

WestCOG Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Tuesday October 7, 2025 at 11:00 am

1 Riverside Rd. Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Telephone 475-323-2070

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89531093509>

Meeting ID: 895 3109 3509

Agenda

1) MEETING CALL TO ORDER

- a. WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos

2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION *limited to topics on this agenda and to 2 minutes per speaker.*

3) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Update – ADA Transition Plan Assistance Project.....Attachment 3a, pp. 1-2
- b. 2025 LOTCIP Project Solicitation
- c. Task-Based Transportation Engineering Consultants
- d. CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program.....Attachment 3d, pp. 3-4
- e. CTDOT Active Transportation Plan Open Houses.....Attachment 3e, p. 5

4) ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of the September 2025 meeting minutes.....Attachment 4a, pp. 6-8
- b. 2026 Proposed Meeting dates.....Attachment 4b, p. 9

5) OTHER BUSINESS

6) UPCOMING MEETINGS

- a. MPO/COG Thursday, October 16th, 2025, 2025
- b. TAG Meeting ****Wednesday**, November 12, 2025

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7) ADJOURNMENT

ENGLISH: For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at help@westcog.org. ESPAÑOL: Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con WestCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al help@westcog.org. PORTUGUÊS: Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entre em contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em help@westcog.org.

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TO: WestCOG TAG Representatives
 FROM: Mike Wilson, Senior Planner
 DATE: September 30, 2025
 RE: **Update - ADA Transition Plan Assistance Project**

Background

The WestCOG ADA Transition Plan Assistance project has been active since September 2024. At this point, consultant WT Group has completed substantial work in eight municipalities – Darien, New Milford, Norwalk, Redding, Stamford, Weston, Westport, and Wilton. Audits of municipal facilities for accessibility to disabled persons have been completed, with additional rounds of audits planned in Stamford and Westport. Site reports detailing audit findings have been completed.

Audits of municipal programs and policies for conformance with the ADA legislation have been completed in all eight communities. Community engagement activities in the form of surveys and public meetings have been completed in Redding, Darien, New Milford, Norwalk and Westport. Draft Final Reports have been submitted to Redding and Darien, and presentations made to the respective Town Councils. Completion of all outstanding reports for these eight communities is anticipated in the next two months.

WT Group conducted two training sessions concerning ADA matters to staff from several WestCOG municipalities in July. A presentation on Program and Policy occurred on July 21 at the Redding Community Center and a seminar on Infrastructure was held at the Darien Municipal Auditorium on July 23. These events were attended by 31 and 13 municipal staff, respectively. The training presentations occurred in PowerPoint format and will be available on WestCOG's website in the near future. Participants in the training received certificates of completion. Further training sessions are planned in 2026.

Next steps

The next phase of the project will begin in December 2025 with accessibility audits in the next four communities – Brookfield, New Fairfield, Newtown and Sherman. These communities are preparing for this work by taking three steps:

1. Designate a principal point of contact for the consultants to engage. In the communities going through this process so far, the point of contact has been the local ADA coordinator, town administrator or other municipal staff member with direct interest.
2. Assemble a Project Management Group of municipal staff to work with the consultants throughout the project. This group has generally included Parks and Rec, Public Works/Engineering, Transportation, Building Department (sometimes), Human Services

and staff with involvement in disability access. A project kickoff meeting is arranged to go over the plan and schedule so everyone knows what to expect. Project Management Meetings then occur at approximate monthly intervals over the life of the project. In addition to having responsibility for most municipal buildings and facilities, staff are also needed to gain access to places that are auditable but not generally open to the public.

3. Assemble a list of sites to be audited for access by people with disabilities. The ADA legislation is clear that this includes facilities, parks and playgrounds as well as buildings. The ADA requirements are very specific, and the consultants have provided detailed guidance. The four communities have provided lists provided lists of sites, and these are being reviewed carefully before audits begin. It is important that lists of sites be complete and appropriate, as additional sites cannot be added during audits.

The remaining four municipalities – Bethel, Bridgewater, Danbury and Greenwich – will be audited beginning in the second quarter of 2026. The entire project is expected to be completed in December 2026.

<https://portal.ct.gov/deep>

Attachment 3d

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

[CT.gov Home](#) <https://portal.ct.gov/> [Department of Energy & Environmental Protection](#) <https://portal.ct.gov/deep> [News Releases](#) <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/about/news--releases>

DEEP Requests Proposals for Recreational Trails Grants

Press Releases



News Release

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

09/23/2025

DEEP Requests Proposals for Recreational Trails Grants

Informational Webinar on October 16 & Applications due December 18

(HARTFORD) — The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is now accepting proposals for the State's **Recreational Trails Grant Program** (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Trails/CRT--Funding>). The grants awarded will be funded by a potential allocation of state bond funds in fiscal year 2026, authorized by CGS 23-103, as amended by PA 25-174, and may be limited by the actual amount allocated. An **informational webinar will be offered October 16**, and **applications will be accepted through December 18, 2025**.

Connecticut's trail infrastructure has seen significant usage since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant program aims to support communities with planning, design, enhancement, and connectivity to the trail resources connecting residents and visitors across the State of Connecticut to our open spaces and greenways. Nonprofit organizations, municipalities, state agencies, and tribal governments may apply.

"Every community in Connecticut, whether rural, urban, or suburban, deserves safe and equitable access to our trails and greenways, connecting residents and visitors alike to the outdoors," **said DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes**. "The pandemic spurred many people to discover and rediscover their love for the outdoors, interest that we've seen continue in our State Parks and Forests. Recreational Trails Grants bolster existing trails, and develop new ones, helping to connect residents and communities to nature."

DEEP will hold an informational webinar on **Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**, to provide an overview of the CT Recreational Trails Grant program and application. **Register for the webinar here** (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-nyLEd2juUwJjH_abtzi7juPXTjL-tCoQZ8742DI05UNVIQNFAxT085VVEwRTY0TUY3RkQ3Tlo5VS4u).

Administered in coordination with the Connecticut Greenways Council, the Recreational Trails Grant Program is guided by evaluation criteria that prioritize:

- Connectivity to underserved and Environmental Justice (EJ) communities
- Consistency with local and regional trail plans
- ADA accessibility improvements
- Community engagement in project design
- Location within or serving distressed municipalities, as defined by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) under CGS § 32-9p

Connecticut's last round of Recreational Trails Grants awarded **\$10 million to forty-five projects** ([https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2024/governor-lamont-announces-\\$10-million-in-state-grants-for-recreational-trails-across-connecticut](https://portal.ct.gov/deep/news-releases/news-releases---2024/governor-lamont-announces-$10-million-in-state-grants-for-recreational-trails-across-connecticut)), aimed at planning, building, expanding, and improving multi-use trails across the state. Those grants were selected by the Connecticut Greenways Council from among more than 100 applications and awarded amounts that ranged from \$7,270 to \$494,000. Examples of the various projects selected included:

- Creation of ADA Trails and Other Public Access in the Little River Preserve in Hampton
- Windham Air Line Trail and Willimantic River Blueway Enhancements in Windham
- Weed Avenue Multi-Use Trail Design in Stamford

Connecticut Recreational Trails Grant Program funds may be requested for uses including:

- Planning and design of trails
- Construction of new trails (motorized and non-motorized)

- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails (motorized and non-motorized)
- Access to trails by persons with disabilities
- Purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment
- Acquisition of land or easements for a trail, or for trail corridors
- Operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as related to recreational trails

Visit **DEEP Connecticut Recreational Trails Funding** (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Outdoor-Recreation/Trails/CRT--Funding>) for details and applications. For further information, contact Kimberly Bradley, DEEP Recreational Trails & Greenways Program, at DEEPctrails@ct.gov (<mailto:DEEPctrails@ct.gov>) or 860-424-3938.

Twitter: [@CTDEEPNews](https://twitter.com/ctdeepnews) (<https://twitter.com/ctdeepnews>).

Facebook: [DEEP on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CTDEEP) (<https://www.facebook.com/CTDEEP>).

Contact

DEEP Communications

DEEP.communications@ct.gov (<mailto:DEEP.communications@ct.gov>).

[860-424-3110](tel:8604243110) (tel:8604243110).

Members of the public are invited to

**CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS
State Project No. 0175-1618PL
Connecticut Statewide Active Transportation Plan**

**October 14-16, 2025
Middletown, Waterbury, New Britain**

Find a meeting in your community:
<https://portal.ct.gov/ATP2026>

The public open houses will be held to engage the community in discussion of and gather feedback about active transportation in their local area and statewide. Attendees will gain a sense of the purpose of the future Active Transportation Plan and provide critical input that will help shape and guide the plan as it moves through its creation process.

The purpose of the Active Transportation Plan is to evaluate existing conditions, identify active transportation needs of state-owned roadways, and propose recommendations for a functional, equitable, and safety-focused active transportation network and supportive programs and policies.

The project is comprised of three phases. The first phase finished in spring 2025 and included identifying existing active transportation conditions on state roads, such as presence of bicycle lanes, shared use paths, and sidewalks; assessing the state's existing active transportation programs; and determining the statewide active transportation needs. The second phase includes development of proposed active transportation infrastructure improvements, prioritization of projects and potential funding sources, and recommendations for programs or policies that can improve conditions for active transportation. This phase will continue through fall 2025, culminating in the third phase of the building and publication of the Active Transportation Plan in 2026. Public outreach will be conducted at all three phases to engage communities and gather feedback to inform the plan.

