

Disclaimer: These interim minutes of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (“WestCOG” or “COG”) are released and “available for public inspection” and “posted” on WestCOG’s website, in accordance with C.G.S. §1-225(a). Said interim minutes are subject to review and approval by the COG members, after which time the final approved minutes will be available and posted in accordance with laws. Accordingly, the interim minutes may contain inaccuracies and do not reflect the final action of the COG.

INTERIM MINUTES

Council/ Housatonic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization/South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization for the 10/22/2022 Meeting

The Ridgefield Town Hall Annex- 66 Prospect St. Ridgefield, CT 06879

COG Chairman Rudolph Marconi / Vice Chair- Julia Pemberton
Treasurer-Lynne Vanderslice / Secretary Kevin Moynihan
HVMPO Chairman Rudy Marconi / Vice Chairman Julia Pemberton
SWRMPO Chairman Lynne Vanderslice / Vice Chairman Kevin Moynihan

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel..... Acting First Selectman Rich Stratton- COG/HVMPO
Bridgewater..... First Selectman Curtis Read- COG/HVMPO
Brookfield..... Absent- COG/HVMPO
Danbury..... Absent- COG/HVMPO
Darien..... First Selectman Monica Mc Nally- COG/SWRMPO
Greenwich..... Selectman Lauren Rabin - COG/SWRMPO
New Canaan..... First Selectman Kevin Moynihan- COG/SWRMPO
New Fairfield..... First Selectman Pat Del Monaco- COG/HVMPO
New Milford..... Absent- COG/HVMPO
Newtown..... Dan Rosenthal- COG/HVMPO
Norwalk..... Absent- COG/SWRMPO
Redding..... First Selectman Julia Pemberton- COG/HVMPO
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi- COG/HVMPO
Sherman..... Absent- COG/HVMPO
Stamford..... Chief of Staff Bridget Fox- SWRMPO
Weston..... First Selectman Samantha Nestor- COG/SWRMPO
Westport..... First Selectman Jennifer Tooker- COG/SWRMPO
Wilton..... First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice- COG/SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... Rick Schreiner- HVMPO
Transit Representative..... Absent- SWRMPO
CTDOT..... Absent (Non-voting MPO member)
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Frank Petise, WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Nicole Sullivan, Kristin Floberg, Victoria Ricks, Cricket Carpenter, and Executive Director Francis Pickering. Also in attendance were, Paul Hearn from Baralmar Advisors LLC, Victoria Houle from Wickedhoule Engineering, and Jennifer Johnson from Westport.

CALL TO ORDER

The meetings were called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi and SWRMPO Vice Chairman Kevin Moynihan.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Jennifer Johnson of Westport requested that hybrid meetings be held and that separate agendas/minutes be prepared for MPO and COG meetings. Executive Director Pickering explained that the Executive Committee had decided to return to in-person meetings, as provided for under the Freedom of Information Commission's 1980 advisory opinion (41), and that joint documents were developed to reduce confusion and improve efficiency.

FEATURED PRESENTATION: WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos and Senior Planner Kristin Floberg held a workshop on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

HV/SWR MPO Information Items:

USDOT National Culvert Removal, Replacement and Restoration –

Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program: WestCOG's Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.

Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP) Solicitation: Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. The deadline for applications is February 28, 2023.

Public Involvement Plan: WestCOG Planner Nicole Sullivan provided an overview. Municipal ADA Transition Plans

Municipal ADA Transition Plans: Kristin Hadjstylianos provide an overview. The deadline for municipalities to apply is December 1, 2022.

Approval of the SWRMPO/HVMPO, and COG 09/22/2022 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco the minutes from the 09/22/2022 COG and HVMPO meeting were unanimously approved with an abstention made by Bethel First Selectman Rich Straiton. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Monica McNally and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice the minutes of the 09/22/2022 SWRMPO meeting were unanimously approved.

HV/SWR MPO Action Items: *

CTDOT Draft Statewide Rail Plan and Statewide Freight Plan – WestCOG Comments: This item was moved to the COG Action items.

2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (SWR): WestCOG's Nicole Sullivan provided a review. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan and seconded by Darien First Selectman Monica Mc Nally the 2021-2024 SWR TIP amendments were unanimously approved.

COG Action Items**

CTDOT Draft Statewide Rail Plan and Statewide Freight Plan – WestCOG Comments: Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. Comments on the Freight Plan are due October 24. Comments on the Rail Plan are due October 31. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and seconded by Darien First Selectman Monica McNally, the COG approved submission of comments in response to CTDOT Draft Statewide Rail Plan and Statewide Freight Plan.

LOTICIP Adjustments: WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney provided a review. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Rich Straiton and seconded by Darien First Selectman Monica Mc Nally the LOTICIP Adjustments were unanimously approved.

Quarter 1 Financial Report: WestCOG Financial Director Vicky Ricks provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Kevin Moynihan and seconded by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton the Quarter 1 Financial Report was unanimously approved.

COG Information Items:

Regional Fee Schedule demonstration: WestCOG Senior Data Scientist Tucker Beckett provided the demonstration. The Regional Fee Schedule can be viewed by visiting the WestCOG website at: <https://westcog.org/regional-services/fees/>. If you have any questions about the fee schedule you can email Tucker TBeckett@westcog.org or call his direct line at the office at: 475-323-2062.

Regional Flood Mitigation and Project Management Services Update: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and Paul Hearn from Baralmar Advisors gave an update. WestCOG and Dewberry will host an information session to introduce FEMA flood grant programs and to answer questions about the grant application process on Thursday, October 27 at 6:30 PM. The information session will be held at Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, 4th Floor, Stamford.

Broadband Feasibility Studies: WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an update.

CEDS: Francis Pickering provided an update.

Next meeting: MPO/COG: Thursday, November 17, 2022.

Other Business: The COG directed Francis Pickering to draft letters to PURA regarding the Aquarion rate proposal and to Attorney General William Tong regarding the cost of heating fuel.

Adjournment: On a motion duly made the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:08 p.m.