

# Western Connecticut Firearm Training Facility Project Blueprint

Draft v20

June 30, 2022



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## Table of Contents\_Toc99378468

|  |    |
|--|----|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....  | 3  |
| PROJECT SYNOPSIS .....   | 9  |
| REGIONAL FIRING RANGE/TRAINING FACILITY .....                        | 10 |
| PLANNING AND DESIGN.....   | 11 |
| FACILITY COST.....   | 14 |
| GOVERNANCE.....  | 16 |
| CURRENT-STATE RANGE UTILIZATION .....                                | 20 |
| FAIRFIELD COUNTY POLICE TRAINING OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (FCPTOA) ..... | 18 |
| FIRING RANGE EQUIPMENT - BRIDGEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT .....          | 24 |
| FIRING RANGE LOCATION.....   | 26 |
| RANGE SPECIFICATIONS.....  | 32 |
| APPENDIX 1 – SURVEY #1, OCTOBER 16, 2020 .....                       | 35 |
| APPENDIX 2 – SURVEY #1 SYNOPSIS, NOVEMBER 18, 2020.....              | 45 |
| APPENDIX 3 – FCPTOA SURVEY RESPONSES, DECEMBER 22, 2020.....         | 50 |
| APPENDIX 4 – FCPTOA RANGE SPECIFICATIONS .....                       | 64 |
| APPENDIX 5 – GUN RANGE CONSTRUCTION ROM QUOTE .....                  | 67 |
| APPENDIX 6 – INVERIS TRAINING SOLUTIONS.....                         | 69 |
| APPENDIX 7 –FCPTOA WORKING GROUP.....                                | 70 |
| APPENDIX 8 – LOCAL CONTACTS FOR FUTURE ASSISTANCE .....              | 71 |

## Change Log

### Version 20

- Swapped term “firing range” to “firearm training facility” or “training facility”
- Added strategic goals
- Added Tactical Plan
- Added site selection process

### Version 19

- New Firearm training facility Cost Estimates based on Wilton Firearm training facility Quotes.
- Added estimates for usage capacity for an indoor range.
- Updated Facility Inventory.
- New Firearm training facility 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 firearm training facilities. 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 firearm training facility. Refer to the June 22, 2020 Findings and Recommendations report for additional information.

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

## Strategic Objectives

Strategic objectives lay a clear set of targets regarding what this project aims to accomplish.

- I. **Regional Firing Range.** Fully functional police firearms training facility that provides an efficient and effective solution for Western Connecticut law enforcement departments to complete mandated State of Connecticut firearms qualification and training sessions as well as a multipurpose training room for defensive tactics, less lethal use of force, and classroom space.
- II. **Economies of Scale.** A firing range solution that via economies of scale is a cost-effective solution to ensure law enforcement personnel are properly trained and certified with department firearms.
- III. **Maximize Access.** A police firearms training facility that allows for year-round access, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
- IV. **Minimize Public Impact.** A firing range solution that minimizes public impact for noise, environmental effects, and safety.
- V. **Rifle Capable.** A firing range solution that provides the ability to qualify and train personnel for multiple types of weapons including department issued firearms – handgun, shotgun and patrol rifle up to 5.56-millimeter ammunition capability.
- VI. **Interagency Agreement.** Implementation of an effective, integrated, multi-jurisdictional public safety agreement that will achieve collaboration, cooperation, and communication between all the agencies.
- VII. **Operations Plan.** Clearly defined Operations Plan regarding the management of a police firearms training facility.

## Tactical Plan

*The tactical plan is the specific steps required to achieve each of the desired Regional Firing Range strategic goals. A good tactical plan breaks long-term strategic goals into smaller parts. The tactical plan is sequential and addresses dependencies where required. Comments on progress are provided in  blue font. Completed tasks are marked in  green font along with their respective completion date. Identified action steps are provided in  red font.*

### I. Regional Firing Range

1. Establish a project taskforce to oversee and inform the project process.
  - a. WestCOG to poll communities for interest
  - b. Municipalities to identify members for the taskforce
  - c. WestCOG to coordinate regular meeting schedule.
2. Create a list of strategic goals for the project effort to focus efforts and minimize mission creep.
  - a. WestCOG to draft starting strategic objectives.
  - b. Taskforce to review, edit, and agree on developed strategic objectives.

