

# Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



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## WestCOG / HVMPO/ 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:** Thursday, December 18, 2:00 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 ..... Mayor Roberto L. Alves COG/HVMPO

Darien ..... First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky COG/SWRMPO

Greenwich..... Selectman Lauren Rabin COG/SWRMPO

New Canaan..... Absent COG/SWRMPO

New Fairfield ..... First Selectman Pat Del Monaco COG/HVMPO

New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass COG/HVMPO

Newtown ..... First Selectman Bruce Walczak COG/HVMPO

Norwalk..... Absent

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..... First Selectman Kevin Christie COG/SWRMPO

Wilton..... Absent

Transit Representative..... NTD Director of Service Planning Rick Schreiner SRWMPO

Transit Representative..... Acting HARTTransit CEO Bob Yastremski HVMPO

CTDOT ..... CTDOT Transportation Planner II Matthew Abbott

MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

Others in Attendance: Newtown Director of Planning and Land Use Rob Sibley, NTD Data and Planning Analyst Besim Krasniqi, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, Stamford Director of Operations Matthew Quinones, 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 Hadjstylianou, Kevin Mahoney, Kristin Floberg, Todd Fontanella, Mike Wilson, Amal Malik, Sagnik Chand, Eddie Provitz, Garrett Reed, Vicky Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter.

### **Call to Order**

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi

The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by Vice Chairman Dan Carter

The SWRMPO meeting did not have quorum.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Featured Presentation**

New Western Connecticut University President Dr. Jesse M. Bernal

CTDOT on Greenwich and Stamford PELs

*Due to schedule conflicts, The Western CT University President and the CTDOT presentation will appear on a future agenda.* On a motion duly made the agenda was updated to include WestCOG Principal Planner Todd Fontanella who provided a presentation on the Regional Value Capture Mechanism Feasibility Study.

### **COG Action Items**

#### **Approval of the November 2025 MPO/COG Meeting Minutes**

After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton the minutes of the November 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

#### **DEEP Climate Resilience Fund**

WestCOG Project manager Jaci Giannini provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund was unanimously approved.

#### **EPA Community-wide Assessment Grant**

WestCOG's Jaci Giannini provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the EPA Community-wide Assessment Grant application was unanimously approved.

### Task-Based Engineering Agreements

WestCOG Program Director Kevin Mahoney provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Newtown First Selectman Bruce Walczak the Task-Based Engineering Agreements were unanimously approved.

### Nominating Committee Appointment

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an overview. Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter, and Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky volunteered to be on the Committee. After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco the Nominating Committee Appointment was unanimously approved.

## MPO Action Items

*Due to a lack of quorum, no SWRMPO business was conducted. The items will appear on the January agenda.*

### Approval of November 2025 HV/SWRMPO 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 November 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

### FY25-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program

SWRMPO - #0301-0509CN, Stamford; #0301-0189CN, Norwalk; #0301-0187CN, Norwalk; #0301-0176CN, Norwalk; #0300-2026TK, Various

HVMPO - #0300-2026TK, Various; 0170-3795, New Milford

Associate Planner Amal Malik provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and seconded Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the TIP amendments were approved with Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter opposed.

### 2025-12-18 #01 - Resolution for Endorsement of Targets for Safety Performance Measures

Established by CTDOT

WestCOG's Amal Malik provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the 2025-12-18 #01 HVMPO Resolution for Endorsement of Targets for Safety Performance Measures Established by CTDOT was unanimously approved.

## Information Items

### 01/29/26 Legislative Reception and Agenda

WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided an overview.

**Planning Consultant Pre-Selection Process**  
WestCOG Senior Planner Tucker Beckett provided an overview.

**Regional Waste Study Update**  
WestCOG's Jaci Giannini provided an update.

**P.A. 25-33 Bridge/Culvert Mapping Assistance**  
WestCOG's Planner Tucker Beckett provided an overview.

**New Staff Introduction**  
WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle introduced new WestCOG staff members: Data Scientist Sagnik Chand, Data Scientist Eddie Provitz, and Assistant Planner Garrett Reed.

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 PM.

**Next meeting**

- a. \*Special Meeting: Thursday, January 8, 2026 @9:00 AM
- b. COG/MPO/Legislative Reception: Thursday, January 29, 2026 @ 12:00 PM