

WestCOG / HVMPO / SWRMPO **APPROVED 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 September 19, 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 Absent
Danbury Mayor Roberto L. Alves COG/HVMPO
Darien..... First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky COG/SWRMPO
Greenwich..... First Selectman Fred Camillo 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 Capecci 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..... 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... Rick Schreiner-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: Chief of Staff to Danbury Mayor Roberto L. Alves- Francesca Capodilupo, CCM Advocacy Manager Lindsay Seti, Transit Planner Guyauth Gabbidon, WestCOG Staff: Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Mike Wilson, Todd Fontanella, Nick Trabka, Amal Malik, Vicky Ricks, Cricket Carpenter, Betsy Paynter, Jaci Reelick, and Princeton Intern Adem Aricanli. Also in attendance were: Eversource Community

Development and Public Policy Professional Austin Samuelson, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Collective Mobility Services Department, AECOM Outreach & Engagement Specialist Alexis Garcia, Frontier Communications David St. Martin, Connecticut Director of Construction & Engineering, Steven Crotty, and Connecticut Director of Operations, Joseph Ferraiolo, Connecticut Director of Field Operations Intersect Public Solutions Associate Bella Langlois, and James Root from the Sierra Club.

Call to Order

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:29 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:29 p.m. by Chairwoman Julia Pemberton

The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:29 p.m. by Chairman Toni Boucher

Public Participation

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

COG Action Items

Approval of July 2024 COG Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Westport First Selectman Jenn Tooker the minutes of the July 2024 meeting were approved with abstentions made by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci and New Fairfield First Selectman Melissa Lindsey.

LOTICIP New Project Solicitation

West Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Westport First Selectman Jenn Tooker the LOTICIP New Project Solicitation was approved with an abstention made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe.

LOTICIP Adjustments

Kevin Mahoney provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the LOTICIP Adjustments were unanimously approved.

EDA Planning Partnership Funding

WestCOG Senior Project Manager Betsy Paynter provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci and Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the EDA Planning Partnership Funding was unanimously approved.

DECD Round 20 Brownfield Grants – Letters of Support

WestCOG's Betsy Paynter provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling the DECD Round 20 Brownfield- Letters of Support were unanimously approved.

WestCOG-Woodland Pacific Brownfield Grant Application

Betsy Paynter provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the WestCOG-Woodland Pacific Brownfield Grant Application was unanimously approved.

Western CT Trail Project Resolution

WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the Western CT Trail Project Resolution was unanimously approved.

MNCW Danbury Branch Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Application-Letter of Support

WestCOG Senior Planner Todd Fontanella provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Danbury Mayor Roberto L. Alves and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the MNCW Danbury Branch Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Application-Letter of Support was unanimously approved.

MPO Action Items

Approval of SWRMPO/HVMPO July 2024 Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the minutes of the July 2024 HVMPO meeting were unanimously approved.

After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the minutes of the July 2024 SWRMPO meeting were unanimously approved.

FY2025-2028 HV/SWR Transportation Improvement Program

WestCOG's Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the FY2025-2028 HVMPO Transportation Improvement Program amendments were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the FY2025-2028 SWRMPO Transportation Improvement Program amendments were unanimously approved.

COG Information Items

Brownfield EPA Community Wide Assessment Grant.

WestCOG Project Manager Jaci Reelick provided the overview.

ADA Transition Plans

WestCOG Senior Planner Mike Wilson provided the update.

Data Collection Program

WestCOG Senior Data Scientist Nick Trabka provided the overview.

MPO Information Items

eTIP Project Tracker

WestCOG's Kristin Hadjstylianos provided the overview.

Transportation Grant Opportunities

WestCOG's Todd Fontanella provided the overview.

Traffic Calming and Complete Streets Best Practices Toolbox

WestCOG's Mike Wilson provided the update.

Featured Presentations

Solar Adoption Study & Compost Research

WestCOG Princeton Intern Adem Aricanli shared his presentation.

Frontier Communications

David St. Martin, Steven Crotty, Joseph Ferraiolo, and Bella Langlois from Intersect Public Solutions Shared partnership opportunities for municipalities, their plans for fiber expansion.

Other Business

Adjournment

On A motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Next meeting

MPO/COG Thursday, October 17, 2024