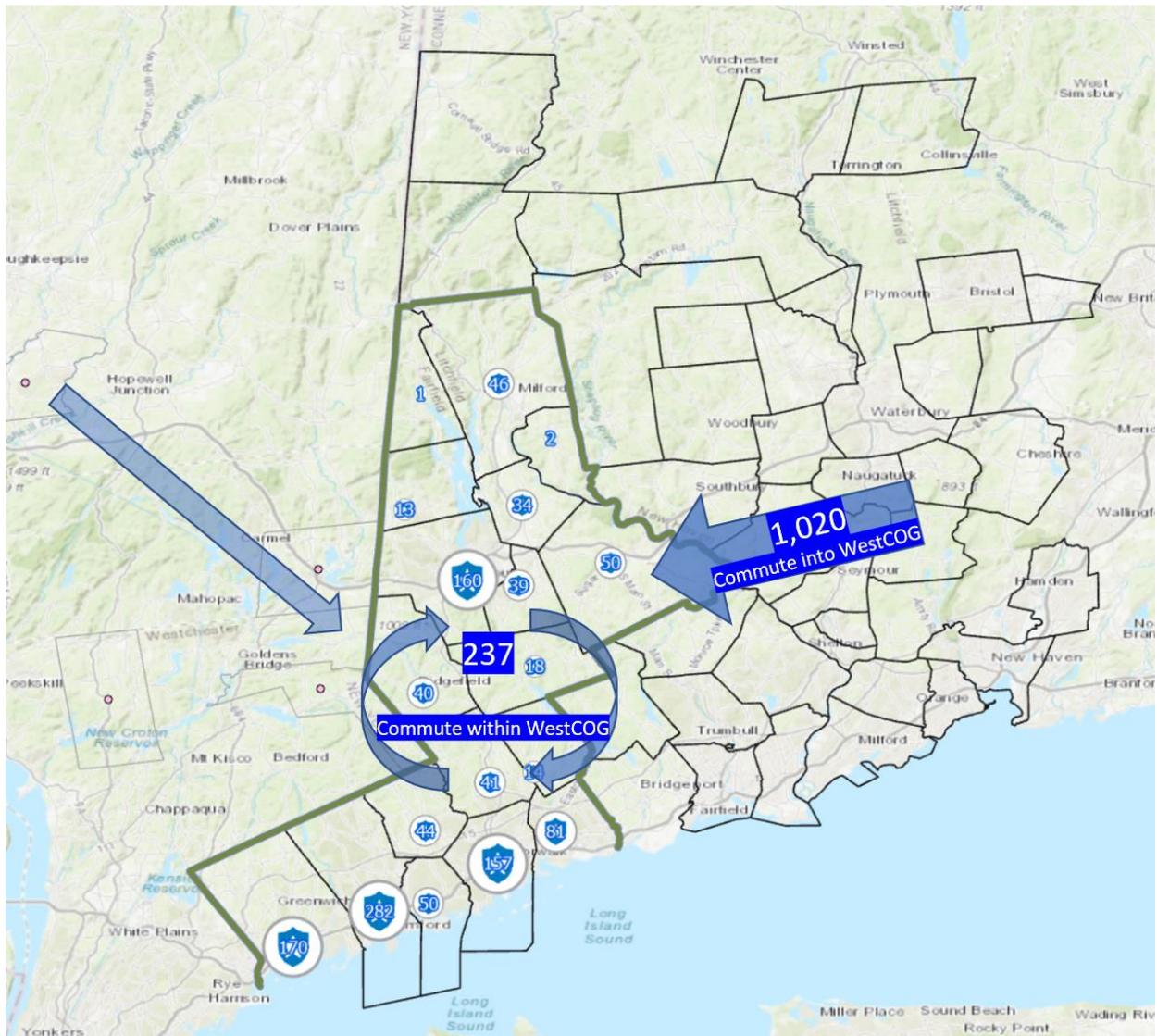


Figure 2 Travel patterns of police officers serving in the WestCOG region. The majority come from eastern communities of WestCOG.

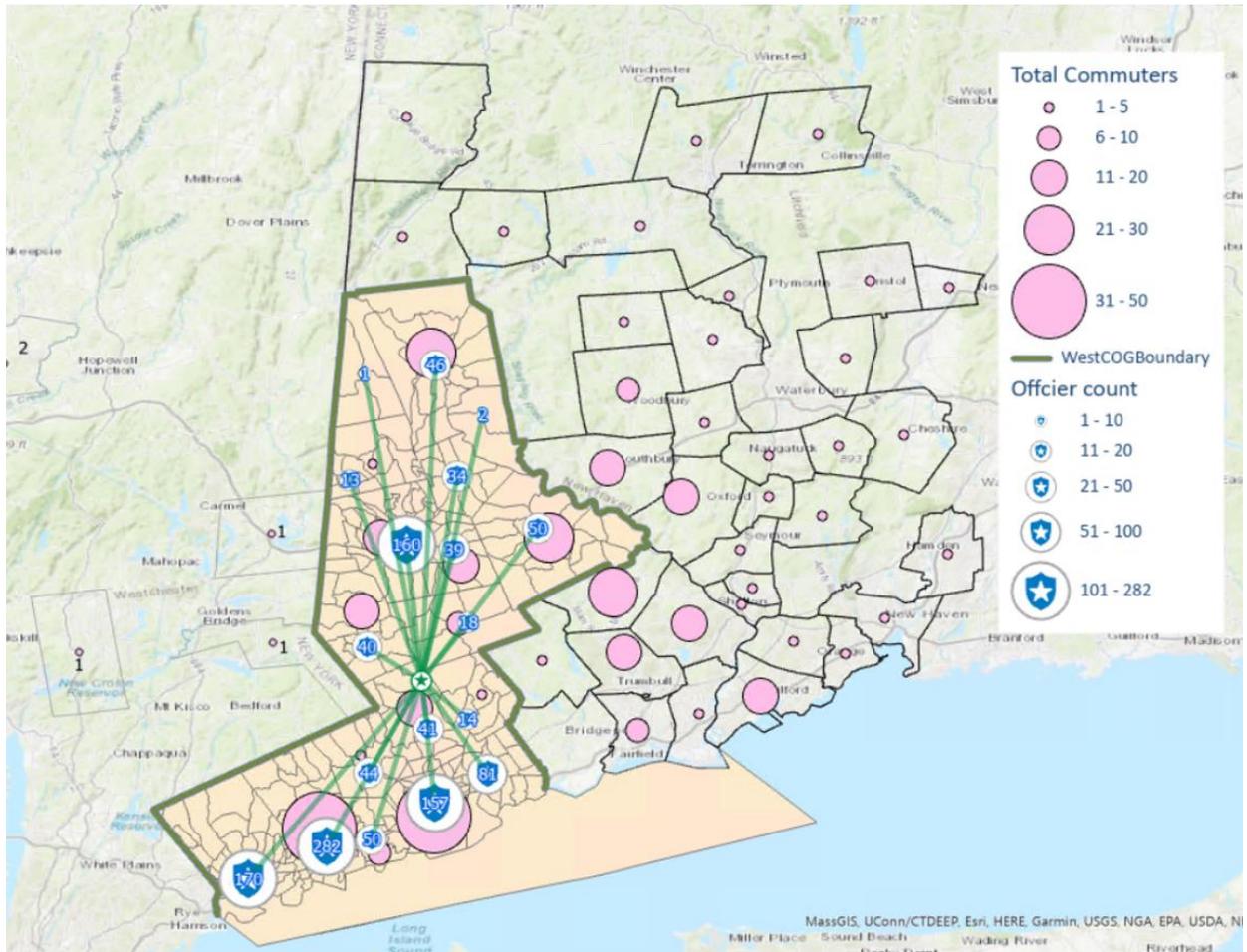


Figure 3 The geographic centroid for a firing range determined by police departments weighted by the number of sworn officers.

