

## APPROVED MINUTES

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

for the 02/15/2024 Special Meeting

The Ridgefield Town Hall 400 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

*COG Chairman Rudolph Marconi / Vice Chair- Dan Carter*

*Treasurer -Jon Zagrodzky / Secretary Julia Pemberton*

*HVMPO Chairman Julia Pemberton / Vice Chairman Dan Carter*

*SWRMPO Chairman Toni Boucher/ Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky*

#### MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel..... First Selectman Dan Carter- COG/HVMPO  
Bridgewater..... First Selectman Curtis Read- COG/HVMPO  
Brookfield ..... First Selectman Steve Dunn- COG/HVMPO  
Danbury ..... Mayor Roberto Alves-COG/HVMPO  
Darien ..... First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky- COG/SWRMPO  
Greenwich..... Selectwoman Lauren Rabin COG/SWRMPO  
New Canaan..... First Selectman Dionna Carlson- COG/SWRMPO  
New Fairfield ..... First Selectman Melissa Lindsey- COG/HVMPO  
New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass- COG/HVMPO  
Newtown ..... First Selectman Jeff Capeci- COG/HVMPO  
Norwalk..... Mayor Harry Rilling COG/SWRMPO  
Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton- COG/HVMPO  
Ridgefield..... Absent COG/HVMPO  
Sherman ..... Absent COG/HVMPO  
Stamford..... Absent COG/SWRMPO  
Weston..... First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor- COG/SWRMPO  
Westport..... First Selectwoman Jen Tooker COG/SWRMPO  
Wilton..... First Selectman Toni Boucher - COG/SWRMPO  
Transit Representative..... Rick Schreiner- HVMPO  
Transit Representative..... Absent-SWRMPO  
CTDOT ..... Olivia Rizzuto (Non-voting MPO member)  
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Stamford Chief of Staff Bridget Fox, Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Frank Petise, CTDOT Planner Kevin Tedesco, and Danbury Government Affairs & Communication Advisor to the Mayor, Francesca Capodilupo. WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Nick Trabka, Betsy Paynter, Victoria Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter. Also in attendance were Paul Hearn from

Baralmar Associates, Martin Henry from Henry, Raymond, and Thompson, LLC, Adam Wood from the City & State Public Affairs Offices in Bridgeport & Rocky Hill, Brian Cutler Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc. CEO, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Collective, Westport Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, RTM member, and Westport resident Matthew Mandell, Westport resident Andrew Colabella, Westport RTM members Wendy Bandeau and Kristin Schneeman, Westport Town Clerk Jeff Dunkerton, and Westport Office of Information Technology Director Eileen Zhang. Sarah Burkhalter-Sweeney, Jeffrey Duncan, Julie Fatherly, Claudia Shaum, John Schwing, Danniell Suozzi, Martin Purcell, Debra Franceschini-Gatje, Jay Keenan, Andrew Bloom, Noah Hammond, Jimmy Izzo, Laren Karpf, Norman Kramer, Don O'day, and Louis Mall.

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Vice Chairman Dan Carter.

The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Chairwoman Julia Pemberton.

The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m. by Chairman Toni Boucher.

**Public Participation:** Westport Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, RTM member, and Westport resident Matthew Mandell commented that the Saugatuck area that is slated for brownfields remediation is vibrant with twenty restaurants.

Westport resident Andrew Colabella stated that he would like to echo Mr. Mandell's comments. He added that the Saugatuck River is to be dredged in the next eighteen to twenty months and group of rogue ventures are forecasted to add a two hundred-million-dollar project with apartments to revitalize the area.

Westport RTM member Wendy Bandeau concurred with Mr. Mandell and Mr. Colabella. She added that the Saugatuck area needs Brownfield remediation.

**FEATURED PRESENTATION-** Martin Henry from Henry, Raymond and Thomson, LLC provided an update on the FY 2023 audit results.

**Approval of the HVRMPO December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Melissa Lindsay the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> HVMPO meeting was unanimously approved.

**Approval of the SWRMPO December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes:** After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> SWRMPO meeting were approved with an abstention made by Greenwich Selectwoman Lauren Rabin.

**\*\*Approval of the COG 01/29/2024 Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the minutes of the 01/29/2024 COG meeting were unanimously approved.

**\*\*COG Action Items:**

**LOTICIP Adjustments:** WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the LOTICIP adjustments were unanimously approved.

**Q2 Financial Reports:** WestCOG Financial Director Vicky Ricks provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton the Q2 Financial Reports were unanimously approved.

**Banking Resolution:** WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher the Banking Resolution was unanimously approved.

**DECD Brownfield Redevelopment:** WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided the overview with commentary added by Adam Wood from the City & State Public Affairs Offices in Bridgeport & Rocky Hill. After review and on a motion made by Westport First Selectwoman Jenn Tooker and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton the CT Brownfields Development Grant Program Pass-Through was unanimously approved

**Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Letter of Support:** Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Letter of Support was unanimously approved.

**\*MPO Action Items:**

**2021-2024 HV/SWR TIP Amendments:** WestCOG Planner Nicole Sullivan provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton the HVMPO TIP Amendments were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher and seconded by Westport First Selectwoman Jen Tooker the SWRMPO TIP Amendments were unanimously approved.

**2024 CTDOT Highway Safety Performance Targets:** WestCOG's Nicole Sullivan provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Danbury Mayor Roberto Alves and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the HVMPO 2024 CTDOT Highway Safety Performance Targets were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Westport First Selectwoman Jenn Tooker and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the SWRMPO 2024 CTDOT Highway Safety Performance Targets were unanimously approved.

**MPO Information Items:**

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Performance Measure:** WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the review.

**2023 Section 5310 Application Announcement:** WestCOG Principal Planner Todd Fontanella provided the overview.

**COG Information Items:**

**Drone Update:** WestCOG Senior Data Scientist Nick Trabka provided the update.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

**Adjournment:** On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.