

Executive Committee Notes

Friday September 13th at 2:00 p.m.

The Ridgefield Town Hall Annex

66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel	First Selectman Dan Carter
Newtown	First Selectman Jeff Capeci
Redding	First Selectman Julia Pemberton
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi
Wilton	First Selectman Toni Boucher

OTHERS ATTENDING: WestCOG Staff: Executive Director Francis Pickering and Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstilianos.

The meeting began at: 2:02

Transportation

RAISE (Western CT Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Project) – WestCOG is continuing work on the grant agreement documents and coordination with FHWA and CTDEEP.

SS4A (Regional Safety Improvements) – WestCOG is continuing to develop documents for the grant agreement.

Regional Transit Authority – WestCOG has started coordination with FTA on grant administration.

Traffic Calming and Complete Streets Best Practices Toolbox – WestCOG executed a contract with Toole Design Group and a project management kick-off meeting was held.

Norwalk Route 1 – Transit and Business outreach event was held in August. The Project Advisory Committee met to review existing conditions. A walk audit of the project area is being coordinated for October.

Congestion Reduction Project Scopes – Working with consultant to refine list of congestion locations and will be holding a workshop with municipal staff to review the data analysis and locations.

Quiet Zone – Public meeting has been scheduled for October 1st. Project team is coordinating with the Advisory Committee on the draft presentation.

BUILD – Advisory Committee meeting was held on July 17th.

CTDOT Microgrants Program – Following CTDOT approval, WestCOG coordinated with awarded recipients on grant contracts. The next quarterly deadline for new applications is September 23rd.

LOTICIP – The TAG has recommended the COG endorse the next solicitation for LOTICIP proposals. This will be presented at the upcoming COG meeting.

eTIP ProjectTracker – WestCOG is transitioning to a new software platform to manage the TIPs for HVMPO and SWRMPO. Staff presented this to the TAG and provided a preview of what the platform looks like.

Regional Planning/Services Project Updates

Brownfield EDA Grant – There was a discussion on applying for funding to provide brownfield assessments grants to COG communities.

WestCOG-Woodland Pacific Brownfields Application (2oRG) – Discussion on WestCOG being the applicant in partnership with Woodland Pacific.

ADA Transition Plans RFQ – WestCOG executed a contract with WT Group to prepare ADA Transition Plans for sixteen municipalities. The consultant will be conducting site visits starting next week.

Firearms Training Facility – Project is on track and the Governance Meetings are being held regularly.

Affordable Housing Financing Study – The consultant presented the final study during the July COG meeting.

WCEDD – Next meeting will be on October 10th.

Farm Viability Project – Survey was released on 9/4 and the next PAC meeting will be in mid-October.

FMA (Flood Assistance Program) – WestCOG received updated RLP data and will be sending out new mailings soon. WestCOG will follow up with municipalities that have potential projects.

Residential Solar Adoption Exploratory Analysis (PICS) – The PICS intern will be presenting this project at the upcoming COG meeting.

Sustainable CT Program – Fellows finished their work in August.

Municipal Benchmarking Study – Kick-off meeting was held this week.

Digital Land Records – Coordinating meetings with interested municipalities. The consultant is in the final stages of data collection and will begin drafting the report.

C3.AI – WestCOG is working with a vendor on an automated property appraisal pilot in Darien. The model will be trained with additional municipal data and will be expanded to include the entire region.

Regional Waste Authority – WestCOG conducted a meeting with five municipalities in September to discuss collaboration. A Project Advisory Committee will be formed and WestCOG will issue an RFP.

Branchville/Georgetown Sewer Study – Negotiations with selected consultant were held in September and WestCOG anticipates executing a contract by the end of the month.

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan – WestCOG staff reported on the recent CPRG conference. The CCAP is on schedule for completion by end of 2025.

Brownfields Pass-through Grants – Discussion on grants, requirements, and legal reviews.

Brownfield DECD Grant (New Canaan) – Discussion on grant opportunities.

Financial/Personnel

Recruitment – WestCOG hired an Associate Planner in August.

Pending Grant Applications

There was a discussion regarding pending grant applications – DEMHS-SLC Grant Program Application (cyber security and IT activities) and resubmitting WestCOG’s application to the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program this year.

Upcoming meetings

TAG – Wednesday October 8th

MPO/COG Meeting - Thursday September 19th

The meeting concluded at: 3:06