Officer Origin Analysis. The Taunton Press site has the lowest median value and is the 2nd lowest sum value (3% larger than the minimum).

Department to Facility Travel Times (min)					
Facility	Location	Median	Sum	Hours	Days
Wilton Transfer Station	Wilton 1	23.2	27,790	463.2	19.3
Wooster Mountain Shooting Range	Danbury	24.0	32,272	537.9	22.4
Wire Mill Property	Redding	25.1	28,849	480.8	20.0
Wilton Police Department	Wilton 3	25.9	27,459	457.6	19.1
Wilton Adjacent Train Property	Wilton 2	26.1	28,255	470.9	19.6
Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Club	Ridgefield	26.1	35,521	592.0	24.7
Fairfield County Firearms & Archery	Norwalk	26.3	31,150	519.2	21.6
Bethel Police Department	Bethel	26.6	36,944	615.7	25.7
New Canaan Police Department	New Canaan	29.1	36,389	606.5	25.3
Westport Police Department	Westport	30.3	33,354	555.9	23.2
Darien Police Department	Darien	34.1	35,342	589.0	24.5
191 S. Main Street	Newtown 1	35.4	46,082	768.0	32.0
Taunton Press Office Building	Newtown 2	37.2	46,533	775.5	32.3
Stamford Police Department	Stamford	39.9	40,522	675.4	28.1
Union Ave. Facility	Bridgeport	41.1	49,248	820.8	34.2

Figure 5 Department to Facility Travel times in minutes. Sorted by lowest median value.

Officer Origin to Facility Travel Times (min)					
Facility	Location	Median	Sum	Hours	Days
Taunton Press Office Building	Newtown 2	37.6	13,705	228.4	9.5
191 S. Main Street	Newtown 1	40.2	13,306	221.8	9.2
Wooster Mountain Shooting Range	Danbury	44.6	15,041	250.7	10.4
Union Ave. Facility	Bridgeport	44.9	15,499	258.3	10.8
Bethel Police Department	Bethel	45.9	14,736	245.6	10.2
Wire Mill Property	Redding	46.6	15,211	253.5	10.6
Wilton Adjacent Train Property	Wilton 2	46.6	15,126	252.1	10.5
Wilton Police Department	Wilton 3	46.7	14,685	244.8	10.2
Wilton Transfer Station	Wilton 1	46.8	15,129	252.2	10.5
Westport Police Department	Westport	47.2	15,630	260.5	10.9
Fairfield County Firearms & Archery	Norwalk	48.3	15,826	263.8	11.0
Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Club	Ridgefield	52.1	16,703	278.4	11.6
New Canaan Police Department	New Canaan	53.1	17,933	298.9	12.5
Darien Police Department	Darien	54.2	18,226	303.8	12.7
Stamford Police Department	Stamford	60.2	20,520	342.0	14.3

Figure 6 Travel time in minutes for officer origin locations to facilities. Sorted by lowest median value.

Findings

Wilton Transfer Station is Well Placed. The transfer station is almost an exact match to the geographic best fit location for the Department focused analysis. Even for the Officer Origin analysis the Wilton facility performed close to the minimum sum of travel time (12% less than the minimum)

Officers Reside East of the Region. Many of the officers live just east of the WestCOG region with limited officer counts originating in New York.

Greenwich, Stamford, Norwalk Skew Data South. Greenwich, Norwalk, Stamford represents 50% of the 1200 officers in the WestCOG region and skews the data in favor of the south. Despite the advantage the centrally located Wilton Transfer Station was a top performer in the analysis.

The case is for officer origins is limited. When comparing the median values between each analysis, the minimum travel median for the department analysis is 40% less than the Officer Origin minimum median. If additional analysis is desired, a study comparing the commuting patterns could identify firing ranges along commuting patterns of officers. It worth noting there is no certainty regarding where future officers may choose to reside. This analysis may be substantial if the region considered a passport model where officers can access multiple firing ranges within the region for training.

Site Selection Matrix

This matrix considers the various factors for deciding a site selection if necessary. This effort would be done in a meeting with stakeholders applying scores and weights as determined by the group. The sample matrix is provided below in figure 6.

Facility	Location	Dept. Time	Origin Time	Indoor	Outdoor	Available Space	Political Support	Community Support	Bridgeport Resources	Zoning	Expansion
Bethel Police Department	Bethel	26.6	45.9								
Union Ave Facility	Bridgeport	41.1	44.9								
Wooster Mountain Shooting Range	Danbury	24.0	44.6								
Darien Police Department	Darien	34.1	54.2								
New Canaan Police Department	New Canaan	29.1	53.1								
191 S Main street	Newtown 1	35.4	40.2								
Taunton Press Office Building	Newtown 2	37.2	37.6								
Fairfield County Firearms & Archery	Norwalk	26.3	48.3								
Wire Mill Property	Redding	25.1	46.6								
Ramapoo Rifle & Revolver Club	Ridgefield	26.1	52.1								
Stamford Police Department	Stamford	39.9	60.2								
Westport police	Westport	30.3	47.2								
Wilton Transfer Station	Wilton 1	23.2	46.8								
Wilton Adjacent Train Property	Wilton 2	26.1	46.6								
Wilton Police Station	Wilton 3	25.9	46.7								

Figure 7 A Firing Range Site Selection Matrix

Range Specifications

While a wide number of range specifications were listed in the survey responses, a final list was created by the members of the FCPTOA and used to obtain Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimates from a professional range builder. The estimate does not include the cost of real estate or actual designs and plans from professional architects and engineers. The range specifications finalized by the FCPTOA are in Appendix 4.

Winbourne staff contacted several gun range vendors, but only one provided ROM costs. InVeris Training Solutions, formerly known as Meggitt Training Systems, communicated with Winbourne for several weeks but did not submit ROM costs for this report. Note: InVeris is currently used at Westport Police Department (see below).

