

## 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 Schedule .....Attachment 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 Certification .....Attachment 5b, pp. 8-9
- c. 2025-10-16 #02 Resolution of SWRMPO Planning Certification .....Attachment 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

# Western Connecticut

## COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



*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:** Wednesday, September 24 @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 COG/HVMPO  
 Brookfield ..... First Selectman Steve Dunn COG/HVMPO  
 Danbury ..... Mayor Roberto L, Alves COG/HVMPO  
 Darien ..... First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky COG/SWRMPO  
 Greenwich..... Planning and Zoning Chairperson Margarita Alban 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 Capece 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..... Absent  
 Westport..... Absent  
 Wilton..... Absent  
 Transit Representative..... Director of Service Planning NTD Rick Schreiner SWRMPO  
 Transit Representative..... Acting HARTtransit CEO Bob Yastremski HVMPO  
 CTDOT ..... CTDOT Transportation Planner II Matthew Abbott  
 MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Visit us online at **westcog.org**  
 Telephone/fax 475-323-2060

Others in Attendance: Newtown Director of Planning and Land Use Rob Sibley, FHWA Transportation Planner Jennifer Brady, Stamford Traffic Engineer Jianhong Wang, Stamford Director of Operations Matt Quinones, and President|CEO at Western CT Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Spring Raymond.

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Nick Trabka, Jaci Giannini, Vicky Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter

### **Call to Order**

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi

The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Vice Chairman Dan Carter

The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky

### **Public Participation:**

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

### **COG Action Items**

#### **Approval of the July 2025 COG Meeting Minutes**

After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the minutes of the July 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Agenda Addition**

After review and on a motion made by Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the Agenda was amended to include the action item: **Approval of the SWRMPO July 2025 meeting Minutes** to the agenda. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read the agenda was amended to include the action item: **Approval of the HVMPO July 2025 Meeting Minutes**

#### **09/24/2025 #01 Dewberry Contract Amendment – Memo & Resolution**

WestCOG Project Manager Jaci Giannini provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the 09/24/2025 #01 Dewberry Contract Amendment Memo and Resolution was unanimously approved.

#### **LOTICIP Project Solicitation**

WestCOG Program Director Kevin Mahoney provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the LOTICIP Project Solicitation was approved with abstentions made by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capecci and Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe voting no.

#### **Trees for Communities Grant – Concur with our submission**

WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capecci and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the Trees for Communities Grant Submission was unanimously approved.

### **09/24/2025 #02 Parcel CAMA Improvement Resolution – with CAMA Parcel Improvement Grant Spending Memo**

WestCOG GIS Senior Data Scientist Nick Trabka provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagodzky and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the 09/24/2025 #02 Parcel CAMA Improvement Resolution – with CAMA Parcel Improvement Grant Spending Memo was unanimously approved.

### **USDOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Program – WestCOG Application**

WestCOG's Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagodzky and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the USDOT Rural and Tribal Assistance Program – WestCOG Application was unanimously approved.

### **Public Safety Training Facility Direct to Cancel**

WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagodzky and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read the Public Safety Training Facility Direct to Cancel was unanimously approved.

## **MPO Action Items**

### **Approval of the SWRMPO July 2025 meeting Minutes**

After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagodzky the minutes of the July 2025 SWRMPO Meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Approval of the HVMPO July 2025 Meeting Minutes**

After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Melissa Lindsey the minutes of the July 2025 HVMPO meeting were unanimously approved.

## **Information Items**

### **2026 Proposed Meeting Dates (Executive Committee, TAG, MPO/COG)**

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an overview.

## **Other Business**

The recent editorial on the merger of Aquarion and the Regional Water Authority was discussed. The Housing Roundtable discussion with a focus on 830g was discussed.

## **Adjournment**

On a motion duly made the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:37

## **Next meeting**

Thursday October 16, 2025

INTERIM MINUTES SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COG MEMBERS

# 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 29<sup>th</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.
- Thursday October 22 is the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**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.

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**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\***

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>FY2025-26 Annual Dues</b>	<b>FY2026-27 Proposed Amounts</b>	<b>FY2026-27 Final by %</b>
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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 339,076</b>	<b>\$ 349,248</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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)**