3. Develop a tactical plan to outline the needed steps to accomplish of the strategic objectives.
  - a. WestCOG to draft starting tactical plan.
  - b. Taskforce to agree on the tactical plan.
4. Establish a governance structure. [See VI Interagency Agreement]
5. Collect inventory of commitments. [See VI Interagency Agreement]
6. Site selection for construction.
  - a. Taskforce provides list of potential sites
  - b. WestCOG reviews commuter estimates and locations
  - c. The committee considers site priority
  - d. Identify the site for the training facility.
7. Develop Facility Design Specifications. [Dependent on site location, commitment letters]
  - a. Facility should consider noise, public safety, and environmental impact as it regards to public impact. [See IV Minimize Public Impact]
  - b. Facility should be designed to meet department firearms and weapons training requirements. [See VI Rifle Capable]
  - c. WestCOG to review existing data on estimated usage.
  - d. WestCOG to compare existing draft specs with usage demands and present to taskforce
  - e. Taskforce to modify comment and edits specifications as needed before finalized.
8. Outreach of Information/ Education (public and municipal staff)
  - a. WestCOG to update the Regional Firing Range Blue Print, perform monthly project updates in the Newsletter and maintain website.
  - b. WestCOG to present to the COG when submitting for the RPIP Bid. Task force member on hand would strengthen case.
  - c. Public information updates performed as needed.
9. Secure grant funding for supporting funds of a regional range
  - a. WestCOG drafts an RPIP application [Dependent on Governance Structure, Design Specifications, Location, Commitment Letters]
  - b. Draft application verified by the taskforce.
  - c. OPM to review the project.
10. Establish MOU between participating parties.
11. Commitments of funding form municipalities and parties.
12. Construction Bids
  - a. WestCOG develops a draft RFP
  - b. Taskforce reviews the RFP
  - c. WestCOG releases RFP and collects bids
  - d. WestCOG designs selection criteria with Taskforce.
  - e. Interviews with firms (usually around 3)
  - f. Taskforce selects a firm
  - g. WestCOG coordinates with the Firm and Project manager to finalize contract.
  - h. WestCOG hands project over to project coordinator. This might be the taskforce.
13. Construction oversight

- a. Project manager checks in regularly with the construction firm to the completion of the project.

## II. Economies of Scale

1. Identify estimates for building multiple smaller ranges. Include additional costs as well associated with siting a facility and ongoing maintenance/staffing.
2. Provide comparison of scenarios.
3. Educate municipal leadership on findings.
4. Utilize RPIP funds to reduce financial burden for a regional firing range.
  - a. Dependent on completion of VI. Interagency Agreement.
  - b. Dependent on completion

## III. Maximize Access

1. Establish an estimate of facility usage. [Dependent on the number of letters of commitment]
2. Estimate the count of training officers and facility staff necessary for initial quotes on usage. [Dependent on the spec of the facility (# of lanes)
  - a. It is about 1 range officer to 3-4 officers. There is also an electronic range controller.
  - b. Departments would be supplying their own training facility officers
  - c. Range will include minimum mandates of training officers for the range to be utilized, as well as needed approval.
3. Build recommendations into the Regional Firing Range Charter

## IV. Minimize Public Impact

1. The facility will be designed to minimize noise for nearby residents. [Dependent on facility specs]
2. The facility will be designed to be a secure location to ensure public safety. [Dependent on facility specs]
3. The facility will be designed to capture environmental waste. [Dependent on facility specs]
  - a. Establish a process for environmental waste collection.
4. Integrate these factors into facility specs and charter.

## V. Training Facility Specifications

1. The facility should be designed for use of police department issued firearms up to 5.56 millimeter ammunition. [Dependent on facility specs]
2. The facility should also give consideration for less-lethal weapons training. Example weapon training such as tazer and beanbag rounds. As an indoor facility, training with chemical, aerosol, or other munitions that are intrinsically dangerous when used indoors would be restricted. [Dependent on facility specs]
3. Integrate these specifications into the charter and operations plan.