Range Usage Estimates

Range estimates consider the maximum number of officers which can utilize the firing range assuming various scenarios of usage. Estimates of usage are extrapolated from estimates on Wilton's anticipated usage estimates for an 8-lane range. Wilton estimated 55 days of usage to train all their officers at proposed facility.

Regular Operation. Assumes the firing range is open regular business days (Monday – Friday, Not open on holidays. ~250 days) during regular business hours (9:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

Extended Operation. Considers using the facility up to 24 hours a day (triples maximum capacity) and during weekends and holidays (365 days).

Fifteen Lane 50-Yard Plan at Regular Operation. Can serve a maximum potential of 358 officers. 29% of the WestCOG officer count.

Fifteen Lane 50-Yard Plan at Extended Operation. Can serve a maximum potential of 1,567 officers. 125% of the WestCOG officer count.

NOTE! This analysis requires additional refinement and context.

- Larger localities utilize their own facilities for pistol training. Their training demand would be less.
- What is the training time for pistol training for 1 officer?
- What is the training time for rifle training for 1 officer?
- Some communities do not intend to use this facility. Will sharpen estimates following collection of letters of intent.
- It is unlikely that facility will see 100% usage 24 hours a day 365 days a year. Will individual lanes be rentable? This can increase scheduling potential. Scheduling software and a scheduling portal can address this.

Company: Gun Range Construction

Gun Range Construction's ROM estimate is summarized below:

50-yard Plan	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 lanes at 54" wide • Totally tactical • 3/8" AR500 steel in the overhead baffles (as generally required for rifle rated ranges and most used on law enforcement ranges) • Open architecture (meaning no shooting stalls/tables or target retriever systems). 	<p>~ \$1,350,000 - Range equipment with freight and complete installation</p> <p>~ \$ 490,000 - Ventilation/Filtration w/heat & AC</p>
<p>For a dynamic range (where shooters move to the target), adding a fixed overhead mounted, wireless, programmable, turning target system mounted at the bullet trap with master controller for the trainers to control individual targets or all at once</p>	<p>~ \$100,000 to add this</p>

75-yard Plan	Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 lanes at 54" wide • Totally tactical • 3/8" AR500 steel in the overhead baffles (as generally required for rifle rated ranges and most used on law enforcement ranges) • Open architecture (meaning no shooting stalls/tables or target retriever systems). 	<p>~ \$2,600,000 - Range equipment with freight and complete installation</p> <p>~ \$ 700,000 - Ventilation/Filtration w/heat & AC</p>
<p>For a dynamic range (where shooters move to the target), adding a fixed overhead mounted, wireless, programmable, turning target system mounted at the bullet trap with master controller for the trainers to</p>	<p>~ \$130,000 to add this</p>

control individual targets or all at once	
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The costs are approximately \$175/square foot, which is very loose pricing for such a building (without specific plans and construction team review).

The language above was taken from an email from Gun Range Construction where they provide the ROM estimates. A copy of the original email is Appendix 6. It is suspected due to supply chain issues, inflation and other factors these estimates might be considerably less than the actual cost.

Company: InVeris Training Solutions

Westport Police Department reported their indoor range equipment is from InVeris, formerly known as Meggitt Training Systems.

Winbourne was in contact with InVeris for several months, but they never submitted their ROM estimate. However, since they were recommended by Westport, the information remains in this report.

InVeris contact information is Appendix 7.

Appendix 1 – Survey #1, October 16, 2020

To: WestCOG Firing Range/Training Facility Group

From: Tom Maureau
Amber Daughtry
Winbourne Consulting, LLC

Date: October 16, 2020

Subject: WestCOG Firing Range and Training Facility – Survey #1

Instructions:

- Complete the below survey and send to Amber Daughtry adaughtry@w-llc.com
- New departments: add your information into each table
- Previous departments: validate information is correct
- Feel free to add any information in the document. Use **red font** so it is easily visible

Firing Range Methodology

1. Leverage work completed by departments and Fairfield County Police Training Officer Association (FCPTOA)
2. Establish current-state utilization
3. Identify current-state costs to use a Firing Range
4. Develop requirements for a Firing Range – Minimum mandatory and optimum
5. Evaluate potential options
 - a. Bethel
 - b. Stamford
6. Governance and scheduling

7. Cost sharing
 - a. Facility
 - b. Maintenance
 - c. Staffing
 - d. Electrical/water
 - e. Berm management
 - f. Hazardous material cleanup
8. Discuss new property/facility

Current-State

Current Range Used

New Canaan	Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability
Redding	Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability
Ridgefield	Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability
Weston	Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability
Wilton	Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability

Capacity of Current Range

	Handgun	Shotgun	Rifle	Other/Chemical
New Canaan	Yes	Yes	No. Limited rifle range options	No
Redding	Yes	Yes	No. Limited rifle range options	No
Ridgefield	Yes	Yes	No. Limited rifle range options	No
Weston	Yes	Yes	No. Limited rifle range options	No
Wilton	Yes	Yes	No. Limited rifle range options	No

Firearms Qualifications – State Mandate and Department Policy

	Semi-Annual	Annual	Other
New Canaan	Low-light shoot	Qualify once a year	N/A

Redding	Yes	Qualify once a year	N/A
Ridgefield		Qualify once a year	N/A
Weston		Qualify once a year	N/A
Wilton		Qualify once a year	N/A

Annual Utilization

Total number of times a firing range was used each year for a firearms training and/or qualification session for the entire department.

	2018	2019	2020
New Canaan	15	15	
Redding	3	3	
Ridgefield	Unknown	Unknown	
Weston	11	11	
Wilton	24	24	

Anticipated Annual Increase if a New Firing Range is Implemented

Example: The department may schedule more training/qualification sessions that currently completing (previous table). Estimate the new total.

	Estimated New Annual Total
New Canaan	
Redding	
Ridgefield	
Weston	

Wilton

Firearms Training and Qualification Breakdown

Breakdown of above firearms training and qualification.

	Handgun	Shotgun	Rifle	Chemical Munitions/ Less Lethal
New Canaan	8 (some sessions combined pistol/rifle)	N/A	13 (some sessions combined pistol/rifle)	1 (combined with pistol qualification)
Redding	442 Hours	8 Hours	76 Hours	31 Hours
Ridgefield				
Weston	9	0	2	2
Wilton	16	0	8	2

Annual Cost to Lease/Use Firing Range(s)

	2018	2019	2020
New Canaan			
Redding			
Ridgefield			
Weston			
Wilton			

Minimum Mandatory Requirements – Outdoor Range

Add information next to each question. Responses are the perspective of your department.

1. Berm requirements
2. Number of lanes
 - a. Handgun – 10 (from Zoom meeting)
 - b. Shotgun – 10 (from Zoom meeting)
 - c. Rifle – 10 (from Zoom meeting)
3. Handgun requirements
 - a. Qualification – 1, 3, 5, 10-, 15-, 25- and 50-yard markers
4. Shotgun requirements
 - a. Training - 10-, 15-, 25- and 50-yard markers
5. Rifle requirements
 - a. Training – 50-, 100-, 200- and 250-yard markers
6. Target system
 - a. Stationary
 - b. Dynamic
7. Range House
 - a. Administration
 - b. Sign-in

- c. Restrooms
 - d. Cleaning station
 - e. Public Address System
 - f. “Line is Hot” warning lights
 - g. Storage
 - i. Headsets, targets, etc.
 - ii. Ammunition – **Temporary storage (from Zoom meeting)**
8. Parking

Optimum Requirements – Outdoor Range

- 1. Federal/OSHA rules and legislation
- 2. State requirements rules and legislation
- 3. Local requirements rules and legislation (e.g., zoning laws)
- 4. Noise rules and legislation
- 5. Hazardous material rules and legislation
- 6. Berm requirements
- 7. Number of lanes
 - a. Handgun
 - b. Shotgun
 - c. Rifle
- 8. Handgun requirements
 - d. Qualification – 1, 3, 5, 10-, 15-, 25- and 50-yard markers
 - e. Training
 - i. Tactical
 - ii. Hollywood front
 - iii. Shoot house
 - iv. Simunitions
- 9. Shotgun requirements
 - f. Training - 10-, 15-, 25- and 50-yard markers

10. Rifle requirements

- g. Training – 50-, 100-, 200- and 250-yard markers

11. Target system

- h. Stationary
- i. Dynamic

12. Range House

- j. Administration
- k. Sign-in
- l. Restrooms
- m. Cleaning station
- n. Public Address System
- o. “Line is Hot” warning lights
- p. Storage
 - i. Headsets, targets, etc.
 - ii. Ammunition

13. Parking

Minimum Mandatory Requirements – Indoor Range

1. Number of lanes
 - a. Handgun
 - b. Shotgun
 - c. Rifle
2. Handgun requirements
 - d. Qualification – Distance markers
3. Shotgun requirements
 - a. Qualification – Distance markers
4. Rifle requirements
 - a. Qualification – Distance markers
5. Target system

- a. Stationary
- b. Dynamic
- 6. Range House
 - a. Administration
 - b. Sign-in
 - c. Restrooms
 - d. Cleaning station
 - e. Public Address System
 - f. "Line is Hot" warning lights
 - g. Storage
 - i. Headsets, targets, etc.
 - ii. Ammunition
- 7. Parking

Optimum Requirements – Indoor Range

- 1. Number of lanes
 - e. Handgun
 - f. Shotgun
 - g. Rifle
- 2. Handgun requirements
 - h. Qualification – Distance markers
- 3. Shotgun requirements
 - a. Qualification – Distance markers
- 4. Rifle requirements
 - a. Qualification – Distance markers
- 5. Target system
 - a. Stationary
 - b. Dynamic
- 6. Range House

- a. Administration
 - b. Sign-in
 - c. Restrooms
 - d. Cleaning station
 - e. Public Address System
 - f. “Line is Hot” warning lights
 - g. Storage
 - i. Headsets, targets, etc.
 - ii. Ammunition
7. Parking

Training Facility Methodology

1. Leverage work completed by departments and Fairfield County Police Training Officer Association (FCPTOA)
2. Establish current-state utilization
3. Identify current-state costs to use a Training Facility
4. Develop requirements for a Training Facility – Minimum mandatory and optimum
5. Evaluate potential options
6. Discuss new property/facility

Minimum Mandatory Requirements

Add information next to each question. Responses are the perspective of your department.

1. Classrooms
 - a. Number
 - b. Seat capacity
 - c. Configuration
 - i. Whiteboards
 - ii. Moveable desks

- iii. Moveable walls
- 2. Specialty rooms
 - a. Defensive tactics
 - b. Driving simulator
 - c. Shoot/Don't Shoot
 - d. Other
- 3. Administration
- 4. Restrooms
- 5. Lockers
- 6. Other

Appendix 2 – Survey #1 Synopsis, November 18, 2020

To: WestCOG Firing Range/Training Facility Group

From: Tom Maureau
Amber Daughtry
Winbourne Consulting, LLC

Date: November 18, 2020

Subject: WestCOG Firing Range and Training Facility Synopsis

Replies received from: Bethel, Brookfield, Darien, New Canaan, Ridgefield, Weston, and Wilton

Note: Darien reported in their email: We are fortunate to have our own indoor pistol/rifle range here at Darien PD. The training hours are high in the survey because officers are trained individually throughout the year.

Current-State

Current Range Used

Each town reported they use multiple ranges depending on availability with New Canaan primarily using Wooster Mt – a private club on state leased land.

Capacity of Current Range

Each town reported the capability for handgun, shotgun, and rifle with the exception of Brookfield (Rifle has limited indoor range) and Wilton with limited use at current outdoor range.

Annual Utilization

Total number of times a firing range was used each year for a firearms training and/or qualification session for the entire department during the last three years (2018, 2019 and 2020).

Bethel and Ridgefield reported the lowest at 4 and 5 times each year respectively; **Brookfield** reported 15 times each year; **Darien, New Canaan and Wilton** reported 20-50 times each year; and **Weston** reported 11 times a year for 2018 and 2019.

Annual Cost to Lease/Use Firing Range(s)

Range costs were reduced for **Brookfield** (from \$5,800 in 2018 to \$4,000 in 2020); **Darien** reported no costs; **New Canaan** spent \$8,700 and \$8,400 for 2018 and 2019; **Ridgefield** spent \$900 each year; **Weston** spent \$1,000 in 2018 and 2019 increasing to \$1,200 in 2020; **Wilton** reported no costs.

Minimum Mandatory Requirements – Outdoor Range

Additional requirements (to original list) would be adequate parking.

Optimum Requirements – Outdoor Range

Wilton requested 10 lanes; **New Canaan** requested 20 lanes for handgun

For “Line is Hot” warning lights - **New Canaan**: requested Red Flag (similar to military ranges) and a classroom

Minimum Mandatory Requirements – Indoor Range

Wilton requested 6 lanes and **New Canaan** requested 5 lanes for handguns and 5 for rifles

Handgun Requirements:

New Canaan requested Distance Markers of 25; **Wilton** requested Minimum 25 yards.

