

## APPROVED MINUTES

### Council/Housatonic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization/South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

for the 04/27/2023 Special 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..... First Selectman Dan Carter- COG/HVMPO  
Bridgewater..... First Selectman Curtis Read  
Brookfield ..... First Selectwoman Tara Carr – COG/HVMPO  
Danbury ..... Absent  
Darien ..... First Selectwoman Monica McNally- COG/SWRMPO  
Greenwich..... Absent- COG/SWRMPO  
New Canaan..... First Selectman Kevin Moynihan- COG/SWRMPO  
New Fairfield ..... Selectwoman Kris Hall – COG/HVMPO  
New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass – COG/HVMPO  
Newtown ..... First Selectman Dan Rosenthal – COG/HVMPO  
Norwalk..... Mayor Harry Rilling- COG/SWRMPO  
Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton- COG/HVMPO  
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi- COG/HVMPO  
Sherman ..... First Selectman Don Lowe COG/HVMPO  
Stamford..... Bridget Fox (Non-voting MPO Member)- SWRMPO  
Weston..... First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor- COG/SWRMPO  
Westport..... Absent– COG/SWRMPO  
Wilton ..... First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice- COG/SWRMPO  
Transit Representative..... Rick Schreiner- HVMPO  
Transit Representative..... Matt Pentz & Barry Diggs -SWRMPO  
CTDOT ..... Kevin Tedesco (Non-voting MPO member)  
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair of the Greenwich Planning & Zoning Commission Margarita Alban, Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Frank Petise, HARTransit Transit Planner Guyauth Gabbidon, Director of Community Engagement Dave Arconti, Norwalk Chief of Economic and Community Development Jessica Vonashek, and Ridgefield Social Services Director Tony Phillips. WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Charles Vidich, Kevin Mahoney, Mike Wilson, Nicole Sullivan, Nicholas Trabka, Tucker Beckett, Victoria Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter. Also in attendance were Eversource Community Relations Specialist Chris Farrell, Ellen Graham, John

Wardzala, & Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Collective, Paul Hearn from Baralmar Advisors, LLC, James Root from the Sierra Club, and Jennifer Johnson from Westport.

#### CALL TO ORDER:

The meetings were called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chair Rudy Marconi and SWRMPO Chair Lynne Vanderslice.

**Public Participation:** Chis Farrell, Community Relations Specialist at Eversource announced that Eversource will be holding their Emergency Response Plan Annual Meeting for Municipal Officials on May 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 10:00 a.m. and May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The registration information is listed below.

5/3 Session 10am – 12 p.m. - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6434570074872866134>

5/4 Session 6pm – 8 p.m. - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5307468401838141789>

**Meeting Agenda Amendment:** A motion was made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter to amend the meeting agenda, moving **COG Action Item 8g.- Letter of Support for NTD Microtransit Pilot Proposal** to this time in the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Letter of Support for NTD Microtransit Pilot Proposal:** WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos and Norwalk Transit District CEO Matt Pentz provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan and seconded by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice the Letter of Support for NTD Microtransit Pilot Proposal was unanimously approved.

**Approval of the 03/16/2023 SWRMPO/HVMPO Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan the minutes of the March 16, 2023 SWRMPO meeting were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the minutes of the March 16, 2023, HVMPO meeting were unanimously approved.

**Approval of the COG 03/16/2023 Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally the minutes of the March 16, 2023 COG meeting were unanimously approved.

#### HV/SWR MPO Action Items:

**2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (SWR & HV):** WestCOG Planner Nicole Sullivan provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectwoman Monica

McNally and seconded by Norwalk Chief of Staff Bridget Fox the 2021–2024 SWRMPO TIP Amendments were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the 2021–2024 HVMPO TIP Amendments were unanimously approved.

**COG Action Items:**

**Quarterly Financial Report:** WestCOG Financial Director Vicky Ricks provided an update. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal and seconded by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice the Quarterly Financial Report was unanimously Approved.

**LOTICIP Adjustment:** WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally and seconded by Brookfield First Selectwoman Tara Carr the LOTICIP Adjustments were unanimously approved.

**CTDOT Transportation Rural Improvement Program:** WestCOG Senior Planner Mike Wilson provided an overview. After review and a modification to the Redding amount, a motion was made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. The WestCOG Priority and Concurrence Form for the CTDOT Transportation Rural Improvement Program was unanimously approved.

**Bethel- CT Communities Challenge Grant – Letter of Support:** WestCOG Project Manager Betsy Paynter provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal the Bethel- CT Communities Challenge Grant- Letter of Support was unanimously approved.

**USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant:** WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant was unanimously approved.

**Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program:** WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an overview. After review, a motion was made by Wilton First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice to support MetroCOG’s Notice of Intent to Participate under the CPRG Program to advance a collaborative planning project between MetroCOG and, and NVCOG for the Fairfield County MSA and to coordinate the development of the project with parallel CPRG planning efforts in the Hartford and New Haven MSAs, as well as with the State of Connecticut’s CPRG planning project, under the Program. The motion was seconded by Darien First Selectwoman Monica McNally and unanimously approved.

**MPO Information Items:**

**Unified Planning Work Programs:** WestCOG’s Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.

**Municipal Responsibilities at Railroad Crossings:** Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.

**Matching Grant Program:** Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.

**Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program:** WestCOG’s Mike Wilson provided an overview.

**COG Information Items:**

**NFWF Grant - Riparian Zoning Strategies:** WestCOG's Mike Towle provided an overview.

**Annual Data Update:** WestCOG Data Scientists Nick Trabka and Tucker Beckett provided an update.

**Connecticut Brownfields Municipal Grant Program Pass-Through:** WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an overview.

**Next meeting:** MPO/COG Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Adjournment** On a motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.