## VI. Interagency Agreement

1. Establish governance structure for decision making.
  - a. WestCOG collects draft scenarios for governance structure.
  - b. Taskforce adds additional scenarios and modifies any draft ones.
  - c. WestCOG and Taskforce inventory Pros and Cons of each scenario
  - d. A strategic decision is made for governance structure.
2. Establish governance structure to address construction costs
  - a. WestCOG collects draft scenarios for governance structure.
  - b. Taskforce adds additional scenarios and modifies any draft ones.
  - c. WestCOG and Taskforce inventory Pros and Cons of each scenario
  - d. A strategic decision is made for governance structure.
3. Establish governance structure to address maintenance costs.
  - a. WestCOG collects draft scenarios for governance structure.
  - b. Taskforce adds additional scenarios and modifies any draft ones.
  - c. WestCOG and Taskforce inventory Pros and Cons of each scenario
  - d. A strategic decision is made for governance structure.
4. Collect an inventory of commitment letters and letters of support.
  - a. WestCOG will draft a sample letter as well as an ask of data such as rough estimate of officers and type of training they would use the range for.
  - b. Taskforce will provide input regarding requesting those letters
  - c. Chief Kullgren can make the request.
  - d. Letters will be collected
5. Implement an MOU outlining the foundational governance structure. This document is not modified regularly.
  - a. WestCOG drafts an MOU
  - b. Taskforce reviews and edits MOU to finalize.
  - c. MOU is brought before??? And approved and signed
  - d. Lawyers to draft this language.
    - i. MOU ill also give the steering committee the authority to set up and modify the charter.
6. Implement a charter for day-to-day governance decisions that can be modified as needed.
  - a. Evaluate existing models of charters
  - b. WestCOG to draft a sample charter
  - c. Taskforce to review charter language.
  - d. Executive board to adopt and manage the charter.

## VII. Operations Plan

1. This will serve as a skeleton for the operation plan at this phase. An operations plan would be developed in detail by the Training Facility Manager and his team.
  - a. WestCOG to evaluate existing bylaws and examples
  - b. WestCOG to draft sample operations plan.
  - c. Taskforce to evaluate the draft operations plan



- d. Facility manager and team to flesh out the operations plan.

## Project Synopsis

In October 2020, the project began with a Zoom call with the Western Connecticut Firearm 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 firearm 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 firearm 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 Firearm 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 fire arm training facilities, 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 firearm 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 firearm training facility, 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 firearm training facility requires extensive planning and design which is why there are companies that specifically construct firearm training facility. These companies are experts in the planning, design, and construction of professional and law enforcement firearm training facility. 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 Firearm Training Facility 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 firearm training facility construction.*

## Facility Sharing and Online Scheduling

A firearm training facility capacity analysis reveals very limited space within existing firearm training facilities 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 FCPOTA, 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 firearm training facility 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

### Developing the Governance Model - The Process

In short, the process identifies high level structure options, and moves into more detailed decision scenarios. Ultimately laid out in an MOU. The process known so far.

1. Foundational Governance Structures. For executive decision making.
2. Construction of the facility
3. Ongoing costs of the facility
4. Management of the facility
5. Regional Range MOU. Agreement between decision makers. Not flexible. Enables the powers overseeing the charter.
6. Regional Range Charter. Detailed list of rules and management process. Flexible

**Finalization Process.** It is worth noting that this process has a three phase process before finalizing the governance structure. The first phase collects all the options. These options are evaluated for pros and cons. Then based on those pros and cons models are developed integrating the whole process. From there a model is selected and the agreement is finalized.



#### 1. Foundational Governance Structure

- ? Are there Models of Regional Facilities that have you know of or know worked well?

Public Safety Interoperability Project (PSIP) Organization Structure.

#### Value Proposition Considerations

This will be relevant for the grant process.

- Customers of the PSIP agreement will want to be able to
  - Demonstrate how the PSIP agreement enhances the ability to successfully achieve stakeholder strategic objectives
  - Justify the expense of the PSIP agreement

- Validate the jurisdiction is receiving a positive Return on Investment for services rendered
- The County will need to ensure the SLA can be successfully completed (e.g., funding, staff, infrastructure)
- All parties will want to demonstrate the value of the PSIP agreement via economies of scale (e.g., Enhanced dependability and reliability of Public Safety applications/systems)
- Cost effective solution for enterprise wide Public Safety applications/systems (e.g., less expensive if jurisdictions share the cost of infrastructure, staffing and the applications/systems)
- Improved information sharing from Public Safety using the same applications/systems versus being in silos
- Improved management of Public Safety applications

## 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 firearm 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 conducts 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.*

## Firearm Training Facility Utilization

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

### Existing Ranges and Capacity

A survey was submitted to firearm training facilities 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 & Mattabassett 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 Firearm training facility 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.

## Firearm Training Facility 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 firearm training facility equipment that has been stored in the original packaging.

Bridgeport reported the location of a firearm training facility 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 firearm training facility 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<br>Range Equipment Purchase |               |   |                      |
|--|---------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>PO 1302165-00</b>                                     |               |   |                      |
| 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          |
| <b>Invoice Total</b>                                     |               |   | <b>\$ 304,215.00</b> |
|  |               |   |                      |
| <b>PO 1302166-00</b>                                     |               |   |                      |
| 5/3/2013   | Action Target | Roof structure canopy for complete line of fire range | \$ 214,000.00        |
|  |               | Backstop/bullet trap                                  | \$ 34,305.00         |
| <b>Invoice Total</b>                                     |               |   | <b>\$ 248,305.00</b> |
|  |               |   |                      |
| <b>PO 1302167-00</b>                                     |               |   |                      |
| 5/3/2013   | Action Target | Ventilation system<br>\$13,500 per lane x 12          | \$ 162,000.00        |
|  |               | Bullet trap/back stop<br>\$2691.50 per lane x 12      | \$ 32,298.00         |
| <b>Invoice Total</b>                                     |               |   | <b>\$ 194,298.00</b> |
|  |               |   |                      |
| <b>PO 060388</b>   |               |   |                      |
| 6/25/2012  | Action Target | 8 Target Packages                                     | \$ 30,000.00         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL OF INVOICES</b>                           |               |   | <b>\$ 776,818.00</b> |

Copies of the Bridgeport/Action Target invoices were obtained.

## Firearm Training Facility 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 firearm training facility. 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 firearm training facility 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 firearm training facility.

**New Canaan:** New Canaan has considered plan to build their own firearm training facility 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 Firearm training facility 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 firearm training facility against from police departments and police officer origin points. The analysis aims to provide insight for two scenarios of locating a firearm training facility 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 firearm training facility. 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 firearm training facility directly from their origin point (home). In this scenario the officer would have to have access to firearm training facility 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 firearm training facility 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.

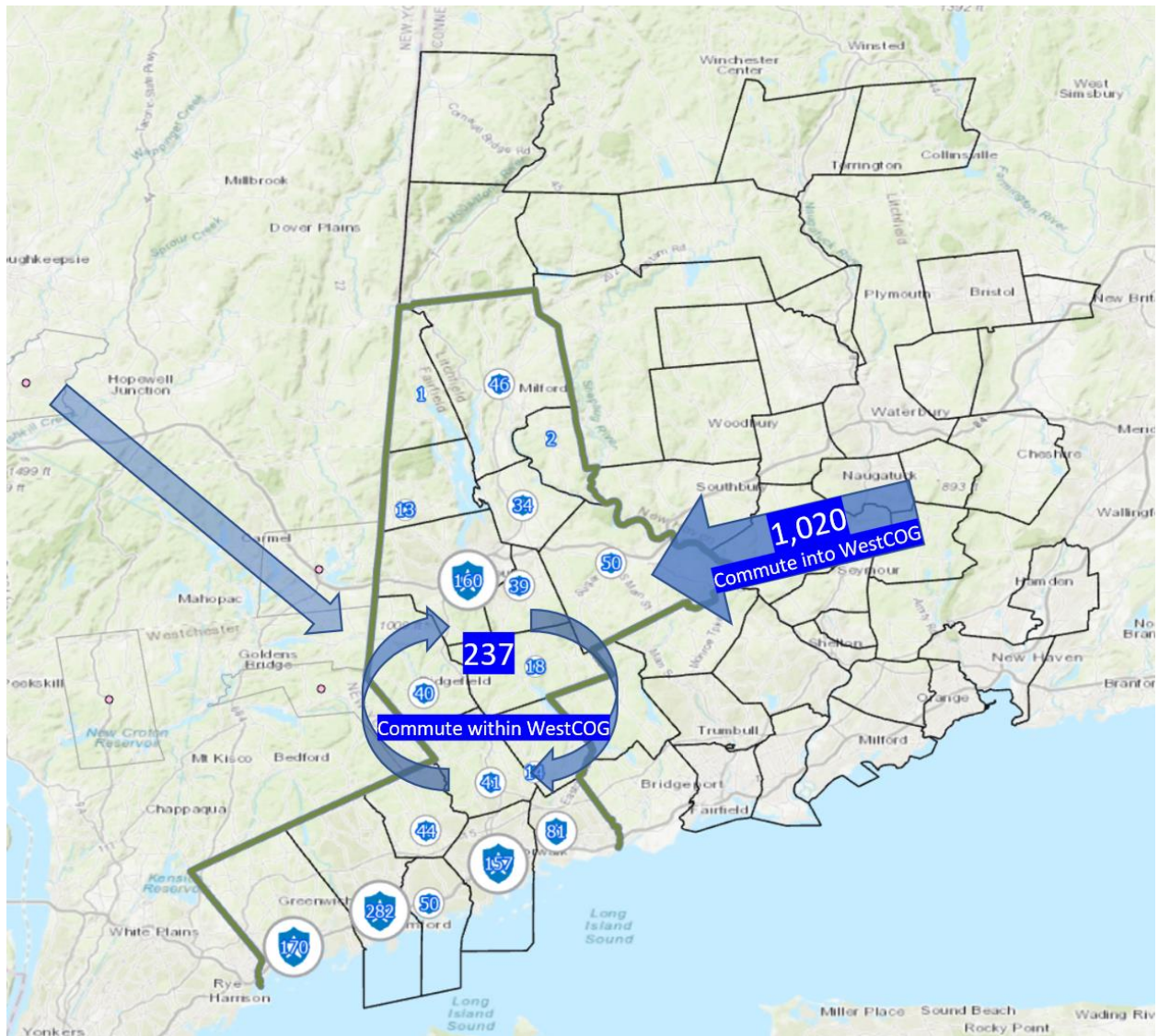


Figure 2 Travel patterns of police officers serving in the WestCOG region. The majority come from eastern communities of WestCOG.

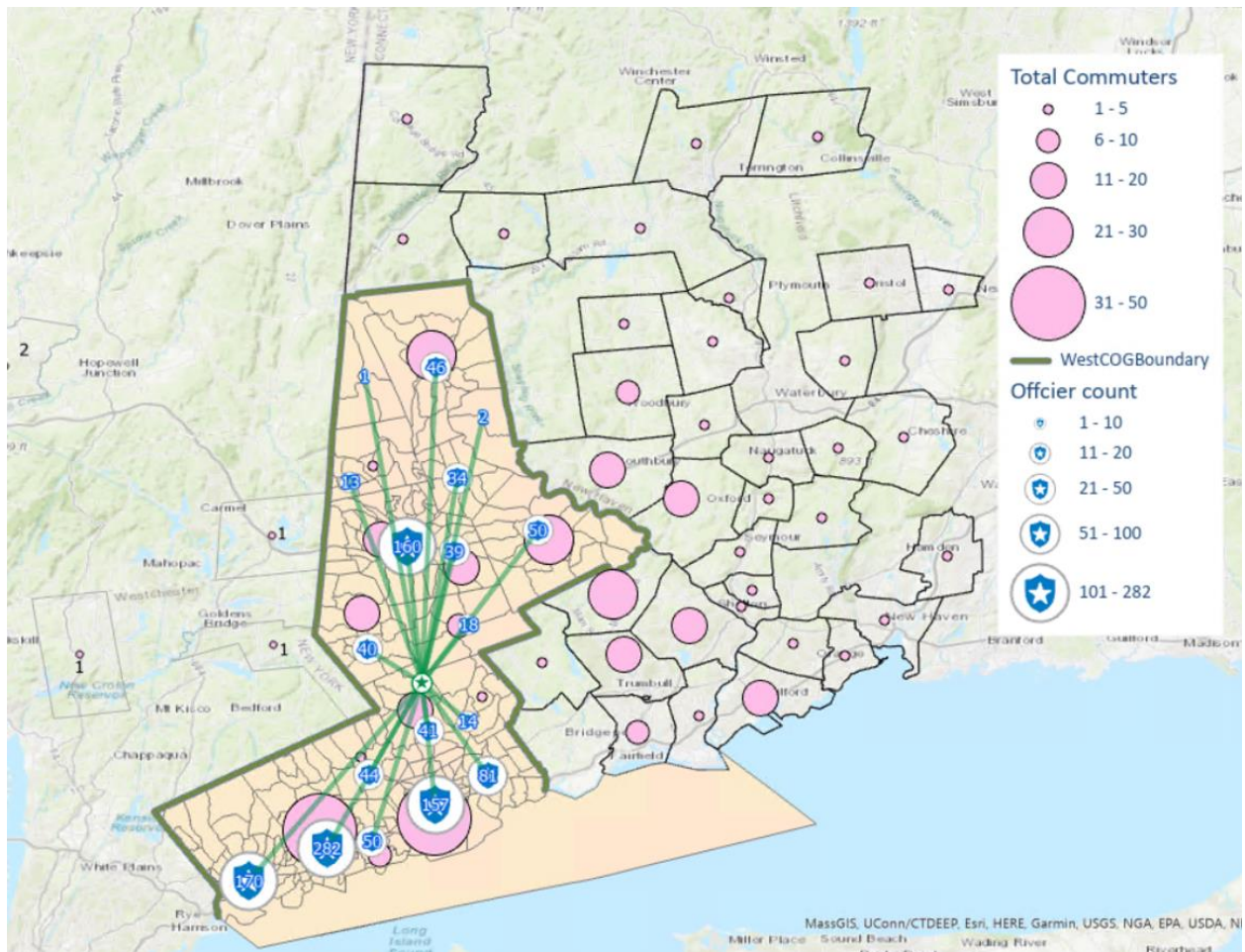


Figure 3 The geographic centroid for a firearm training facility determined by police departments weighted by the number of sworn officers.



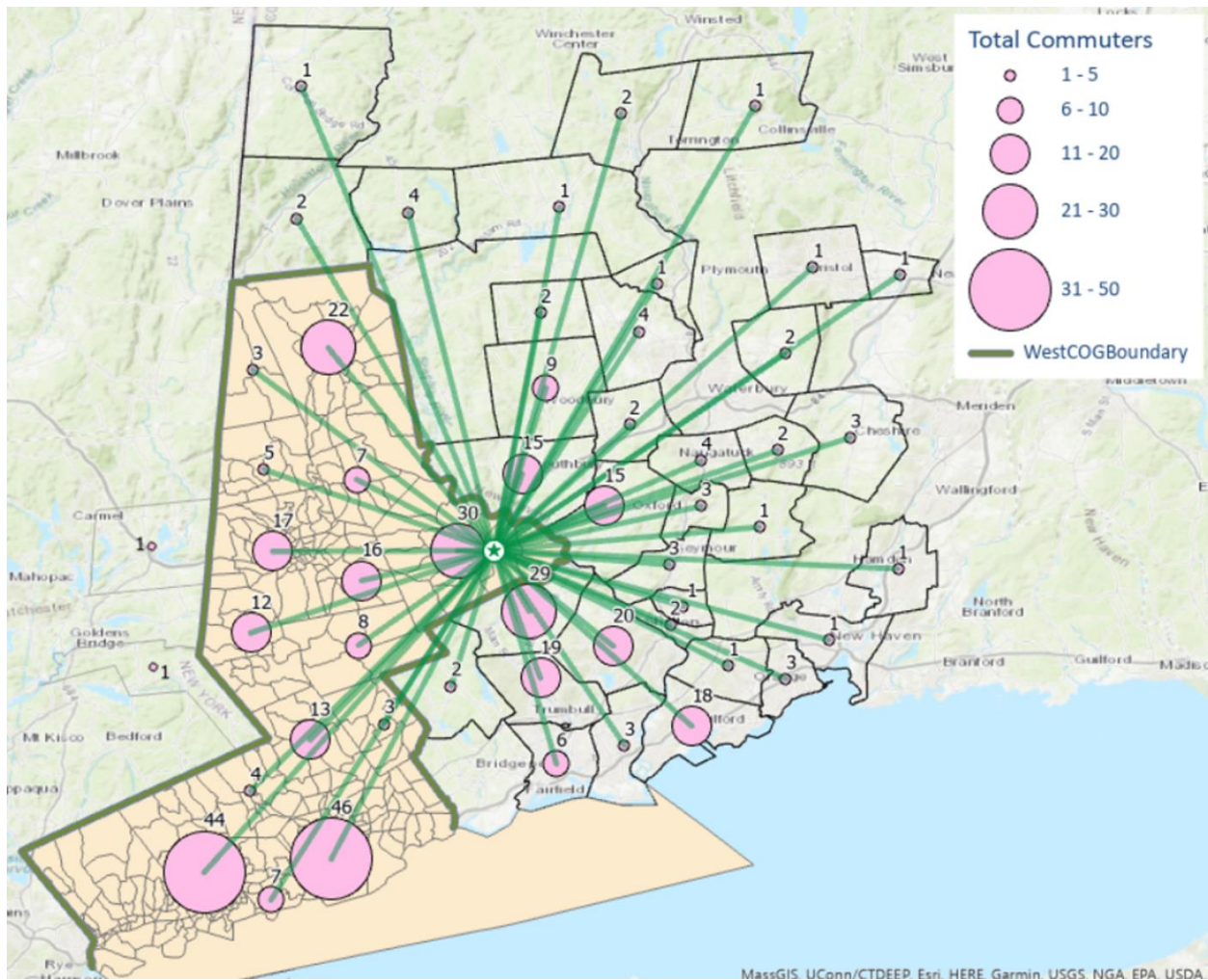


Figure 4 The geographic centroid for a firearm training facility determined by officer origins weighted by the number of sworn officers

### Potential Firearm Training Facility Travel Times

To compare travel times for the proposed firearm training facility locations the median travel time (not weighted) and travel time for all officers were calculated in the table below. The median considers the travel time from a given facility to all possible police departments (figure 4) and for all possible officer origin points (figure 5). Then to account for the varying number of sworn officers for each municipality the sum of their collective travel between the firearm training facility and department (figure 4) or firearm training facility and officer origin points (figure 5). The results are sorted by the lowest median travel time. Lowest values are presented as bold. The sum values are also presented in hours and days for more manageable statistics to discuss.

**Department Analysis.** The Wilton Transfer Station has the lowest median value and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest sum value (1% larger than the minimum).

**Officer Origin Analysis.** The Taunton Press site has the lowest median value and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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   | <b>23.2</b> | 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        | <b>27,459</b> | <b>457.6</b> | <b>19.1</b> |
| 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  | <b>37.6</b> | 13,705        | 228.4        | 9.5        |
| 191 S. Main Street                            | Newtown 1  | 40.2        | <b>13,306</b> | <b>221.8</b> | <b>9.2</b> |
| 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 firearm training facilities 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 firearm training facilities within the region for training.

## Site Selection Matrix

A survey is being sent out to police departments in and around Fairfield County to identify an ideal location between either Wilton's transfer station location or Newtown's 191 S St location. The results will help determine the proposed site for the firing range.

## 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 firearm training facility 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 firearm training facility 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"> <li>• 15 lanes at 54" wide</li> <li>• Totally tactical</li> <li>• 3/8" AR500 steel in the overhead baffles (as generally required for rifle rated ranges and most used on law enforcement ranges)</li> <li>• Open architecture (meaning no shooting stalls/tables or target retriever systems).</li> </ul> | <p>~ \$1,350,000 - Range equipment with freight and complete installation</p> <p>~ \$ 490,000 - Ventilation/Filtration w/heat &amp; AC</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  | ~ \$100,000 to add this  |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| with master controller for the trainers to control individual targets or all at once |  |
|--|--|

| 75-yard Plan  | Costs  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 lanes at 54" wide</li> <li>• Totally tactical</li> <li>• 3/8" AR500 steel in the overhead baffles (as generally required for rifle rated ranges and most used on law enforcement ranges)</li> <li>• Open architecture (meaning no shooting stalls/tables or target retriever systems).</li> </ul> | <p>~ \$2,600,000 - Range equipment with freight and complete installation</p> <p>~ \$ 700,000 - Ventilation/Filtration w/heat &amp; AC</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   | ~ \$130,000 to add this  |