Rifle requirements for distance markers: **New Canaan:** 50 (required minimum for rifle qualification) and **Wilton:** 100 yards

Parking: **Wilton** requested 10-12 spaces

Optimum Requirements – Indoor Range

Number of lanes: **Wilton:** 8 lanes

Handgun: **New Canaan:** 10

Rifle: **New Canaan:** 10

Handgun requirements - Qualification – Distance markers: **New Canaan:** 25 and **Wilton:** Minimum 25 yards

Rifle requirements - Qualification – Distance markers: **New Canaan:** 50 and **Wilton:** 200 yards

Range House – Administration: **New Canaan:** Administration/Classroom with A/V Capabilities

Minimum Mandatory Requirements

Classrooms: **Brookfield:** A lot depends on intended uses - In-Service and/or Recruit Level; **Wilton:** one

Number: **New Canaan:** 1 and **Brookfield:** Minimum 2 to 3 with 4 to 5 smaller breakout rooms

Seat capacity: **New Canaan:** 30 and **Brookfield:** Classroom = 32 – 40; Breakouts 10 to 12

Configuration

Whiteboards: **Brookfield:** Yes; **Wilton:** Smartboard

Moveable desks: **Brookfield:** Yes

Moveable walls: **Brookfield:** Might work; **Wilton:** Yes, to split into two smaller rooms; **New Canaan:** A/V Capability

Specialty rooms

Defensive tactics: **Brookfield:** Yes; **Wilton:** Yes, the ability to convert to this

Driving simulator: **Brookfield:** Yes; **Wilton:** No

Shoot/Don't Shoot: **New Canaan:** Simulator 360 degree; **Brookfield:** Yes; **Wilton:** Yes

Specialty rooms – Other: **Brookfield:** Technology

Administration

Brookfield: Shared space

Restrooms: **Brookfield:** Yes

Lockers: **Brookfield:** Small for personal property, i.e., phones & wallets; **Wilton:** No, maybe a larger changing area in bathrooms

Other: **Brookfield:** Storage and showers if intent is to provide recruit training; **Wilton:** Kitchen area and a small break room off main room; area to store training equipment

Appendix 3 – FCPTOA Survey Responses, December 22, 2020

To: WestCOG Firing Range/Training Facility Group

From: Tom Maureau
Amber Daughtry
Winbourne Consulting, LLC

Date: December 22, 2020

Subject: WestCOG Regional Firing Range and Training Facility Survey Synopsis

Lt. Kullgren distributed the survey to officers from 38 departments. We received 23 responses from 19 departments and one with no answers which was deleted.

Question 1: What agency do you work with?

Answered: 23

Skipped: 0

Responses:

1. Norwalk – 2
2. Aquarion Water Police - 1
3. Danbury - 2
4. Greenwich PD

5. Bethel
6. Stamford PD
7. Watertown Police
8. Wilton
9. Houstonic Community College Police Department
10. Milford Police
11. CT Encon Police DEEP
12. Weston Police Department - 2
13. Darien PD
14. Western Connecticut State University PD
15. Redding PD
16. Fairfield Police Department
17. Easton – 2
18. Shelton Police Department
19. Newtown PD

Question 2: Please list any location with the potential to be used for an indoor or outdoor Firing Range. Provide as much information as possible such as physical address, owner, contact information, why the location may be an opportunity, etc.

Answered: 13

Skipped: 10

Responses:

- **Aquarion:** None with the potential for future opportunities.
- **Danbury:** Wooster Mountain Gun Range, State Property, Rt. 7/Sugar Hollow Rd. Danbury, CT
- **Greenwich:** None in Greenwich
- **Bethel:** Our range has been the top of discussion for use. It was not built to be a regional range nor is there adequate parking to accommodate such. I do not know of another site and do NOT support our range being used as such.

- **Norwalk:** The old Fed Ex facility on Woodward Ave. in Norwalk. It is large enough for an indoor rifle range.
- **Stamford:** SPD - Indoor Range 725 Bedford Street Stamford, CT 06901
- **Housatonic Community College:** The old Remington Arms in Bridgeport
- **CT Encon Police DEEP:** Glastonbury Shooting Range, 344 Toll Gate Rd. Glastonbury CT. High Rock Shooting Range, 100 Black Forest Road, Naugatuck CT; Wooster Mountain Shooting Range, 74 Sugar Hollow Rd, Danbury, CT 06810
- **Darien:** N/A
- **Western Connecticut State University:** The Wooster Mtn gun club in Danbury CT. This facility is state owned, but leased to a private gun club, I believe for \$1 a year. The club charges Police Department \$100-\$200 per day to use it when its available. If the lease is up soon, this location would be excellent to convert into a regional Police training center/range.
- **Easton:** None
- **Shelton:** Shelton has an indoor 4 lane range
- **Newtown:** Address: 191 S. Main St, Newtown, CT, 06470. Owner: Town of Newton, CT

Question 3: Do you know of any plans, formal or informal, that have been developed for a Firing Range? If yes, provide a copy of the plan or contact information.

Answered: 23

Skipped: 0

Answers:

No: 22 (95.65%)

Yes: 1 (4.35%)

Question 4: We understand a perfect solution would be a combination indoor/outdoor range. If that cannot be accomplished, what type of range should have priority?

Answered: 23

Skipped: 0

Answers:

Indoor: 13 (56.52%)

Outdoor: 10 (43.38%)

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** Unless an indoor has rifle capability at 50 yards, an outdoor range would serve more types of weapon training.
- **Norwalk:** Rifle training.
- **Aquarion Water:** Ability to use rifles and shotguns.
- **Danbury:** More use time. No inclement weather issues.
- **Greenwich:** Longer distances and modified backstops required for rifle training. A rifle range can be modified for pistol but not vice-versa.
- **Bethel:** Much more can be accomplished with an indoor range that is properly designed. Outdoor ranges pose risks to area residents not to mention high volume of noise complaints and annoyed neighbors.
- **Stamford:** Because we currently utilize Wooster Mountain as our primary outdoor range and the availability is very limited.
- **Watertown:** We have an outdoor range; it would be nice to have access to an indoor
- **Housatonic Community College:** Weather
- **Milford:** Better for all seasons
- **CT Encon Police DEEP:** Longer range, rifle, realism
- **Weston:** An indoor range would be able to accommodate 24/7 training 365 days a year.
- **Western Connecticut State University:** Greater distance (Rifle), availability to use chemical munition discharge (i.e., Smoke grenades)
- **Redding:** More versatile
- **Danbury:** Rifle capabilities should be a priority. Handgun can be done as well
- **Weston:** Provides for the ability to have training 24/7 year-round. This allows for more training opportunities throughout the day, and over the course of the year.
- **Fairfield:** Versatility

- **Easton:** Year-round use, no need to worry about weather. Reduces noise to the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Easton:** Although maintenance/costs are higher, it would reduce the noise complaints and it could be utilized year around
- **Shelton:** Weather
- **Newtown:** An indoor range increases the available use due to weather and residential sound restrictions.

• INDOOR RANGE

Question 5: What is the minimum number of lanes needed?

Answered: 23

Skipped: 0

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** 6
- **Aquarion Water Police:** As many as possible
- **Danbury:** 4
- **Greenwich:** Minimum of 25 yards wide by 100 yards deep
- **Bethel:** Depends on who is interested, size of department. I said minimum of 6.
- **Norwalk:** 12
- **Stamford:** 6-8
- **Watertown:** 6
- **Wilton:** 4
- **Housatonic Community College:** 8
- **Milford:** 4

- **CT Encon Police DEEP:** 6
- **Weston:** 10
- **Darien:** 10
- **Western Connecticut State University:** 10
- **Redding:** 8
- **Danbury:** 12
- **Weston:** 8
- **Fairfield:** 6
- **Easton:** 15
- **Easton:** 15
- **Shelton:** Shelton has 4 lanes
- **Newtown:** 10

Question 6: Check the capabilities needed.