Members of the public can submit comments and questions throughout all three phases. Please submit comments and questions to DOT.ActiveTransportationPlan@ct.gov and (860) 594-2020. Please reference Project No. 0175-1618PL in the email or voicemail.

ACCESSIBILITY

The open house meeting locations are ADA accessible.

Non-English translation options of materials will be available upon request via the project email:
DOT.ActiveTransportationPlan@ct.gov.

Individuals with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting the project team at DOT.ActiveTransportationPlan@ct.gov or (860) 594-2020.

Request language assistance from CTDOT's Language Assistance at (860) 594-2109 at least five business days before meeting.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



<https://westcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-07-09-TAG-Agenda-1.pdf> Disclaimer: These interim minutes of the Technical Advisory Group (“TAG”) 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 TAG 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 TAG.

INTERIM MINUTES OF 09/09/2025

Technical Advisory Group Meeting (TAG)

1 Riverside Rd, Sandy Hook, CT 06482 475-323-2070 via Zoom:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/89531093509>

- Bethel Absent
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield Community Development Specialist Greg Dembowski
- Danbury Traffic Engineer Veera Karukonda
- Darien Director of Public Works Ed Gentile
- Greenwich Chief Engineer Gabriella Circosta-Cohee
- New Canaan Absent
- New Fairfield Absent
- New Milford Director of Public Works Jack Healy
- Newtown Absent
- Norwalk Assistant Director Garrett Bolella
- Redding Absent
- Ridgefield Absent
- Sherman Absent
- Stamford Transportation Planner Luke Bittenwieser
- Weston Absent
- Westport Town Engineer Keith Wilberg
- Wilton Director of Planning & Land Use Management Michael E. Wrinn
- Transit Representative SWR NTD Director of Service Planning Richard Schreiner
- Transit Representative HV Acting HARTransit CEO Bob Yastremski

Others Attending:

Stamford Traffic Engineer Jianhong Wang, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Collective, and Carrie Long and Shawna Kitzman from Toole Design Group.

WestCOG Staff Members: Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Kristin Floberg, Todd Fontanella, Amal Malik and Cricket Carpenter.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER: WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

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

FEATURED PRESENTATION

Traffic Calming and Complete Streets Best Practices Toolbox

Carrie Long and Shawna Kitzman presented on the WestCOG study, progress on tasks, feedback from focus group meetings, and draft concepts.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2026 Proposed Meeting Dates

WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. An updated list will be provided at the next meeting.

Update – ADA Transition Plan Assistance Project

WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.

CTDEEP Trees for Communities Grant Application

WestCOG Principal Planner Todd Fontanella provided an update.

Task-Based Transportation Engineering Consultants

WestCOG Program Director Kevin Mahoney indicated the selection process was complete and that implementation information will be distributed in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of the July 2025 meeting minutes

After review and on a motion made by Brookfield Community Development Specialist Greg Dembowski and seconded by Westport Town Engineer Keith Wilberg the minutes of the July 2025 meeting were approved.

2025 LOTCIP Project Solicitation

Program Director Kevin Mahoney indicated the solicitation was provided as a draft for information and comment at the July 8, 2025 TAG meeting and asked if there any questions of comments on the proposed final version. Brookfield Community Development Specialist Greg Dembowski requested clarification regarding the status of design. After review and on a motion made by

Brookfield Community Development Specialist Greg Dembowski and seconded by Stamford Transportation Planner Luke Bittenwieser the 2025 LOTCIP Project Solicitation voted unanimously to recommend that the COG approve the solicitation.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Stamford Traffic Engineer Jianhong Wang requested information on when the Task-Based Transportation Engineering Consultants document would be available for the municipalities to use.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

MPO/COG: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

TAG Meeting: Tuesday, October 7, 2025

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion duly made, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

INTERIM MINUTES SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY THE TAG MEMBERS

WestCOG Technical Advisory Group (TAG) 2026 Proposed Annual Meeting Schedule

Meeting Location - All meetings will be virtual, via Zoom, unless noted otherwise

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89531093509> Meeting ID: 895 3109 3509

***Held on the Tuesdays after the Executive Committee Meeting unless noted below

<u>Date</u>	<u>TAG Meeting</u>
Tuesday, Jan. 13	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 10	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Mar. 10	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Apr. 7	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, May 12	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, June 9	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Jul. 7	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Aug. 11	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Sept. 8	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Oct. 13	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Nov. 10	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 8	11:00 am – 12:00 pm