



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 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, November 20, 2025 @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 Eric Gsell COG/HVMPO
- Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn COG/HVMPO
- Danbury Absent
- Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky COG/SWRMPO
- Greenwich..... Selectman Lauren Rabin COG/SWRMPO
- New Canaan..... First Selectman Dionna Carlson COG/SWRMPO
- New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco COG/HVMPO
- New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass COG/HVMPO
- Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci COG/HVMPO
- Norwalk..... Absent
- Redding..... Absent
- Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi COG/HVMPO
- Sherman..... Municipal Staff noted below
- Stamford..... Absent
- Weston..... First Selectman Samantha Nestor COG/SWRMPO
- Westport..... First Selectman Kevin Christie COG/SWRMPO
- Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher COG/SWRMPO
- Transit Representative..... NTD Director of Service Planning Rick Schreiner SRWMPO
- Transit Representative..... Absent HVMPO
- CTDOT CTDOT Transportation Planner II Matthew Abbott
- MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

Others in Attendance: Danbury Economic & Community Development Advisor, Newtown Director of Planning and Land Use Rob Sibley, Farley Santos, HARTransit Planner Guyauth Gabbidon, Sherman Town Treasurer Andrea Maloney, CTDOT Project Manager Kevin Burnham, CTDOT Principal Engineer Neil Patel, Sharat Kalluri from CDM Smith, NTD Data and Planning Analyst Besim Krasniqi, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, Meg Haffner and Mike D'elia from the Kennedy Collective, James Root from the Sierra Club, and Debra Franchesini-Guje

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Betsy Paynter, Todd Fontanella, Mike Wilson, Amal Malik, Charles Vidich, Sagnik Chand, Vicky Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter.

Call to Order

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi

The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by Vice Chairman Dan Carter

The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:17 p.m. by Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky

Public Comment

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

Featured Presentation

Certified Accountant Brian Hawes from HR&T Advisors reviewed the audit results.

CTDOT Project Manager Kevin Burnham, CTDOT Principal Engineer Neil Patel, and CDM Smith Senior Project Manager Sharat Kalluri shared a presentation on the Danbury PEL and Flex Lane projects.

COG Action Items

Approval of the October 2025 MPO/COG Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Bethel first Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the minutes of the October 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

Annual Dues

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an update on the Annual Dues. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the Annual Dues were unanimously approved.

LOTICIP Adjustments

WestCOG Senior Program Director Kevin Mahoney provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the LOTICIP Adjustments were unanimously approved.

MPO Action Items

Approval of October 2025 HV/SWRMPO Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci the minutes of the HVMPO October meeting were approved with an abstention made by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco.

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

FY25-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program

WestCOG Associate Planner Amal Malik provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the SWRMPO - #0056-0326, Greenwich; #0102-0380, Norwalk TIP Amendments were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and seconded by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass the HVMPO - #0117-0163, Ridgefield TIP Amendments were unanimously approved.

Information Items

Legislative Agenda and Housing Update

WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided an update.

Safety Performance Measures – 2026 CTDOT Safety Targets

WestCOG's Amal Malik provided an overview.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an update.

Regional Waste Study Update

WestCOG's Mike Towle provided an update.

Section 5310 Traditional Awards

WestCOG Principal Planner Todd Fontanella provided an update.

POCD Climate Provisions

Mike Towle provided an update

Noise Ordinance Inventory

Mike Towle provided an update.

Nonconformity report

Francis Pickering provided an overview.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Next meeting

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Featured Presentations:

- a. New Western Connecticut University President
- b. CTDOT on I-95 PELs