

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 / 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, April 16, 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 Absent
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..... Chief of Staff 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 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..... NTD Director of Service Planning Rick Schreiner SWRMPO
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: Newtown Director of Planning and Land Use Rob Sibley, Jill Soderholm Newtown P&Z, Outreach Manager for Congressman Himes Sophie Khanna, FTA Acting Director of Planning & Program Brandon Burns, Jennine Lupo from Rep. Jahanna Hayes office, Outreach Assistants for Sen. Murphy's office Sarah Lopez and Genevieve Perruccio, FHWA Transportation Specialist Jennifer Brady, FTA Acting Director Planning & Program Development Brandon Burns, COST Executive Director Betsy Gara, and James Root from the Sierra Club.

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kristin Floberg, Mike Wilson, Amal Malik, Vicky Ricks, and Cricket Carpenter.

Call to Order

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi
The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Vice Chairman Dan Carter
The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chairman Jon Zagrodzky

Public Comment

No comment was made during the public comment period.

Featured Presentation

Federal Certification Review – Jennifer Brady, FHWA Transportation Specialist and Brandon Burns, FTA Acting Director Planning & Program Development presented on the Federal Certification Review.

COG Action Items

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

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

Quarterly Financial Update

WestCOG Financial Director Vicky Ricks provided an update. After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the Quarterly Financials were unanimously approved.

WestCOG lease renewal

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an update. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the WestCOG lease renewal was unanimously approved.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Service Procurement

WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided an update. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson seconded by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Service Procurement was unanimously approved.

Open Doors Brownfield BAR Grant Resolution 2026-04-16-#01

Francis Pickering provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher and seconded by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton the Open Doors Brownfield BAR Grant Resolution 2026-04-16-#01 was unanimously approved.

Amended ADA Project Resolution 2026-04-16-#02

WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the Amended ADA Project Resolution 2026-04-16-#02 was unanimously approved.

CTDOT Transportation Rural Improvement Program – Bridgewater

WestCOG's Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the CTDOT Transportation Rural Improvement Program for Bridgewater was unanimously approved.

MPO Action Items

Approval of the March 2026 Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the minutes of the SWRMPO meeting were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe the minutes of the HVMPO meeting were unanimously approved.

FY25-28 TIP Amendments-SWRMPO - 0135-0346; Stamford

WestCOG's Kristin Hadjstylianos 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 FY25-28 TIP Amendments-SWRMPO - 0135-0346; Stamford was unanimously approved.

Information Items

Draft FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.

Connecticut 2055 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. There is a virtual Public Meeting on Weds. April 22nd at 12:00 & 6:00 p.m. The public comment period runs from April 7 - May 22, 2026

FY 2027 MGP 13b Program Announcement

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.

Safe Streets and Roads for All FY26 Funding Opportunity

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. The deadline is May 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. EDT

Resilience Planning and Grants

WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an overview.

Climate POCD Provisions

WestCOG's Mike Towle provided an overview.

Legislative Update.

Francis Pickering provided an update.

Planning Consulting List

Francis Pickering provided an update.

Industrial Zoning Report

Francis Pickering provided an update.

Other Business**Adjournment**

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Next meeting

Thurs. May 21st, 2026 @12:00 pm