

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, January 08, 9:00 am

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..... Planning and Zoning Chairperson Margarita Alban 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 Bruce Walczak COG/HVMPO
Norwalk..... Mayor Barbara Smyth COG/SWRMPO
Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton COG/HVMPO
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi COG/HVMPO
Sherman..... First Selectman Don Lowe COG/HVMPO
Stamford..... Absent COG/SWRMPO
Weston..... First Selectman Samantha Nestor COG/SWRMPO
Westport..... First Selectman Kevin Christie COG/SWRMPO
Wilton..... First Selectman Toni Boucher COG/SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... Absent
Transit Representative..... Absent
CTDOT Transportation Planner II Matthew Abbott (Non-voting MPO member)
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

Others in Attendance: Danbury Planning Director Waleed Albakry, Wilton Assistant Town Planner Daphne White, Westport P&Z Chair Paul Lebowitz, Wilton Director of P&Z Michael Wrinn, New Canaan Board of Finance member Maria Weingarten, Housing Authority of the Town of New Canaan member Krista Neilson, Debra Franchesini-Guje, Town of Sherman Treasurer Andrea Maloney, and Ridgefield resident Tim Vilinskis.

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianios, Kevin Mahoney, Todd Fontanella, Mike Wilson, Betsy Paynter, Amal Malik, Vicky Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter.

Call to Order

The COG meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi

The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. by Chairwoman Julia Pemberton

The SWRMPO was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky

Public Comment

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

Featured Presentation

- a. WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering shared a slide presentation on the 2026 House Bill (HB 8002).

COG Action Items

- a. Approval of the December 2025 meeting minutes

After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the minutes of the December 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

- b. Election of Officers

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

MPO Action Items

- a. Approval of the December 2025 HVMPO Meeting minutes After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the minutes of the December 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

- b. Approval of the November 2025 SWRMPO meeting minutes

After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the minutes of the November 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

- c. FY25-FY28 SWR November Transportation Improvement Program SWRMPO – #0301-0509CN, Stamford; #0301-0189CN, Norwalk; #0301-0187CN, Norwalk; #0301-0176CN, Norwalk; #0300-2026TK, Various; #0102-0380, Norwalk

WestCOG Associate Planner Amal Malik provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the FY25-FY28 SWR November Transportation Improvement Program adjustments were unanimously approved.

- d. 2026-0108-#01-November SWRMPO 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 Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the 2026-0108-#01-November SWRMPO Resolution for Endorsement of Targets for Safety Performance Measures Established by CTDOT were unanimously approved.

Information Items

- a. Legislative Reception– Save the Date

WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided an overview. The Legislative Reception is scheduled for Thursday January 29th at 12:00 at the Ridgefield Town Hall Annex. There is no virtual option for this meeting.

- b. Legislative Priorities

Francis Pickering provided an overview.

Other Business

Adjournment

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 10:38AM.

Next meeting

- a. COG/MPO/Legislative Reception: Thursday, January 29, 2026 @ 12:00 PM