Answered: 23

Skipped: 0

Answers:

Handgun: 23 (100%)

Shotgun: 16 (69.57%)

Rifle: 19 (82.61%)

Others: 4 (17.39%) See Below

Responses:

- **Bethel:** Up to .308 capability or don't build it
- **Norwalk:** A filtering system that can handle gas training
- **Western Connecticut State University:** Less lethal projectile, and SWAT needs (Chemical launch, flash bang...)
- **Redding:** Less Lethal Projectile

Question 7: Check the type of target system needed or preferred.

Answered: 23

Skipped: 0

Answers:

Static – No Movement: 11 (47.83%)

Dynamic – Movement/Rotation: 17 (73.91%)

Retrieval – Trolley wire/rail system: 11 (47.83%)

Question 8: Check the distances needed.

Answered: 23

Skipped: 0

Answers:

1-25 yards: 5 (21.74%)

1-50 yards: 19 (82.61%)

Other: 3 (13.04%)

Responses:

- **Aquarion:** Rifle. 100 yards
- **Greenwich:** 1-100 yards minimum
- **Norwalk:** 100 yds. would be better

Question 9: List any other requirements for an indoor firing range.

Answered: 13

Skipped: 10

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** Ability for safe low-light shooting
- **Aquarion:** Ability to conduct lowlight training
- **Danbury:** Low Light and No Light capabilities
- **Greenwich:** Backstop/berm rated for rifle fire
- **Bethel:** Excellent air handling unit built to Navy specs
- **Norwalk:** Adjustable lighting systems for low/no light training
- **CT Encon Police DEEP:** Strobe lights for low light scenario simulations
- **Darien:** Ability to move side to side
- **Western Connecticut State University:** Availability to have low light, no light, and emergency cruiser flashing light. Moveable walls and doors to construct simulated room, for practicing building entry
- **Redding:** Simulation, classrooms
- **Danbury:** Ability to get a vehicle inside – strobes – pneumatic targets
- **Easton:** Ventilation system, appropriate parking, security if anything is stored on site
- **Shelton:** Ventilation

OUTDOOR FIRING RANGE

Question 10: What is the minimum number of lanes needed?

Answered: 20

Skipped: 3

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** 12
- **Danbury:** 8
- **Greenwich:** 25 yards wide by 100 yards deep
- **Bethel:** 10
- **Norwalk:** 15-20
- **Stamford:** 6-8
- **Watertown:** 6
- **Wilton:** 4
- **Milford:** 4
- **CT Encon Police DEEP:** 6
- **Weston:** 15
- **Darien:** 10
- **Western Connecticut State University:** 10
- **Redding:** 8
- **Danbury:** 20
- **Weston:** 12-15
- **Fairfield:** 10
- **Easton:** 15
- **Easton:** 15
- **Newtown:** 10

Question 11: Check the capabilities needed.

Answered: 20

Skipped: 3

Answers:

Handgun: 20 (100%)

Shotgun: 18 (90.00%)

Rifle: 20 (100%)

Others: 5 (25.00%) See Below

Responses:

- **Bethel:** .308 or bust
- **Norwalk:** Gas
- **Western Connecticut State University:** Less lethal projectile launch. SWAT needs flash bangs, chemical munition deployment
- **Redding:** Less Lethal Projectile
- **Danbury:** Less lethal, gas deployment

Question 12: Check the type of target system needed or preferred.

Answered: 20

Skipped: 3

Answers:

Static – No Movement: 15 (75.00%)

Dynamic – Movement/Rotation: 15 (75.00%)

Retrieval – Trolley wire/rail system: 3 (15.00%)

Responses: None

Question 13: Check the distances needed.

Answered: 20

Skipped: 3

Answers:

- 1-50 yards:** 4 (20.00%)
- 1-100 yards:** 12 (60.00%)
- 1-200 yards:** 7 (35.00%)
- Other:** 2 (10.00%) See below

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** minimum 50 yards, but 100 yards would be nice for sniper training
- **Danbury:** Rifles need yardage for distance

Question 14: List any other requirements for an outdoor firing range.

Answered: 10

Skipped: 13

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** Restrooms, tables, covered areas for paperwork, tests, breaks, etc.
- **Danbury:** Overhead coverage
- **Greenwich:** Backstop/berm rated for rifle fire
- **Bethel:** "Classroom" area or trailer to teach and to get out of elements
- **Norwalk:** Must be able to train with gas and possibly have a live fire shoot house like Milford
- **CT Encon Police DEEP:** Housing structure for classroom instruction, PowerPoint etc.
- **Weston:** Bathrooms, an indoor classroom, PA System
- **Darien:** Parking, barriers, ability to move
- **Western Connecticut State University:** Equipment on site for range clean up (rollers, blowers...)
- **Redding:** Outbuildings, obstacles
- **Easton:** Parking, brass collection system, noise reduction landscaping, classroom, proper drainage

Question 15: Provide any additional input regarding a shared/regional Firing Range

Answered: 6

Skipped: 17

Responses:

- **Aquarion:** While we currently have a proprietary range for our agency use only, this is always subject to change. I know that many other area PDs in Fairfield County lack a range facility.
- **Danbury:** Scheduling coordination
- **Norwalk:** Between all of the training officers and F/A instructors in Fairfield County we have a tremendous depth of talent. Should be no problem staffing said facility.
- **Western Connecticut State University:** Each department should have shared responsibilities, and access of the range. A board of directors similar to existing training associations should be established.
- **Danbury:** Range needs will vary with department size; scheduling will be challenging to meet everyone's needs
- **Easton:** personnel assigned to handle scheduling, download barrels and also a location to handle the disposal of ammunition that doesn't fire (bad primer).

REGIONAL TRAINING FACILITY

Question 16: Please list any location with the potential to be used for a Training Facility. This could include a government building, private building not in use (e.g., large office building, store, etc.). Provide as much information as possible such as physical address, owner, contact information, why the location may be an opportunity, etc.

Answered: 5

Skipped: 18

Responses:

- **Aquarion:** Unknown
- **Stamford:** SPD Firearms Range, 725 Bedford Street, Stamford, CT 06901
- **Western Connecticut State University:** Wooster Mountain Gun Club, 74 Sugar Hollow Rd, Danbury CT
- **Easton:** None
- **Newtown:** 63 S. Main St, Newtown, CT 06470 Owner: Taunton Press, Large Office building that is currently for sale. Newtown GIS Link:
https://newtown.mapxpress.net/ags_map/default.htm?GIS_LINK=37-2-5

Question 17: Do you know of any plans, formal or informal, that have been developed for a regional Training Facility? If yes, provide a copy of the plan or contact information.