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](mailto: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**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>New Canaan</b> | Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability |
| <b>Redding</b>    | Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability |
| <b>Ridgefield</b> | Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability |
| <b>Weston</b>     | Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability |
| <b>Wilton</b>     | Utilizes multiple ranges depending upon availability |

**Capacity of Current Range**

|                   | <b>Handgun</b> | <b>Shotgun</b> | <b>Rifle</b>                    | <b>Other/Chemical</b> |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>New Canaan</b> | Yes            | Yes            | No. Limited rifle range options | No                    |
| <b>Redding</b>    | Yes            | Yes            | No. Limited rifle range options | No                    |
| <b>Ridgefield</b> | Yes            | Yes            | No. Limited rifle range options | No                    |
| <b>Weston</b>     | Yes            | Yes            | No. Limited rifle range options | No                    |
| <b>Wilton</b>     | Yes            | Yes            | No. Limited rifle range options | No                    |

**Firearms Qualifications – State Mandate and Department Policy**

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

|                   |     |                     |     |
|-------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| <b>Redding</b>    | Yes | Qualify once a year | N/A |
| <b>Ridgefield</b> |     | Qualify once a year | N/A |
| <b>Weston</b>     |     | Qualify once a year | N/A |
| <b>Wilton</b>     |     | 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 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|------|
| <b>New Canaan</b> | 15      | 15      |      |
| <b>Redding</b>    | 3       | 3       |      |
| <b>Ridgefield</b> | Unknown | Unknown |      |
| <b>Weston</b>     | 11      | 11      |      |
| <b>Wilton</b>     | 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 |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>New Canaan</b> |                            |
| <b>Redding</b>    |                            |
| <b>Ridgefield</b> |                            |
| <b>Weston</b>     |                            |

**Wilton**Firearms Training and Qualification Breakdown

Breakdown of above firearms training and qualification.

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

**Annual Cost to Lease/Use Firing Range(s)**

|                   | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|
| <b>New Canaan</b> |      |      |      |
| <b>Redding</b>    |      |      |      |
| <b>Ridgefield</b> |      |      |      |
| <b>Weston</b>     |      |      |      |
| <b>Wilton</b>     |      |      |      |

**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. Housatonic 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

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## 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](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](http://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 targeting 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](mailto: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](mailto:montefuscor@wcsu.edu) 203-627-8130 - spokesperson
- Charles Carr [ccarr@westportct.gov](mailto:ccarr@westportct.gov) 203-341-6006
- Mike Ruttenber [mruttenber@westportct.gov](mailto:mruttenber@westportct.gov) Cell: 910-382-5625
- Matt Georgoulis [matt.georgoulis@danbury-ct.gov](mailto:matt.georgoulis@danbury-ct.gov)
- Anthony Signore [asignore@rpdct.us](mailto:asignore@rpdct.us)
- Andrew Mastroianni [amastroianni@darienct.gov](mailto:amastroianni@darienct.gov) 203-662-5336
- Officer Juan Esquilin [Juan.Esquilin@bridgeportct.gov](mailto:Juan.Esquilin@bridgeportct.gov) Officer (203) 576-3919 Mobile (203) 257-5698
- Robert Ferretti [Robert.Ferretti@greenwichct.org](mailto:Robert.Ferretti@greenwichct.org) 203.633-3301
- Dru Sin [dsin@newmilfordpolice.org](mailto: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](mailto:Paul.Grech@bridgeportct.gov) 203-576-6610, 203-275-6625
- Officer Juan Esquilin [Juan.Esquilin@bridgeportct.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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 firearm training facilities 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 firearm training facilities (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]



