

WestCOG/HVMPO/SWRMPO Meeting Agenda

A Combined Meeting for Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG),
Housatonic Valley and South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organizations (HVMPO,
SWRMPO)

Time. Thursday, October 16th, 2025 @12:00 p.m.

Location. Ridgefield Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Virtual Option. <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88222966740> (ID: 882 2296 6740)

1. Call to Order

- a. COG Meeting: Hon. Rudy Marconi
- b. HVMPO Meeting: Hon. Julia Pemberton
- c. SWRMPO Meeting: Hon. Toni Boucher

2. Public Participation

- a. Limited to topics on this agenda and to 2 minutes per speaker.

3. Featured Presentations

- a. Comptroller Sean Scanlon to present on property tax

4. COG Action Items

- a. Approval of the September 2025 MPO/COG Meeting Minutes.....Attachment 4a, pp. 1-4
- b. Quarterly 1 Financial Update.....See Handout
- c. 2026 COG/MPO Meeting ScheduleAttachment 4c, p. 5
- d. CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program.....Attachment 4d, pp. 6-7

5. MPO Action Items

- a. Approval of September HV/SWRMPO Minutes.....Attachment 4a, pp. 1-4
- b. 2025-10-16 #01 Resolution of HVMPO Planning CertificationAttachment 5b, pp. 8-9
- c. 2025-10-16 #02 Resolution of SWRMPO Planning CertificationAttachment 5c, pp. 10-11

6. Information Items

- a. Annual Report.....Attachment 6a, p. 12
- b. Legislative Update
- c. Dues.....Attachment 6c, p. 13
- d. LOTCIP Solicitation
- e. Update - ADA Transition Plan Assistance Project

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.

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

9. Next meeting

a. Thursday November 16, 2025

I. Featured Presentation- Martin Henry, CPA Henry, Raymond & Thompson, LLC

Please visit our website for the approved Minutes

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



2026 WestCOG/HVMPO and SWRMPO

Proposed Meeting Schedule

***Meetings held on the third Thursday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

The Ridgefield Town Hall Annex- 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT and via Zoom

Annual Legislative Lunch: Will take place at the December MPO/COG meeting.

<u>Date</u>	<u>MPO/ COG Meeting</u>
**Thurs. Jan. 29	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. Feb. 19	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. Mar. 19	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. Apr. 16	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. May 21	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. June 18	12:00 pm – 2:00pm
Thurs. July 16	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. Aug. 20	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. Sept. 17	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. Oct. 22**	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. Nov. 19	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 17	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

- Thurs. January 29th is the 5th Thursday of the month.
- Thursday October 22 is the 4th Thursday of the month.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Kristin Floberg, Senior Planner
DATE: October 7, 2025
RE: CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program Solicitation

Purpose

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection opened the 2025 Recreational Trails Grant Program solicitation on September 23, 2025.

Eligible Uses

- 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

Eligible Applicants

- Private organizations
- Municipalities
- Federal, state, and regional agencies
- Other government entities (tribal)

Next steps

The deadline to submit applications is December 18, 2025. Requests should be less than \$1 million and a 20% match is required. The match can be provided as cash or in-kind services. Application materials and grant guidelines can be found on the [CTDEEP website](https://www.ctdeep.org).

TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Kristin Floberg, Senior Planner
DATE: October 7, 2025
RE: CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program – WestCOG Application

Purpose

To resubmit the East-West Trail Feasibility and Routing Study Application during the CTDEEP Recreational Trails Program solicitation.

Background

This study's purpose is to identify an alignment for a multi-use trail linking the Empire State Trail, via the Maybrook Rail Trail, with the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. This will address a principal gap in the nascent regional trail system: the lack of a dedicated connection between the 750 miles of the Empire State Trail, which runs between New York City, Albany, Buffalo, and the Quebec border and the 81-mile Farmington Canal Trail, which runs from New Haven to Northampton, Massachusetts. Along this route, this project will link together hitherto-disconnected trail systems in Connecticut. These include the Norwalk River Valley Trail, the Still River Greenway/New Milford River Trail, the Pequonnock River Trail, the Larkin Bridle Trail, the Middlebury Greenway, and the Naugatuck River Greenway.

It is anticipated that the trail alignment will be through Danbury, Brookfield, Bethel, and Newtown in the Western Connecticut Region but the preferred alignment will be determined during the study. WestCOG will partner with Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) for the route from Newtown to the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. In short, this study will identify a feasible and desirable route to connect these trail systems into a web uniting three states, one province, and untold communities.

Discussion

This project was approved by WestCOG for submission under the CTDEEP Recreational Trails Program at the January 2024 meeting and Transportation Alternatives Program in June 2024. It was also supported by NVCOG, local municipalities, trail organizations, and representatives from the Connecticut General Assembly.

WestCOG is an eligible entity under the Recreational Trails Program, and the project is an eligible use under planning/design.

We estimate the study will cost \$500,000 with an 80% State/20% non-State cost share.

Next steps

Vote for WestCOG staff to revise the previous application for the East-West Trail Feasibility and Routing Study and submit it under the CTDEEP Recreational Trails Program solicitation.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



2025-10-16 #01

HOUSATONIC VALLEY

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

BETHEL•BRIDGEWATER•BROOKFIELD•DANBURY•NEW FAIRFIELD•NEW

MILFORD•NEWTOWN•REDDING•RIDGEFIELD•SHERMAN

Resolution of HVMPO Planning Certification

WHEREAS, the Housatonic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (HVMPO) has been designated by the Governor of the State Connecticut as the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible, together with the State, for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG); and

WHEREAS, the HVMPO conducts the transportation planning process in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the US Department of Transportation by preparing a Unified Planning Work Program, preparing, maintaining and amending the endorsed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), preparing and updating the endorsed Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), assessing the air quality impacts of the proposed transportation improvement projects included in the TIP and MTP, and proactively involving the public in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the HVMPO hereby certifies that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

- (1) [23 U.S.C. 134](#) and [135](#), [49 U.S.C. 5303](#) and [5304](#), and this part;
- (2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended ([42 U.S.C. 2000d-1](#)) and [49 CFR part 21](#);
- (3) [49 U.S.C. 5332](#), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
- (4) Section 1101(b) of the FAST Act ([Pub. L. 114-357](#)) and [49 CFR part 26](#) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in DOT funded projects;
- (5) [23 CFR part 230](#), regarding implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
- (6) The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ([42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.](#)) and [49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38](#);
- (7) In States containing nonattainment and maintenance areas, sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended ([42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506\(c\)](#) and [\(d\)](#)) and [40 CFR part 93](#);
- (8) The Older Americans Act, as amended ([42 U.S.C. 6101](#)), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
- (9) [23 U.S.C. 324](#), regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
- (10) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ([29 U.S.C. 794](#)) and [49 CFR part 27](#) regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities;

(11) All other applicable provisions of Federal law ([23 CFR § 630.112 Agreement provisions – Code of Federal Regulations \(ecfr.gov\)](#)).

This resolution is in full force and effect as of October 16, 2025.

Julia Pemberton, Chairman
October 16, 2025

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



2025-10-16 #02
SOUTH WESTERN REGION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
 DARIEN•GREENWICH•NEW CANAAN•NORWALK•STAMFORD•WESTON•WESTPORT•WILTON

Resolution of SWRMPO Planning Certification

WHEREAS, the South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO) has been designated by the Governor of the State Connecticut as the Metropolitan Planning Organization responsible, together with the State, for the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG); and

WHEREAS, the SWRMPO conducts the transportation planning process in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the US Department of Transportation by preparing a Unified Planning Work Program, preparing, maintaining and amending the endorsed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), preparing and updating the endorsed Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), assessing the air quality impacts of the proposed transportation improvement projects included in the TIP and MTP, and proactively involving the public in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the SWRMPO hereby certifies that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

- (1) [23 U.S.C. 134](#) and [135](#), [49 U.S.C. 5303](#) and [5304](#), and this part;
- (2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended ([42 U.S.C. 2000d-1](#)) and [49 CFR part 21](#);
- (3) [49 U.S.C. 5332](#), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
- (4) Section 1101(b) of the FAST Act ([Pub. L. 114-357](#)) and [49 CFR part 26](#) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in DOT funded projects;
- (5) [23 CFR part 230](#), regarding implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
- (6) The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ([42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.](#)) and [49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38](#);
- (7) In States containing nonattainment and maintenance areas, sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended ([42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506\(c\)](#) and [\(d\)](#)) and [40 CFR part 93](#);
- (8) The Older Americans Act, as amended ([42 U.S.C. 6101](#)), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
- (9) [23 U.S.C. 324](#), regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
- (10) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ([29 U.S.C. 794](#)) and [49 CFR part 27](#) regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities;

(11) All other applicable provisions of Federal law ([23 CFR § 630.112 Agreement provisions – Code of Federal Regulations \(ecfr.gov\)](#)).

This resolution is in full force and effect as of October 16, 2025.

Toni Boucher, Chairman
October 16, 2025

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Michael Towle, Deputy Director
DATE: October 8, 2025

WestCOG's Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report

WestCOG staff develop an Annual Report each year summarizing the entirety of planning work performed during Fiscal Year 2025 (July 2024- June 2025). The report meets the Regional Service Grant (RSG) compliance requirements established by OPM but also provides insight into the type of work WestCOG performs. The report includes descriptions of each planning efforts, notable deliverables, and a listing of legislative recommendations, all of which is split out over the various planning topics WestCOG works in (Transportation, Economic Development, Public Safety, Environment, Housing, and Land Use).

Virtual copies of the Annual Report are available on the WestCOG Website.

<https://westcog.org/annual-reporting/>

**Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Anticipated Sources of Funding
Local Contributions - Annual Assessment Draft for Discussion***

Municipality	FY2025-26 Annual Dues	FY2026-27 Proposed Amounts	FY2026-27 Final by %
Bethel	\$ 10,878	\$ 11,204	3.21%
Bridgewater	\$ 5,834	\$ 6,009	1.72%
Brookfield	\$ 11,134	\$ 11,468	3.28%
Danbury	\$ 36,818	\$ 37,922	10.86%
Darien	\$ 9,995	\$ 10,295	2.95%
Greenwich	\$ 32,569	\$ 33,546	9.61%
New Canaan	\$ 12,792	\$ 13,176	3.77%
New Fairfield	\$ 10,234	\$ 10,541	3.02%
New Milford	\$ 27,552	\$ 28,379	8.13%
Newtown	\$ 25,655	\$ 26,425	7.57%
Norwalk	\$ 32,383	\$ 33,355	9.55%
Redding	\$ 12,312	\$ 12,682	3.63%
Ridgefield	\$ 17,478	\$ 18,002	5.15%
Sherman	\$ 7,938	\$ 8,176	2.34%
Stamford	\$ 49,151	\$ 50,625	14.50%
Weston	\$ 8,943	\$ 9,211	2.64%
Westport	\$ 13,878	\$ 14,295	4.09%
Wilton	\$ 13,531	\$ 13,937	3.99%
TOTAL	\$ 339,076	\$ 349,248	100.00%

Note: Effective 7/1/2017: Approved formula used according to vote at January 23, 2017 COG Meeting 50% Population; 50% Area

***For FY26 Total Annual Dues will increase 3% from the previous year.
Year 2 of 4 of the approved Annual Dues increase of 3% per year for 4 years (11/21/24)**