

*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.*

## **WestCOG / HVMPO / SWRMPO Interim Meeting Minutes**

(A Combined Meeting for Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), Housatonic Valley and South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organizations (HVMPO, SWRMPO) 1 Riverside Rd, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

**Scheduled for:** Thursday July 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 @12:00 p.m.

**Location.** Ridgefield Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT and virtually on Zoom.

*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  
Brookfield ..... First Selectman Steve Dunn COG/HVMPO  
Danbury ..... Absent COG/HVMPO  
Darien..... First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky COG/SWRMPO  
Greenwich..... P&Z Chairperson Margarita Alban SWRMPO  
New Canaan..... First Selectman Dionna Carlson COG/SWRMPO  
New Fairfield..... Absent-COG/HVMPO  
New Milford ..... Mayor Pete Bass COG/HVMPO  
Newtown..... Absent COG/HVMPO  
Norwalk..... Absent-COG/SWRMPO  
Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton COG/HVMPO  
Ridgefield..... Absent-COG/HVMPO  
Sherman..... First Selectman Don Lowe COG/HVMPO  
Stamford..... Chief of Staff Bridget Fox SWRMPO  
Weston..... First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor COG/SWRMPO  
Westport..... First Selectwoman Jen Tooker COG/SWRMPO  
Wilton..... First Selectman Toni Boucher COG/SWRMPO  
Transit Representative... Absent-HVMPO  
Transit Representative... Absent-SWRMPO  
CTDOT ..... Transportation Planner Jane Dunbar (Non-voting MPO member)  
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

**Others in Attendance:** Wilton Selectman Kim Healy, Norwalk Chief of Staff Tom Livingston, Chief of Staff to Danbury Mayor Alves- Francesca Capodilupo, WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Charles Vidich, Kevin Mahoney, Mike Wilson, Todd Fontanella, Vicky Ricks, Cricket Carpenter, Princeton Intern Adem Aricanli. Also in attendance were: Sarah Lopez from Senator Murphy's office, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Collective Mobility Services Department, Managing Member Paul Hearn from Baralmar Advisors, LLC, Principal-in-Charge John McGovern and Project Manager Tatum Storey from the WT Group

## Call to Order

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Vice Chairman Dan Carter.  
The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chairwoman Julia Pemberton  
The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Chairman Toni Boucher

## Public Participation

No member of the public spoke when asked to do so.

## Featured Presentation

**Affordable Housing Financing Study:** Senior Vice President, Managing Director, Planning & Strategy Don Poland and Research & Data Analyst Alyssa Fleming from GOMAN+YORK presented on the Affordable Housing finance Study. The Study can be found on the WestCOG website: <https://westcog.org/2024/07/affordable-housing-finance-study-3/>

## COG Action Items

**Approval of 06/20/2024 COG 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 June 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

**DEMHS-SLCP Grant Application:** WestCog Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the DEMHS-SLCP Grant Application was approved with New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson opposed.

**Quarterly Financial Update:** WestCOG Financial Director Victoria Ricks provided the update. After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagodzky the Quarterly Financial Update was unanimously approved.

**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 Zagodzky the LOTICIP Adjustments were unanimously approved.

**DEMHS REPT Appointments:** WestCOG Deputy Director Michael Towle provided the review. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher and seconded by Weston First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor; Francis Pickering is appointed DEMHS Region 1 Representative for WestCOG and empowered to appoint alternates or proxies for this role as required. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Regional Services Grant Project Authorizing Resolution: Municipal ADA Transition Plans:** WestCOG Senior Planner Mike Wilson provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the Regional Services Grant Project Authorizing Resolution: Municipal ADA Transition Plans was unanimously approved.

## **MPO Action Items**

**Approval of SWRMPO/HVMPO 06/20/2024 Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the minutes of the June 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 SWRMPO meeting was unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the minutes of the June 20<sup>th</sup> 2024 HVMPO was unanimously approved.

**2021-2024 HV/SWR Transportation Improvement Program:** WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the 2021-2024 HV MPO Transportation Improvement Program Amendments were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the 2021-2024 SWR MPO Transportation Improvement Program Amendments were unanimously approved.

## **COG Information Items**

**Regional Waste Authority:** WestCOG Project Manager Jaclyn Reelick provided the review.

**Legislative Committee:** Francis Pickering provided the review.

**Sustainable CT:** Mike Towle provided the review.

**Solar Adoption Study:** Mike Towle provided the review.

**Stormwater Mapping:** Mike Towle provided the review.

**AI Pilot for Assessors:** Mike Towle provided the review.

## **MPO Information Items**

**Transportation Grant Opportunities:** Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the review.

USDOT Reconnecting Communities: WestCOG Principal Planner Todd Fontanella provided the review.

## **Other Business**

There was no other business discussed.

## **Adjournment**

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

## **Next meeting**

The August 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 meeting has been canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th, 2024.

INTERIM MINUTES SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COG MEMBERS