Answered: 20

Skipped: 3

Answers:

No: 20 (100.00%)

Question 18: Classroom

Answered: 20

Skipped: 3

Answers:

Number of Classrooms: 5 (25.00%)

Seating Capacity: 12 (60.00%)

List other requirements: 3 (15.00%)

Responses:

- **Aquarion:** As many as possible!
- **Stamford:** 20
- **Newtown:** 50 seats minimum, preferably 125

Question 19: Defensive Tactics Room

Answered: 11

Skipped: 12

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** min 25'x25'
- **Aquarion:** Yes! We want this too
- **Norwalk:** Definitely need a mat room
- **Greenwich:** 1,500 square feet
- **Bethel:** Big
- **Stamford:** 40 x 40
- **CT Encon Police DEEP:** 20'X30'
- **Darien:** 30x30 at least
- **Western Connecticut State University:** matted area large enough for DT training. Allowing movement, group participation...
- **Easton:** 2-3 rooms
- **Newtown:** 40 x40

Question 20: Driving Simulator Room

Answered: 6

Skipped: 17

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** Whatever the simulator will fit into
- **Aquarion:** Yes, please
- **Greenwich:** As per manufactures recommendations
- **Bethel:** space for the simulator...
- **Western Connecticut State University:** enough space for several simulators and debriefing/assessment
- **Newtown:** 20 x 20 room

Question 21: Shoot/Don't Shoot Simulation Room

Answered: 7

Skipped: 16

Responses:

- **Norwalk:** see above
- **Aquarion:** Another Yes response
- **Norwalk:** Less of an issue. We should be doing force on force.
- **Greenwich:** As per manufacturer's recommendations
- **Bethel:** Able to use Simunitions and moveable walls
- **Western Connecticut State University:** Controlled, secure space which allows for movement, and teacher student(s) review
- **Newtown:** 20 x 20 room

Question 22: List any other comments or suggestions for a shared or regional Training Facility.

Answered: 2

Skipped: 21

Responses:

- **Western Connecticut State University:** Secure parking area
- **Easton:** Must be able to handle PowerPoint, WIFI access, have an adequate sound system, break out rooms for small group or active shooter simulation drills. 2 or more bay garage to store regional vehicles. Key FOB security system to allow departments access that is trackable.

Appendix 4 – FCPTOA Range Specifications



Fairfield County Police Training Officers Association

Lt Richard Montefusco

WCSU Police Department

Danbury, CT 06810

Winbourne Consulting, LLC

The following specifications are based on a survey which was distributed to the 36 agencies within our training organization. This survey was created by Winbourne Consulting in conjunction with the FCPTOA. All specifications come directly from our training officers and range officers based on current best police practice, as well as historical and current use trends.

PLAN 1

Basic Indoor firearms training facility

- Minimum 50-yard length
- 15 lanes @ minimum 54' width
- Lanes one and fifteen must have minimum 2' on outside edges beyond the lane edge
- Rubber berm bullet trap
- Fire retardant treated rubber
- Capable to include .9, .40, .45, 223 .308, 12-gauge caliber ammunition
- Maximum ¾" nominal granule size
- Armored hopper for rubber feed
- Sound abatement panels
- Full length on sidewalls, overhead and back wall

- Sound abatement design to limit reverberation time to less than 1.5 seconds
- Fully baffled and armored ceiling (Fully Tactical Range), appropriate for the specified round
- Ventilation system adequate to maintain a safe environment as defined by NIOSH and OSHA, and for use with lead ammunition
- Climate control throughout the facility
- Full dimmable range and target lighting, all LED, to allow for training at light levels from full on, or to simulate night fire
- Red and blue LED strobes, similar to those used on emergency vehicles, throughout the range to simulate law enforcement operating conditions
- Public address system to allow instructors to communicate with range users at any location on the range floor
- Bathrooms, universal to accommodate 20 persons.
- Emergency eye wash station / shower
- Weapon cleaning room for 15 officers.
- Mechanical room
- Storage room

Classroom to seat 25 students

- Commercial grade movable tables
- Commercial grade movable chairs
- Instructor podium
- TV / Audio system for in person or virtual training
- Gym style wall padding from floor to 6'
- Gym style rubberized floor
- Dimmable lighting
- Office to accommodate two (2) desk suites with (2) associated commercial grade desk suites

PLAN 2

Moderate Indoor firearms training facility

- Minimum 75-yard length
- 20 lanes @ minimum 54' width
- Lanes one and twenty must have minimum 2' on outside edges beyond the lane edge
- Rubber berm bullet trap
- Fire retardant treated rubber
- Capable to include .9, .40, .45, 223 .308, 12-gauge caliber ammunition
- Maximum ¾" nominal granule size
- Armored hopper for rubber feed

- Sound abatement panels
- Full length on sidewalls, overhead and back wall
- Sound abatement design to limit reverberation time to less than 1.5 seconds
- Fully baffled and armored ceiling (Fully Tactical Range), appropriate for the specified round
- Ventilation system adequate to maintain a safe environment as defined by NIOSH and OSHA, and for use with lead ammunition
- Climate control throughout the facility
- Full dimmable range and target lighting, all LED, to allow for training at light levels from full on, or to simulate night fire
- Red and blue LED strobes, similar to those used on emergency vehicles, throughout the range to simulate law enforcement operating conditions
- Public address system to allow instructors to communicate with range users at any location on the range floor
- Bathrooms, universal to accommodate 50 persons.
- Emergency eye wash station / shower
- Weapon cleaning room for 20 officers.
- Mechanical room
- Storage room

Classroom to seat 50 students

- Commercial grade movable tables
- Commercial grade movable chairs
- Instructor podium
- TV / Audio system for in person or virtual training
- Gym style wall padding from floor to 6'
- Gym style rubberized floor
- Dimmable lighting
- Office to accommodate two (2) desk suites with (2) associated commercial grade desk suites

Sincerely,

Lt Richard Montefusco, committee chairman

President: Lt Dave Kullgren **Vice President:** Officer Tim Fedor
Treasurer: Lt Mike Libertini **Secretary:** Sgt Steve Stanko
www.FCPTOA.org

Appendix 5 – Gun Range Construction ROM Quote

Gun Range Construction's ROM estimate is shown below *as received* in email from Rob O'Bryant:

For the 50-yard plan with 15 lanes at 54"W, totally tactical, with 3/8" AR500 steel in the overhead baffles (as generally required for rifle rated ranges and most used on LE ranges), open architecture (meaning no shooting stalls/tables or target retriever systems).

For range equipment with freight and complete installation ~ \$1,350,000

Ventilation/Filtration w/heat & AC ~ \$ 490,000

For the 75 yard plan with 20 lanes at 54"W, (all other remaining the same)...

