

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. §7-225(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 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, February 19, 12:00 p.m.

Location. Ridgefield Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT

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 COG/HVMPO
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 Bruce Walczak COG/HVMPO
Norwalk..... Executive Secretary Corey Frate SWRMPO
Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton COG/HVMPO
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi COG/HVMPO
Sherman..... First Selectman Don Lowe COG/HVMPO
Stamford..... Mayor Caroline Simmons SWRMPO
Weston..... First Selectman Samantha Nestor
Westport..... First Selectman Kevin Christie COG/SWRMPO
Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher
Transit Representative..... NTD Director of Service Planning Rick Schreiner
Transit Representative..... HARTransit CEO Bob Yastremski HVMPO
CTDOT CTDOT Transportation Planner II Matthew Abbott
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

Others in Attendance: Congressman Jim Himes, Outreach Manager for Congressman Himes, Sophie Khanna, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, Connecticut Tire Stewardship (CTS) Executive Director Jesse Schofield, CTS Environmental Communications Associate Rabina Karki, Toole Design Office Director Carrie Long, Toole Design Market Lead Shawna Kitzman, Lindsey Bell from Duke University, Meg Haffner and Mike D'Elia from the Kennedy Collective, and James Root from the Sierra Club.

WestCOG Staff: Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kevin Mahoney, Kristin Floberg, Todd Fontanella, Nicholas Trabka, Amal Malik, 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 Chairman Julia Pemberton
The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Vice Chairman Jon Zagodzky

Public Comment

No comment was made during the public comment period.

Featured Presentations

Congressman Jim Himes spoke on the Build America Caucus

Toole Design Group

Carrie Long and Shawana Kitzman from Toole Design presented the Traffic Calming and Complete Streets Best Practices Toolbox.

CT Tire Stewardship

Jesse Schofield and Rabina Karki spoke on the CT Tire Stewardship Program.

COG Action Items

Approval of the January 29th 2026 meeting minutes

After review and on a motion made by Darien First Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the minutes of the January 29, 2026 meeting were unanimously approved.

Election of Officers

WestCOG Executive Director provided an overview. The presented slate was Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi as Chairman, Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter as Vice Chairman, Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky as Treasurer, and Redding First Julia Pemberton as Secretary. After review and on a motion made by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the Election of Officers was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2026-02-19 #01 Regional Services Grant Contracted Services

WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodsky the Resolution 2026-02-19 #01 Regional Services Grant Contracted Services was unanimously approved.

LOTICIP Adjustments

WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodsky and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the LOTICIP Adjustments were unanimously approved.

Financial Update

WestCOG Financial Director Vicky Ricks provided an update. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodsky and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the Financial Update was unanimously approved.

MPO Action Items

Approval of the January 8, 2026 SWRMPO meeting minutes

After review and on a motion made by Lauren Rabin and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the minutes of the January 8, 2026 SWRMPO meeting were unanimously approved.

Approval of the January 29, 2026 HVMPO meeting minutes

After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco the minutes of the January 29, 2026 HVMPO meeting were unanimously approved.

Election of Officers

WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjsrylianos introduced the slate for the HVMPO Officers as Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton for Chairman and Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter for Vice Chair. After review and on a motion made by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the Election of Officers was unanimously approved. The slate for SWRMPO was Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky for Chairman and New Canaan First Selectman Dionne Carlson for Vice Chair. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodsky and seconded by Greenwich Selectman Lauren Rabin the Election of Officers for the SWRMPO were unanimously approved.

FY25-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program

SWRMPO - #0173-0560, Various #04990 2024BS Various

WestCOG Associate Planner Amal Malik provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Greenwich Selectman Lauren Rabin and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodsky the SWRMPO Transportation Improvement Program amendments was unanimously approved.

HVMPO - #0499-2024UR, Various

WestCOG Associate Planner Amal Malik 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 HVMPO Transportation Improvement Program amendments were unanimously approved.

Information Items

Transit Safety Measures and Targets 23

WestCOG Principal Planner Todd Fontanella provided an overview.

FY 2027-2030 Draft Transportation Improvement Program

WestCOG's Amal Malik provided an overview.

2026 Active Transportation Microgrants Program

WestCOG Senior Planner Kristin Floberg provided an overview.

2027-2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Project Solicitation

WestCOG's Kristin Floberg provided an overview.

Noise Ordinances of CT – Report and Inventory 25

WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided an overview.

Legislative Update

Francis Pickering provided an update.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Next meeting

Thursday March 19th @ 12:00p.m.