

Executive Committee Notes

Wednesday, March 04, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

The Ridgefield Town Hall Annex 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Meeting Started at 2:04 PM | Meeting Ended at 3:35 PM

Members Attending

Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chair
Darien	First Selectman John Zagrotsky, Vice Chair
Bethel	First Selectman Dan Carter, Secretary
Redding	First Selectman Julia Pemberton, Treasurer
New Canaan	First Selectman Dionna Carlson
Brookfield	First Selectman Stephan Dunn

WestCOG Staff: Executive Director Francis Pickering, Deputy Director Mike Towle

Added Agenda Item

A motion was made by John Zagrotsky and seconded by Julia Pemberton to add Executive Committee membership as an agenda item. Rudy led a discussion on the status of Executive Committee membership and rules regarding Members at Large. It was requested to add an action item to the March 2026 COG Agenda to appoint two members at large.

A discussion regarding the process and policies for voting for COG and MPO meetings. A request was made to have WestCOG reach out to members to remind them of the option for alternates to the COG and what the process is to designate an alternate.

A discussion on updating the COG's bylaws.

COG Agenda Review

A review of the proposed items for the upcoming COG Meeting. Francis provided an overview. Discussion on a regional assessor to provide collector approval for municipalities.

A discussion on assessors led to a request of COG staff to inventory which COG municipalities have assessors, share assessors, or outsource assessment.

Executive Updates

Special discussion topics for the Executive Committee: Francis Pickering provided an overview of the following executive updates.

1. **Executive Committee Nominations.** Discussing the status of members at large.

ENGLISH: For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at help@westcog.org. ESPAÑOL: Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con WestCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al help@westcog.org. PORTUGUÊS: Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entre em contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em help@westcog.org.

2. **FY 2027 Vision.** WestCOG is preparing for improvements in operations as it moves into its second decade of activity.
3. **Office Lease.** WestCOG is considering options for future lease agreements, including a 5-year and 10-year lease. The Executive Committee recommended pursuing a 5-year lease.
4. **SS PA 25-1 Implementation.** WestCOG is developing a list of preselected planning consultants which will enable any town in CT to readily access planning services.
5. **Legislative Session.** Francis provides an overview of legislative activity and submitted testimony.

Personnel/recruitment

Francis Pickering provides an update on the status of personnel.

Program Updates

A discussion on the status of ongoing projects and grant applications. See the attached Project Briefing for details.

Upcoming meetings

- a. TAG meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 @11:00 AM
- b. MPO Special Meeting, March 10, 2026 @11:00 AM
- c. MPO/COG Meeting: Thursday, March 19, 2026 @12:00 PM
- d. Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday, April 1, 2026 @2:00 PM