For range equipment with freight and complete installation ~ \$2,600,000,

Ventilation/Filtration w/heat & AC ~ \$ 700,000

Being a dynamic (tactical) range where the shooter(s) move to the target, a lot of LE ranges are using a fixed overhead mounted, wireless, programmable, turning target system mounted down at the bullet trap with master controller for the trainers to control individual targets or all at once. The specs you sent do not call for any targetting system but below is some rough pricing to add a system like this.

To add something like this to the 50-yard range with 15 lanes...~ \$100,000

75-yard range with 20 lanes...~ \$130,000

For building design, we are commercial general contractors and design and build ranges around the country for law enforcement and commercial. We can work through our team of architects and engineers to design the building or work with the customer's team to install the range and ventilation at the appropriate time.

Very loose SF pricing for such a building, as they have it listed is going to be ~ \$175 SF (and that is purely a guesstimate without plans and my construction team looking over)."

ROM quote received from:

Rob O'Bryant

Rob@gunrangeconstruction.com

<https://www.gunrangeconstruction.com/>

Appendix 6 – InVeris Training Solutions

InVeris Contact:

Ryle Williams
Northeast US/CA Commercial/LE Live Fire Sales
InVeris Training Solutions
Formerly Meggitt Training Systems
296 Brogdon Road
Suwanee, GA 30024
USA
Cell: (470) 266-7714
Customer Support: 1-800-344-6771
ryle.williams@InVerisTraining.com

Website: [InVeris Training Solutions - virtual and live fire weapons training systems](#)

Appendix 7 – Fairfield County Police Officers Training Association (FCPTOA) Working Group

The FCPTOA president, Lt. David Kullgren of Newtown Police Department, formed a working group for this project and extended the survey to his officers.

Email from Lt. Kullgren:

Here are the range officers who have offered to be in your focus group for the Range Project. We would like Lt. Rich Montefusco (Western Connecticut State University) to be the spokesperson for FCPTOA. He can chair this committee and report back to our association with any questions or concerns.

- Richard Montefusco montefuscor@wcsu.edu 203-627-8130 - spokesperson
- Charles Carr ccarr@westportct.gov 203-341-6006
- Mike Ruttenber mruttenber@westportct.gov Cell: 910-382-5625
- Matt Georgoulis matt.georgoulis@danbury-ct.gov
- Anthony Signore asignore@rpdct.us
- Andrew Mastroianni amastroianni@darienct.gov 203-662-5336
- Officer Juan Esquilin Juan.Esquilin@bridgeportct.gov Officer (203) 576-3919 Mobile (203) 257-5698
- Robert Ferretti Robert.Ferretti@greenwichct.org 203.633-3301
- Dru Sin dsin@newmilfordpolice.org 573-855-0236

Appendix 8 – Local Contacts for Future Assistance

Bridgeport Police Department contacts are:

- Lt. Paul Grech Paul.Grech@bridgeportct.gov 203-576-6610, 203-275-6625
- Officer Juan Esquilin Juan.Esquilin@bridgeportct.gov 203-576-3919, Mobile 203-257-5698

Westport Police Department contact:

For property at 726 Union Avenue, Bridgeport, contact: Staff Corporal Charles Carr, Training Division, Westport Police Department, W: 203.341.6006, Cell: 203-814-6849 or email: ccarr@westportct.gov

Appendix 9 - FAQ

1. Who makes the final decision on where the range will be located or size of the range? The project council will finalize this; however, communities are not beholden by any contract to participate.
2. Who makes the final decision on what will be included in the state grant? The project council will ultimately figure out the size and specs for the firing range. Status on the grant and range specs will be shared regularly on WestCOG's project page and email updates on project status will be sent to this email group and whoever else joins the mailing list. Comments can be provided as well for council consideration.
3. What is Plan B if WestCOG does not receive the state grant? If WestCOG does not win this grant, we would have resolved a lot of the specs and scoping for the project. Investment from communities or by donations would be the remaining options. The charitable donations could be managed through WestCOG Foundation. We'd make a public safety branch of the foundation and prepare a case for potential donors.
4. What level of commitment from the town and department leadership from this meeting? This meeting we collect verbal commitment to be involved. For the grant we are looking for letters of support that explain the community is committed and invested in the success for the firing range(s) through technical support, and funding. These letters of support will be needed before the grant is submitted on 6/2/2022 but by 4/29/2022 would be preferable, then we can know who is in as we finalize specs. Mike Towle and members of the project council will follow up with communities to collect these letters.
5. How do we handle more communities joining? Communities have until 4/29/2022 to express an interest in participating to be considered for site planning.

Appendix 10 - Survey - Firing Range Capacity

18 responses were collected. Questions from the survey are provided below.

Survey Questions
Timestamp
Name of the Facility
Is the range indoors, outdoors, or both?
How many firing range lanes does the facility have?
What is the maximum range of the firing range facility?
Is the range designed for rifle training?
What days is the firing range available for use?
What are the operating hours?
Is your range open to other agencies to use?
If "Yes", is access limited? (explain)
Is the range at capacity?
Is this firing range designed for tactical training?
Comments

Survey Link

<https://forms.gle/iM379gTPZJTzqvQg9>

Appendix 11 - Letters of Support

17 letters of support collected for Congressional Community Project Funding. They include:

Town of Bethel, Bridgeport Police Department, Bridgewater and Roxbury Police, Town of Brookfield, Brookfield Police Department, Darien Police Department, Fairfield County Police Officer Training Association (FCPOTA), Greenwich Police Department, Town of Newtown, Newtown Police Department, Newtown Police Department, New Milford, Norwalk Police Department, Redding Police Department, Ridgefield Police Department, Stratford Police Department, Western Connecticut University Police Department, Wilton Police Department.

Sample Language

RE: Western Connecticut Regional Firing Range Letter of Support

Dear [TARGET AUDIENCE],

This letter indicates [AGENCY NAME] support for the Western Connecticut Council of Governments' application for the Western Connecticut Regional Firing Range as a Community Project Funding Request.

Western Connecticut police departments are at risk of not meeting compliance for firearm training and are straining existing resources (at an increased cost) to meet these requirements. Existing firing ranges are at capacity and have limited capabilities (such as not being designed for rifles). Connecticut police departments are also ramping up training to meet new training requirements outlined in the [PA 20-1 Police Accountability Bill](#) (such as de-escalation and use of force training). Constructing training facilities is beyond the financial constraints of most communities. The construction of an indoor regional training facility would make costs more manageable

Community Project Funding would allow for the first Connecticut Regional Firing Range for municipal department use. The range would serve as a model for future regional initiatives that allow for enhanced training despite lighting or weather conditions while addressing noise and environmental concerns often associated with firing ranges (and at reduced overall cost).

[AGENCY NAME] looks forward to the opportunity that this project presents for the public safety and training of police officers in the region. WestCOG has our full support for this endeavor.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATURE]