

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/ 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 HARTransit 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 Hadjstylianos, 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 @9:00m AM
- b. **COG/MPO/Legislative Reception:** Thursday, January 29, 2026 @ 12:00 PM