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## **WestCOG / HVMPO / SWRMPO 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, March 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 Jon Zagrodzky / Vice Chairman Dionna Carlson

### **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..... 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 C. Smyth COG/SWRMPO  
Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton COG/HVMPO  
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi COG/HVMPO  
Sherman..... Absent 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:** Outreach Manager for Congressman Himes Sophie Khanna, PACE member Patrice Gillespie, HARTransit Planner Guyauth Gabbidon, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal’s office, CT GIS Geographic Information Officer Alfredo Herrera, CT GIS Coordinator Ashley Benitez, CT GIS Coordinator Sarah Hurley, Mike D’Elia from the Kennedy Collective, and James Root from the Sierra Club.

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Mike Wilson, Nicholas Trabka, Farnaz Kamyab, Vicky Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter.

### **Call to Order**

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi

The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chairman Julia Pemberton

The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Vice Chairman Jon Zagodzky

### **Public Comment**

No comment was made during the public comment period.

## **Featured Presentation**

CT GIS Geographic Information Officer Alfredo Herrera presented the efforts on the Geographic efforts that CT OPM is involved with.

## **COG Action Items**

### **Approval of February 2026 Meeting Minutes**

After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagodzky and seconded by Bethel First Dan Carter the minutes of the February 2026 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Election of at-large members to the Executive Committee**

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an overview. After review and on a motion made by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass and seconded by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton, New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn were unanimously elected as at-large members of the Executive Committee.

**Regional Water Coordination Contract (Intergovernmental Agreement for the Coordination of Public Water)** WestCOG’s Francis Pickering gave an overview. No action was taken.

## **MPO Action Items**

### **Approval of the February 2026 HV/SWR MPO Meeting Minutes**

After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi the minutes of the February HVMPO meeting were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagodzky the minutes of the February SWRMPO minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Approval of the March 10, 2026 Special MPO Meeting Minutes**

After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi the minutes of the March 10, 2026 HVMPO Special Meeting were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher and seconded by Greenwich Selectman Lauren Rabin the minutes of the March 10, 2026 SWRMPO Special Meeting were unanimously approved.

### **FY25-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program**

**SWRMPO - #0056-0237; Greenwich, #0102-0358; Norwalk, #0102-0383; Norwalk, #0158-0225; Westport, #0161-0148; Wilton**

WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher the FY25-FY28 SWRMPO TIP amendments were unanimously approved. **HVMPO - #0034-0364; Danbury, #0096-0211; Newtown.** After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi FY25-FY28 HVMPO TIP Amendments were unanimously approved.

### **Safety Targets and HVMPO Resolution 2026-03-19 #01 and SWRMPO Resolution 2026-03-19 #02 for Endorsement of Targets for Transit Safety Performance Measures**

WestCOG Principal Planner Todd Fontanella provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi the Safety Targets and HVMPO Resolution 2026-03-19 #01 were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the Safety Targets and SWRMPO Resolution 2026-03-19 #02 were unanimously approved.

## **Information Items**

### **Legislative Update**

WestCOG's Francis Pickering gave a presentation on the BASICS Act.

### **Data Collection Campaign**

WestCOG Senior Data Scientist Nick Trabka provided an update.

### **FY2027-2030 Draft Transportation Improvement Program**

WestCOG's Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an update.

### **ADA Transition Plans Assistance Project**

WestCOG Senior Planner Mike Wilson provided an update.

### **WestCOG Lease Renewal**

Francis Pickering provided an overview.

## **Other Business**

Francis Pickering introduced WestCOG's new staff member: Planner Farnaz Kamyab.

## **Adjournment**

On a motion duly noted the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

## **Next meeting**

Thurs. April 16, 2026 @12:00 pm