

# Executive Committee Notes

Wednesday December 3rd at 2:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Started at 2:07 PM | Meeting Ended at 3:02 PM

## MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel	First Selectman Dan Carter
Brookfield	First Selectman Steve Dunn
Darien	First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky
Redding	First Selectman Julia Pemberton
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi

WestCOG Staff: Executive Director Francis Pickering, Deputy Director Mike Towle, and Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos.

## COG Agenda Review

Mike Towle presented the proposed content for the December COG Meeting Agenda.

## Executive Updates

A discussion of topics to be brought before the Executive Committee.

**Legislative Committee Update** - Another meeting will be held next week and the draft proposals will be shared with the COG later in December for review.

**Legislative Reception** - Scheduled for January X.

**Nominating Committee** - WestCOG will send an email requesting volunteers for the Committee in December.

**Special Meeting** - Will be hosted on January 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss SS PA 25-1 (nee HB 8002).

**Climate Resilience Fund** - CTDEEP released a solicitation for projects, WestCOG discussed submitting an application to fund a study.

**Planning Consultant Selection Process** - WestCOG will prepare an on-call list for planning consultants that municipalities may use.

**PURA** - An appeal was filed today regarding PURA's decision.

## Program Updates

A discussion on the status of ongoing projects.

## Transportation

**RAISE (Western CT Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Project)** Held negotiations meeting on 11/25 and will be executing a contract based upon the agreed upon hours/fee.

**SS4A (Regional Safety Improvements)** – FHWA sent a revised agreement for WestCOG.

**Regional Transit Study** – Holding a meeting with CTDOT this week to discuss grant administration and sub-recipient option.

**FY2027-FY2030 TIP** – Staff are working on a draft report. **Traffic Calming Plan** – Project Advisory Committee being held this week and an in-person meeting will be held with stakeholders next week to review the final recommendations.

**Norwalk Route 1** –Final Report is on track for completion in December.

**Congestion Reduction Project Scopes** – Consultants revised report based on comments from WestCOG and printed final documents. Project is closed out.

**Quiet Zone** – CTDOT provided comments on scope and staff are following up with MetroNorth for their review.

**Microgrants** – Anticipate a future solicitation for new applications in the new year.

**LOTICIP** – Staff are reviewing 14 proposals and will provide recommendations at the January TAG and COG meetings.

**Transportation Performance Management** – Staff will present the annual highway safety targets for endorsement at this month's TAG and MPO meetings.

## Regional Planning/Services Project Updates

**ADA Transition Plans** – Consultant is continuing municipal site visits and presenting draft report at municipal meetings.

**Firearms Training Facility** – This project is paused until January. A meeting with newly appointed CEOs will commence to gauge interest in the next steps and explore potential solutions.

**Economic Development** – Ongoing. Providing economic development support in grants, plan development, and networking. Next WCEDD Meeting scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Flood Assistance Program** – Ongoing. Preparing for public outreach to Repetitive Flood loss Properties.

**Stormwater**– Developing a new service for municipalities, culvert infrastructure mapping. Concept for service expected in December 2025. Preparing for new MS4 permit standards. Developing service concepts with the other COGs. Service concepts planned for March 2026.

**Regional Waste Authority**. Ontrack. Awaiting DEEP's approval of Phase 1's Regional Waste Plan. Following approval WestCOG will initiate phase 2, implementation of the actions identified in the Regional Waste Plan. [Greenwich] [Stamford] [Darien] [Norwalk] [Westport] [New Canaan]

**Sewer Study**. Exploring extension to capture Redding's capacity estimates. Existing deadline is December 31, 2025. The new proposed deadline is June 2026 [Redding] [Ridgefield].

**Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Ontrack. Submitted for grant funding. Project initiated through RSG funds. Expected for completion December 2026

**Parcel CAMA Updates.** Ontrack. Scheduled for completion by 10/6/2026

**Noise Ordinance Inventory & Initial Report.** Delayed. Receiving feedback from DEEP prior to public release. Expected release date in December 2025 (previously November).

**Climate Action Plan.** Delayed. Extended the public comment period. Now submission to EPA is expected for December 2025. Exploring options to use remaining funds through 2027 for implementation.

**Zoning Nonconformities Report.** Scheduled zoning commissioner training.

**WestCOG Office Cyber Security Improvement.** Ontrack. Expected completion on November 30, 2026.

**POCD Support - Public Act 25-33.** On track. POCDs adopted after September 30, 2027, require additional content. WestCOG is preparing that content for municipalities to utilize. Current deadline set for April 2026.

## **Grant Applications**

A discussion of grant applications in development and pending.

- a. **CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program** – WestCOG will be resubmitting last year’s application for the East-West Trail Study. Requesting \$400,000 with a \$100,000 match (to be split by WestCOG and NVCOG).
- b. **Hazard Mitigation Plan, FEMA’s HMP Grant Program** – Grant submitted to DEMHS for review and then to be submitted to FEMA. Grant turnaround time around 3-4 months. Requesting \$200,678 with a \$66,892 match.
- c. **EPA Community Wide Assessment Grant (Brownfields)** – No update.
- d. **CTDEEP Community Resilience Fund** – CTDEEP released a solicitation for projects, WestCOG discussed submitting an application to fund a study on stormwater authorities and resilience districts. As well as extended funding for the regional flood grant services program.

## **Upcoming meetings**

- a. **TAG Meeting** Tuesday, December 9, 2025 @ 11:00 AM
- b. **COG Meeting:** Thursday, December 18, 2025 @ 12:00 PM
- c. **Executive Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, January 7, 2025 @ 2:00 PM
- d. **Special Meeting:** Thursday January 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM