

WestCOG/HVMPO/SWRMPO Meeting Agenda

A Combined Meeting for Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), Housatonic Valley and South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organizations (HVMPO, SWRMPO)

Time. Thursday, April 16, 2026 @12:00 p.m.

Location. Ridgefield Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Virtual Option: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88222966740> Meeting ID: 882 2296 6740

1. Call to Order

- a. COG Meeting: Hon. Rudy Marconi
- b. HVMPO Meeting: Hon. Julia Pemberton
- c. SWRMPO Meeting: Hon. Jon Zagrodzky

2. Public Participation (Limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

- a. Limited to topics on this agenda and to 2 minutes per speaker.

3. Featured Presentation

- a. Federal Certification Review – Jennifer Brady, FHWA Transportation Specialist and Brandon Burns, FTA Acting Director Planning & Program Development.....Attachment 3a, pp. 1-2

4. COG Action Items

- a. Approval of March Meeting Minutes.....Attachment 4a, pp.3-6
- b. Quarterly Financial Update.....Attachment 4b, pp. 7-8
- c. WestCOG lease renewal.....Attachment 4c, p. 9
- d. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Service ProcurementAttachment 4d, p. 10
- e. Open Doors Brownfield BAR Grant Resolution 2026-04-16-#01Attachment 4e, pp. 11-13
- f. Amended ADA Project Resolution 2026-04-16-#02Attachment 4f, pp. 14-15
- g. CTDOT Transportation Rural Improvement Program – Bridgewater...Attachment 4g, p. 16

5. MPO Action Items

- a. Approval of the March 2026 Meeting Minutes.....Attachment 4a, pp. 1-3
- b. FY25-28 TIP Amendments.....Attachment 5b, 17-18
 - i. SWRMPO - 0135-0346; Stamford

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.

6. Information Items

- a. Draft FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program.....Attachment 6a, p. 19
- b. Metropolitan Transportation Plan Project SolicitationAttachment 6b, p. 20
- c. Connecticut 2055 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft.....Attachment 6c, pp. 21-22
- d. FY 2027 MGP 13b Program AnnouncementAttachment 6d, p. 23
- e. Safe Streets and Roads for All FY26 Funding OpportunityAttachment 6e, pp. 24-30
- f. Resilience Planning and Grants.....Attachment 6f, p. 31
- g. Climate POCD Provisions.....Attachment 6g, p. 32
- h. Legislative Update.
- i. Planning Consulting ListAttachment 6i, p. 33
- j. Industrial Zoning Report.....Attachment 6j, p. 34

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

9. Next meeting

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

2026 Federal Certification Review

of the

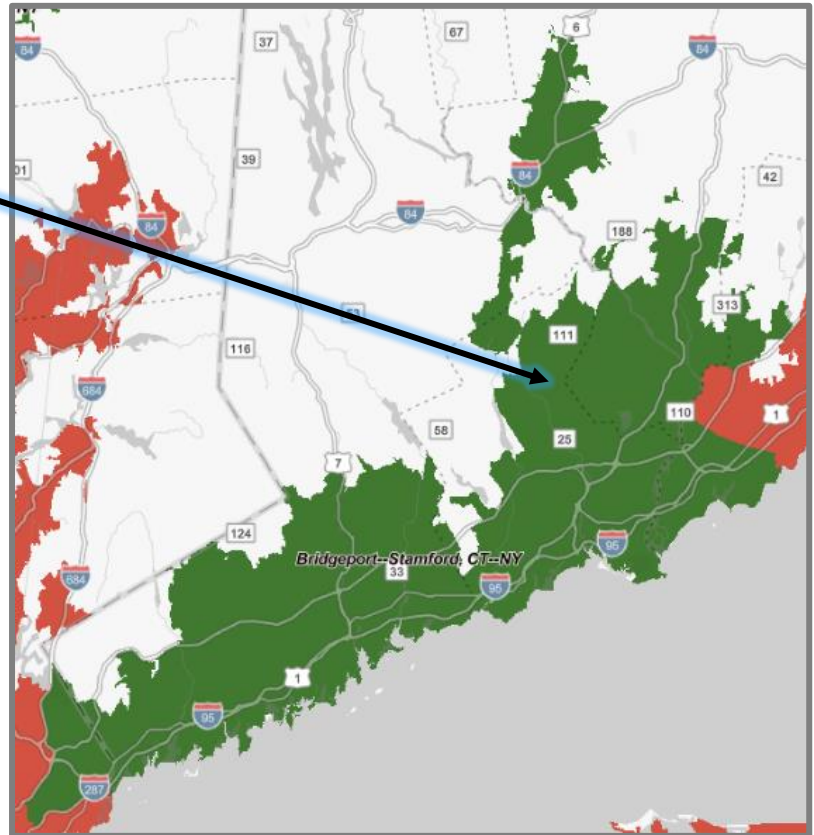
South Western Region MPO and the Greater Bridgeport and Valley MPO

for the

Bridgeport-Stamford, CT Transportation Management Area Overview

At least once every four years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) must certify that a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) serving a Transportation Management Area (TMA) – an urbanized area with a population over 200,000 – is carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process in adherence with federal requirements under [23 U.S.C. 134](#) and [49 U.S.C. 5303](#). The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly conduct this review, make a certification determination, and produce a report that may include compliance issues (corrective actions), areas for improvement (recommendations), and/or notable practices (commendations). Based on these findings, the MPO will either be “certified,” “certified with conditions or restrictions,” or “not certified”.

Bridgeport-Stamford TMA



Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

A **continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive** (3-C) process that informs transportation decisions, including how projects are selected and prioritized for implementation within a region.

With limited funds, this is critical for prioritizing regional needs and identifying projects that best meet performance goals and objectives while providing public benefit. The process assists in developing a framework for the future transportation system.

3-C Planning Process

Continuous: Regularly addressing short-term needs and long-term regional goals

Cooperative: Involving all interested parties through a public participation process

Comprehensive: Multimodal in scope and consistent with other regional and statewide planning products and federal planning factors

Four Key MPO Planning Documents

Please note that there are other federal requirements applicable to MPOs, these are four core planning documents that frame the metropolitan transportation planning process.

Public Participation Plan (PPP)

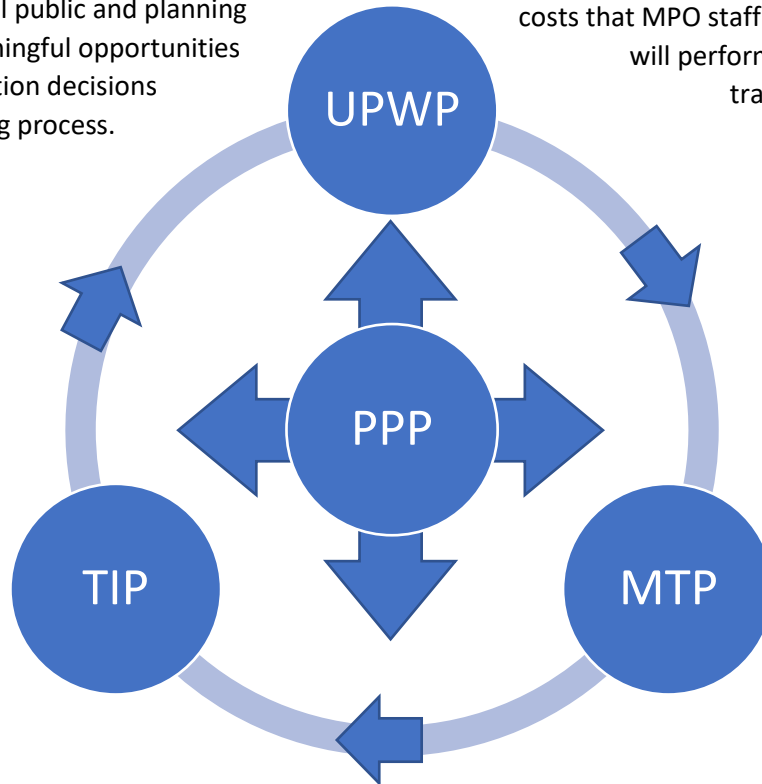
Documents public involvement strategies that provide the general public and planning stakeholders with meaningful opportunities to influence transportation decisions throughout the planning process.

Updated as needed

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Lists transportation tasks, products, and associated costs that MPO staff and other responsible parties will perform to support the metropolitan transportation planning process.

Updated biennially



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Identifies transportation investments, and associated costs, by year for implementation in the region over the next 4 years. Projects reflect investment priorities from the MTP and activities from the UPWP.

Updated regularly; New TIP prepared every 2-3 years

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Establishes regional goals, strategies, projects, and priorities for an integrated intermodal transportation system that reflect current and future demand over at least 20 years.

Updated every four years

Things to Think About...

What are your views on the planning process?

- What are some challenges?
- What are some strengths?

Do you feel you understand how the planning process works and how to get involved?

Do you feel like you have adequate opportunities to participate and be heard?

How is the Process Going? We Want Your Input!

Written comments can be submitted by 5/1/2026 to:

FHWA: Jennifer Brady, P.E., Transportation Specialist
jennifer.brady@dot.gov or
 c/o FHWA Connecticut Division
 450 Main Street, Suite 612; Hartford, CT 06103

FTA: Brandon Burns, Acting Director Planning & Program Development, FTA Region 1
michael.burns1@dot.gov or
 c/o Federal Transit Administration, Region 1
 220 Binney Street, 9th Floor; Cambridge, MA 02142

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



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, 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)

1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Visit us online at westcog.org
 Telephone/fax 475-323-2060

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

Western Connecticut Council of Governments
Quarterly Financial Report - Operating Statement
March 2026

(Unaudited)

| | Current Month Actual | Year to Date 3/31/2026 | Prior Year to Date 3/31/2025 | Annual Budget Approved June 2025 |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| REVENUES | | | | |
| State/Federal/Local Grants | \$ 321,222 | \$ 2,527,132 | \$ 2,777,304 | \$ 10,783,510 |
| Local Dues | \$ 9,000 | \$ 119,268 | \$ 246,897 | \$ 339,076 |
| Misc./Interest Income | \$ 7,749 | \$ 74,849 | \$ 85,156 | \$ 120,000 |
| Pass-Thru Grant Income | \$ - | \$ 24,439 | \$ 39,362 | \$ 10,593,430 |
| TOTAL: | \$ 337,971 | \$ 2,745,688 | \$ 3,148,719 | \$ 21,836,016 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| DIRECT CONTRACT EXPENSE: (Reimbursable through contracts) | | | | |
| Project Consultants | \$ 77,326 | \$ 802,739 | \$ 1,187,224 | \$ 11,397,811 |
| Other Direct Costs | \$ 5,133 | \$ 36,457 | \$ 103,052 | \$ 132,775 |
| Pass-Thru Grants | \$ - | \$ 24,439 | \$ 39,382 | \$ 7,443,430 |
| PERSONNEL EXPENSE: | | | | |
| Salaries (Direct & Indirect) | \$ 140,285 | \$ 1,186,193 | \$ 1,088,146 | \$ 1,826,000 |
| Pension | \$ 10,975 | \$ 98,775 | \$ 87,075 | \$ 135,000 |
| Payroll Taxes | \$ 11,869 | \$ 88,490 | \$ 88,650 | \$ 147,000 |
| Fringe Benefits | \$ 26,966 | \$ 209,177 | \$ 238,469 | \$ 400,000 |
| GENERAL OVERHEAD EXPENSE: | | | | |
| Rent | \$ 9,540 | \$ 95,164 | \$ 100,431 | \$ 121,000 |
| Utilities | \$ 4,190 | \$ 27,425 | \$ 22,066 | \$ 32,500 |
| Audit/Payroll & Legal Services | \$ 370 | \$ 27,176 | \$ 25,693 | \$ 40,400 |
| Other Professional Services | \$ 500 | \$ 529 | \$ - | \$ 5,000 |
| Service Agreements | \$ 649 | \$ 14,560 | \$ 7,750 | \$ 18,100 |
| Reproduction | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,000 |
| Office Supplies | \$ 914 | \$ 5,612 | \$ 3,466 | \$ 10,000 |
| Conf/Travel/Mtg. Expense | \$ - | \$ 2,460 | \$ 2,134 | \$ 5,000 |
| Membership Dues/Subscriptions | \$ 1,142 | \$ 11,029 | \$ 9,065 | \$ 17,000 |
| Postage | \$ - | \$ 237 | \$ 251 | \$ 1,000 |
| Commercial Liability Insurance | \$ 1,950 | \$ 17,550 | \$ 17,100 | \$ 26,000 |
| Software Expense | \$ 21 | \$ 1,272 | \$ 846 | \$ 4,000 |
| Recruitment/Ads | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,000 |
| Legal Notices | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 295 | \$ 1,000 |
| Misc. | \$ 150 | \$ 5,069 | \$ 3,470 | \$ 10,000 |
| Depreciation | \$ 1,200 | \$ 11,450 | \$ 16,650 | \$ 20,000 |
| Interest Expense | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 10,000 |
| Capital Expense | \$ - | \$ 4,268 | \$ 7,901 | \$ 15,000 |
| Contingency | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 15,000 |
| TOTAL | \$ 293,180 | \$ 2,670,071 | \$ 3,049,116 | \$ 21,836,016 |
| SURPLUS/<DEFICIT> | \$ 44,791 | \$ 75,617 | \$ 99,603 | \$ - |

Unaudited - For Management Purposes Only

Western CT Council of Governments

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2026

ASSETS

Current Assets

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|-----------|-----------|
| Bank of America Checking | \$ | 1,362,951 | |
| Bank of America Money Market | | 101,709 | |
| CT STIF | | 2,463,669 | |
| Petty Cash | | 400 | |
| Accounts Receivable | | 457,495 | |
| Prepaid Liability Ins Premiums | | 2,593 | |
| Prepaid Service Agreements | | 35,942 | |
| Prepaid Dues/Subscriptions | | 2,476 | |
| Prepaid Security Deposits | | 4,245 | |
| | | <hr/> | |
| Total Current Assets | | | 4,431,480 |

Property and Equipment

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|---------|
| Fixed Assets | | 186,219 | |
| Right-of-Use Asset | | 612,800 | |
| Allowance for Depreciation | | (141,750) | |
| Accumulated Amortization | | (496,865) | |
| | | <hr/> | |
| Total Property and Equipment | | | 160,404 |

Other Assets

| | | | |
|--------------------|----|--|-------------------------|
| Total Other Assets | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 0 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| Total Assets | \$ | | <u><u>4,591,884</u></u> |

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----------|-----------|
| Due to CTDOT | \$ | (39,015) | |
| Lease Payable | | 131,300 | |
| Deferred Rev-Local Dues | | 219,807 | |
| Deferred Rev - Norwalk Route 1 | | 748 | |
| Def Rev-DOT Transpo Microgrant | | 6,678 | |
| Deferred Rev-LOTICIP | | 234,971 | |
| Deferred Rev - FY25-26 RSG | | 747,393 | |
| Deferred Rev-Health Depts | | 3,049 | |
| Accrued Vacation | | 143,833 | |
| Accrued Pension | | 38,728 | |
| | | <hr/> | |
| Total Current Liabilities | | | 1,487,492 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|-----------|
| Total Liabilities | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 1,487,492 |

Capital

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-----------|-------------------------|
| Fund Balance Designated | | 120,000 | |
| Fund Balance-Restricted | | 2,908,775 | |
| Net Income | | 75,617 | |
| | | <hr/> | |
| Total Capital | | | 3,104,392 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| Total Liabilities & Capital | \$ | | <u><u>4,591,884</u></u> |

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
 FROM: Francis R. Pickering, Executive Director
 DATE: March 11, 2026
 RE: Renewal of Building Lease – 1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook

Purpose

Office space lease renewal for WestCOG's office space at 1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook.

Background

WestCOG currently leases the building at 1 Riverside Road in Sandy Hook for its offices and has occupied this building since 2016. The current 10-year lease expires in September 2026. Staff have discussed options with the property owner and are proposing a new lease that would allow WestCOG to remain at this location while maintaining predictable costs.

The proposed renewal terms are as follows:

- Lease Term: 5 years
- Starting Base Rent: \$69,479 per year plus operating expenses
- Annual Escalation: Greater of 3% or CPI, with no base rent increase during the first year of the renewed lease term
- No changes to other lease terms

Discussion

WestCOG staff reviewed available office space in the region. Based on this review, the proposed cost per square foot for the current space is competitive. The 1 Riverside Road location meets WestCOG needs and remains advantageous due to convenient access to major highways, which supports staff travel and regional coordination. WestCOG's experience with the property and its owner over the last decade have been excellent.

Based on its review, the Executive Committee is recommending a 5-year renewal.

Next steps

The lease will be brought to the COG for review and approval at the April meeting.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Todd Fontanella
DATE: March 18, 2026

RE: Procurement, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Services for
Cities of Norwalk and Stamford; Towns of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan,
and Westport

Action Requested:

To authorize initiation of a WestCOG procurement process, including issuance of a Request for Proposals for Collaborative Procurement.

Background

WestCOG engaged NewGen Strategies in early 2025 to conduct Phase I of a two-phase project funded by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP). The project's purpose was to gather together the WestCOG communities that are not members of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRRA) and explore the potential for collaboration on waste management, including investigation of the potential for creating a Regional Waste Authority (RWA).

Discussion

The communities voiced their interest in having WestCOG lead continued collaboration on HHW collection as they had been doing with the City of Norwalk conducting prior procurements. Note that an interlocal agreement executed in 2009 between these communities, which authorizes their cooperation, remains in effect. As in prior years, each community would then execute a contract with the selected Contractor obtained through the single procurement that WestCOG would administer. Staff recommends that this initiative move forward, as a collaborative procurement has proven successful and offers the best opportunity for minimizing costs instead of each municipality being compelled to do their own. Time administering this procurement would be covered by the Regional Services funding provided to WestCOG.

Next steps:

If approved by the COG, staff will release the RFP on the communities' behalf. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
 FROM: Betsy Paynter, Program Director
 DATE: March 30, 2026
 RE: Pass-Through Brownfield Area-wide Planning Grant Application for Open Doors

Purpose

Open Doors, Inc., a 501(c)(3) corporation in South Norwalk, is requesting WestCOG to serve as a pass-through applicant in Round 23 of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) Brownfield Municipal Grant Program (MGP). Open Doors seeks a \$200,000 Brownfield Area-wide (BAR) planning grant to assess several health and environmental risk factors present in the affordable housing buildings and properties they own and other adjacent brownfield sites in order to determine the state of the soil and infrastructure, to understand the existing conditions and issues, and confirm next steps and remediation as appropriate.

Background

The MGP is a competitive grant program for municipalities and municipal entities, designed to assist with brownfield redevelopment projects. WestCOG is an eligible recipient of grant funds from this program.

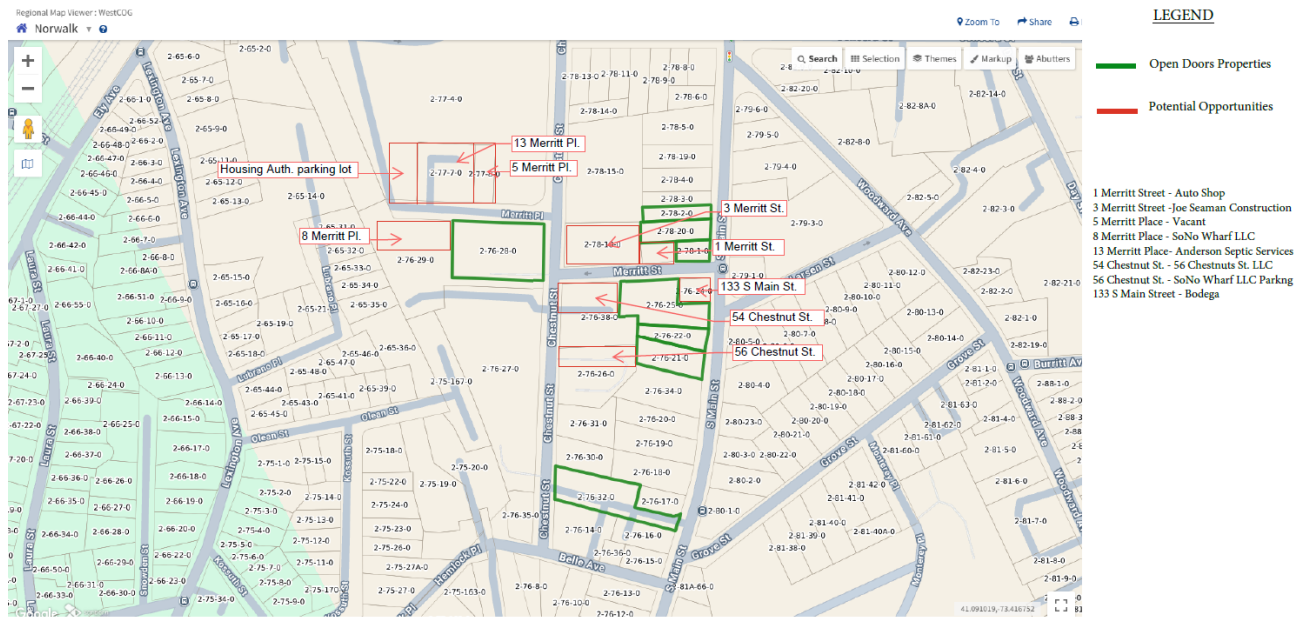
Open Doors has operated for 40 years, addressing the causes of homelessness and poverty as the only homeless shelter in Greater Norwalk for individuals and families. Open Doors reports being one of the highest performing shelters in the State of Connecticut with a 76% discharge to permanent destination rate, more than double the state average and a 6% discharge to unsheltered destination, just under half the state average.

Open Doors owns and manages 11 properties and serves over 500 individuals and families annually through case management, food pantry, and employment training programs. Most properties are within a four-block radius of its offices at 4 Merritt Street in Norwalk, within walking distance of South Norwalk Train Station, which also serves as a hub for Metro-North in addition to multiple CT Transit bus lines. The clustering of properties makes for a campus-style "feel" and encourages the residents to participate in programming and services.

Open Doors owns 8 buildings (55 affordable housing units) that are between 60 and 100 years old. These buildings are facing deteriorating or untested materials in both the structures and soil, and in essential building elements such as insulation, piping, lighting, electrical, fencing/stairs and storage components, as well as overall building design, configuration and use. With the support of a BAR planning grant Open Doors will explore, assess and develop plans to address these factors.

While several older buildings in the neighborhood have been redeveloped, Open Doors currently do not have access to funding for complete analysis, planning, and remediation for the buildings and properties on their campus. A BAR grant will be the first step in the process to rehabilitate these buildings so they can continue to support affordable housing and related services.

Project Map



Discussion

Adoption of a resolution (attached) authorizing WestCOG, if the grant is awarded, to serve as the direct recipient of the grant funding (the “Primary Recipient” or “Applicant”), which will then pass the award funding through to Open Doors, an affiliate, or related entity (the “Sub-Recipient”) pursuant to a Sub-Recipient Agreement by and between the Applicant and the Sub-Recipient in form and substance satisfactory to DECD. The Sub-Recipient is the owner of the Project and will be responsible for the implementation of the Project. The Sub-Recipient of the grant will be the current owner of the property.

WestCOG has experience with similar projects, having previously approved similar arrangements for multiple brownfields projects in Greenwich, Stamford, and Westport. As with those projects, any legal instruments will be subject to review by WestCOG and DECD counsel, and legal costs will be borne by the Sub-Recipient.

Next steps

The COG considers and, if desired, approves the grant application for submission with a resolution.

2026-4-16-#01

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF
BROWNFIELDS, REMEDIATION GRANTS**

Ridgefield, Connecticut

I, Julia Pemberton, Secretary of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (hereinafter, the “Organization” and “WestCOG”) certify that the following is a true copy of the resolution adopted by WestCOG at its meeting on April 16, 2026, in Ridgefield, Connecticut, a quorum being present:

RESOLVED, that WestCOG execute and deliver to the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Brownfields (“DECD”) a grant agreement (the “Agreement”) in the amount of \$200,000 under the Brownfield Municipal Grant Program, Round 23, with the non-profit Open Doors.

RESOLVED, that Francis R. Pickering, as Executive Director of the Organization, is directed to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Organization and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement and by any previously executed agreements between WestCOG and DECD under the Brownfield Municipal Grant Program.

This resolution is in full force and effect as of April 16, 2026.

Julia Pemberton, Secretary
Western Connecticut Council of Governments
April 16, 2026

[Affix seal here]

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



2026/04/16 #02 CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS TO CONTINUE THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

Ridgefield, Connecticut

I, Julia Pemberton, Secretary of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (hereinafter "WestCOG") certify that the following is a true copy of the resolution adopted by WestCOG at its meeting on April 16, 2026 in Ridgefield, Connecticut, a quorum being present:

Whereas WestCOG receives funding from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in the form of a Regional Services Grant (RSG) for the provision of regional services, particularly those that result in cost savings to the municipalities and local taxpayers; and

Whereas in state fiscal years 2025 and 2026 each WestCOG received an RSG in the amount of \$998,828.36, and WestCOG anticipates an RSG allocation in state fiscal year 2027 equal in value to those received in state fiscal years 2025 and 2026, based on the same formula; and

Whereas any use of RSG funds must be consistent with the respective annual WestCOG RSG Spending Plan, as adopted by WestCOG and approved by OPM, with such Plans for state fiscal years 2025 and 2026 having been adopted by WestCOG and endorsed by OPM: and

Whereas WestCOG has not yet adopted an RSG Spending Plan for state fiscal year 2027, and approval by OPM of said Plan is not expected until summer 2026; and

Whereas OPM has added new conditions limiting the carryover of unexpended RSG funds regardless of reason into subsequent fiscal years, beginning with the RSG for state fiscal year 2025, creating an impetus to avoid delay; and

Whereas local governments are encouraged to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act through the preparation of Transition Plans that identify a list of covered barriers, methods to remove these barriers, cost estimates, and a schedule for the completion of work; and

Whereas, WestCOG has proposed and coordinated with its members on a regional project to produce local Transition Plans, leveraging economies of scale and providing municipalities with expertise to satisfy the requirements of Title II of the ADA; and

Whereas WestCOG has selected WT Group of Illinois through an open and competitive process to carry out this project over a period of 31 months, which may fall in three fiscal years, and

Whereas the original cost of the project was \$951,870 creating an annual cost of approximately \$320,000; and

Whereas circumstances have evolved that require additional time and financial resources to complete the project,

Now be it resolved, that WestCOG Chairman Rudolph Marconi, Vice Chairman Dan Carter, or Executive Director Francis Pickering are hereby authorized to negotiate and execute all appropriate and necessary agreements to amend the total project cost by \$232,681 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,184,551, with the stipulation that any agreements pursuant to this section be functionally phased by funding year and provide WestCOG the right to terminate, for any cause, including failure to receive the expected future RSG Spending Plan approval or RSG funding, with thirty days' notice, and to apply for grants or other funding to defray the cost of the project.

This resolution is in full force and effect as of April 16th, 2026.

Julia Pemberton, Secretary
Western Connecticut Council of Governments
April 16th 2026

[Affix seal here]



Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

TO: MPO Members
DATE: March 30, 2026
SUBJECT: Amendments to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

SWRMPO FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Background: The FFY2025-2028 South Western Region MPO TIP was endorsed by the MPO on April 18, 2024. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on August 5, 2024.

The following projects have proposed amendments:

1. 0135-0346 – RBC Improvements Between Exits 6-7 & Auxiliary Lane SB

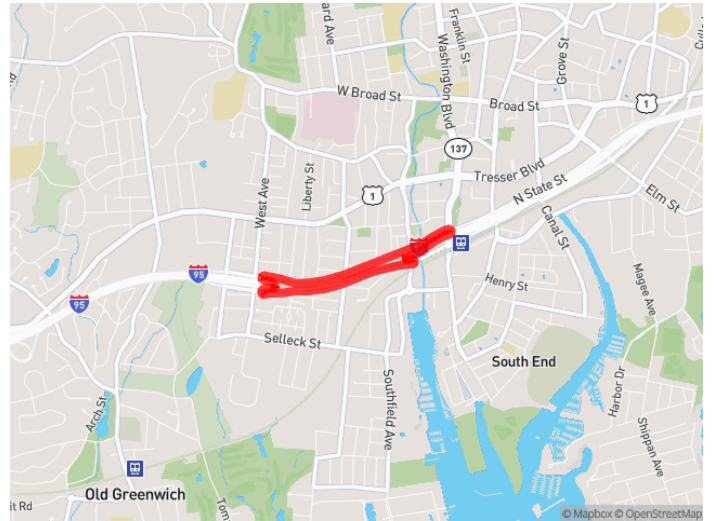
Details of these amendments can be viewed on the following pages.

Action Requested: MPO endorsement after review and support by TAG.

0135-0346 - RBC IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN EXITS 6-7 & AUXILIARY LANE SB

RBC IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN EXITS 6-7 & AUXILIARY LANE SB

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Lead Agency: | CTDOT |
| Project Type: | FHWA |
| Region: | 1 |
| Town: | STAMFORD |
| Air Quality Status: | - |
| Total Cost: | \$8,777,777 |



| Phase | Fund Source | Prior | FY2025 | FY2026 | FY2027 | FY2028 | Future | Total |
|--------------------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Construction | NHPP | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,700,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,700,000 |
| Construction | State Match | \$0 | \$577,777 | \$300,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$877,777 |
| Construction | STPB | \$0 | \$5,200,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$5,200,000 |
| Total Construction | | \$0 | \$5,777,777 | \$3,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$8,777,777 |
| - | NHPP | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| - | STPB | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Total Programmed | | \$0 | \$5,777,777 | \$3,000,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$8,777,777 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Current Change Reason: | Schedule / Funding / Scope- Update 04 - Adjust existing projects for revised cost estimates - 07 - Administrative Requirement |
| Project Changes: | Plan Revision Name changed from "Adoption" to "April 2026 Amendment" |

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



DATE: March 31, 2026

Draft HVMPO & SWRMPO FFY 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Background: Federal law requires the development and maintenance of a TIP, which is a financially-constrained listing of transportation projects covering a period of at least four years. In this case, the upcoming four-year period is for Federal Fiscal Years 2027-2030. The TIP is developed in cooperation with CTDOT and public transit providers. The CTDOT concurrently develops and maintains a Statewide TIP (STIP), the amalgamation of all regional TIPs in Connecticut. Both the TIP and STIP must meet air quality conformity requirements and adhere to transportation planning guidelines.

Next Steps: The draft HVMPO and SWRMPO 2027-2030 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) will be considered for endorsement at the May 21, 2026 MPO meetings. Also considered for endorsement will be the CTDOT draft Air Quality Conformity Determinations for Ozone and PM 2.5. Below is the WestCOG schedule developed in coordination with CTDOT for the draft 2027-2030 HVMPO and SWRMPO TIP update:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| April 1, 2026 | Beginning of the Public Comment Period |
| April 21, 2026 | 6:30pm-7:30pm HVMPO Public Information Meeting |
| April 22, 2026 | 7pm-8pm SWRMPO Public Information Meeting |
| April 23, 2026 | 12pm-1pm SWRMPO & HVMPO Virtual Public Information Meeting |
| May 1, 2026 | End of Public Comment Period |
| May 12, 2026 | WestCOG's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has the opportunity to make a recommendation to the MPOs for the 5/21 MPO meeting |
| May 21, 2026 | HVMPO & SWRMPO vote on the draft TIP for endorsement at the MPO meeting |

All materials for the draft 2027-2030 HVMPO and SWRMPO TIP will be posted on the [WestCOG website](https://www.westcog.org) on April 1, 2026. In accordance with the WestCOG Public Involvement Plan, the required public comment period for the draft TIP is a minimum of 30 days. Comments on the draft TIP or draft air quality conformity may be made by mail to the WestCOG office, email: plan@westcog.org telephone: 475-323-2071 or at the public information meetings.

To register to make a comment at the public information meetings, please contact plan@westcog.org and provide your name as well as the subject matter you are commenting on.

Comments will be addressed on a first-come, first-served basis. 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.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: SWRMPO and HVMPO Members
 FROM: Kristin Floberg, Senior Planner
 DATE: April 6, 2026
 RE: 2027-2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Project Solicitation

Purpose

WestCOG is soliciting projects for inclusion in the SWRMPO and HVMPO MTP from member municipalities and transit providers.

Background

MPOs are required to maintain and regularly update a MTP every 4 years in air quality nonattainment and maintenance zones. Adoption of a MTP is a condition of eligibility for federal transportation funding. This solicitation process ensures the MTP reflects current municipal and transit priorities. While inclusion does not guarantee funding, it is typically required for projects to advance on to the TIP and compete for federal funds.

Discussion

We are seeking projects that address long-term needs and have regional or system-level value, including:

- Roadway and intersection improvements
- Bridge rehabilitation/replacement
- Pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure
- Transit access, facilities, or service improvements
- Freight and goods movement improvements
- Traffic operations and safety improvements
- Resilience projects affecting transportation assets

Routine maintenance and small-scale local projects are generally not appropriate.

Next steps

- Review your relevant projects included in Appendix B of the current 2023-2050 MTP: <https://westcog.org/mtp/>
- Submit projects using the online form by May 22nd. This form was demonstrated at the April 8th TAG meeting and was emailed out separately.
- WestCOG staff are available to discuss project ideas. Early coordination is encouraged, particularly for projects that may require additional clarification or refinement. Please contact Kristin Floberg, kfloberg@westcog.org, (475)323-2075 with any questions.

CONNECTICUT CTDOT 2055 Long-Range Transportation Plan

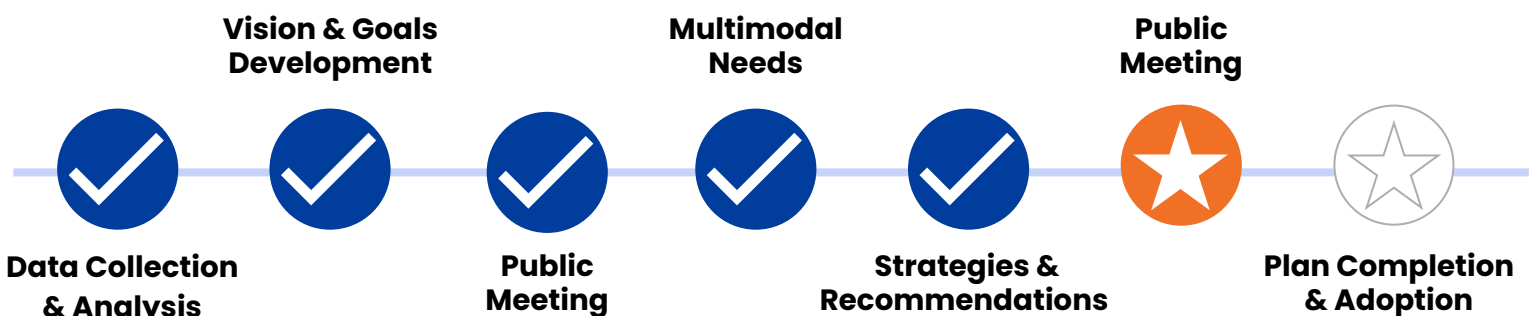
What is Connecticut 2055?

Connecticut 2055 is the state’s multimodal long-range transportation plan, which provides a roadmap for the future of Connecticut’s transportation system by setting our long-term plans and goals. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) periodically updates this plan as transportation needs, travel behaviors, traffic management methods, and the ability to pay for the transportation system change.

What’s in Connecticut 2055?

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Introduction  | Vision, Goals & Objectives  | Public & Stakeholder Outreach  | Connecticut’s Transportation Story  |
| <p>A description of what Connecticut 2055 is and how it fits in with other CTDOT plans</p> | <p>The guiding direction for Connecticut 2055</p> | <p>What we heard from the public and stakeholders and how we incorporated it into the plan</p> | <p>An overview of what our current transportation system looks like and key opportunities and challenges by mode</p> |
| A Look Ahead  | Performance  | Investment Strategy  | Future of Connecticut’s Transportation  |
| <p>An assessment of how future trends, uncertainties, and policy choices could impact transportation needs</p> | <p>A report on how the system is currently performing against federally-mandated performance measures and statewide goals</p> | <p>A summary of how the transportation system is funded and a forecast of state and federal funding through 2055</p> | <p>A snapshot of the next five years and recommended strategic actions to improve the system</p> |

Connecticut 2055 Development Schedule



Engage Online



Study Website

portal.ct.gov/longrangetransportation



Virtual Public Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

12 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting (*Registration required)

Visit our webpage to register!



Scan to view meeting materials and register for the virtual meeting!

Material disponible en español

Individuals with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting the Plan Team at DOT.LongRangePlan@ct.gov or (860) 594-2020. Language assistance may be requested by contacting the CTDOT Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

English and non-English language closed captioning will be available on Zoom. The recording will also be posted following the meeting in CTDOT's public meeting playlist at portal.ct.gov/ctdotVPIMarchive.

**Public Comment Period:
April 7, 2026 - May 22, 2026**

Submit a Comment

Meaningful input is our number one priority. Below are the ways to make your voice heard and to help shape the future of transportation in Connecticut.



Email

DOT.LongRangePlan@ct.gov



Phone

(860) 594-2020



Mail

CTDOT Headquarters
ATTN: Patrick Zapatka,
Statewide Planning Unit
2800 Berlin Tpke
P.O. Box 317546
Newington, CT 06111

All formal comments received during the comment period will be evaluated and included in the project record. All information provided will be published and subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: COG Members
 FROM: Todd Fontanella
 DATE: March 30, 2026
 RE: State Matching Grant Program (MGP) for Transportation of Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Overview: CTDOT has announced the FY 2027 MGP application process. The MGP provides matching funds to municipalities for transportation of seniors and persons with disabilities. Funding is calculated based on the land area and population of those over age 60. The program has been in place since 2006; the funds cannot replace municipal support for transportation services. If a town or city reduces its funding for senior/disabled transportation, the grant will be proportionally reduced. For your convenience, we emailed the application materials to you on March 25, 2026; they should also be available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/Publictrans/Bureau-of-Public-Transportation/State-Matching-Grant-Program-for-Elderly-and-People-with-Disabilities>.

Required Materials: For FY 2027, municipalities need to submit the required certifications and budget information. The Maintenance of Effort Certification, Grant Assignment Certification, Certificate of Insurance, and MGP Budget Worksheet must be completed each fiscal year as recertifications for the program. Instructions regarding the submittal of the proposed SFY 2027 MGP Budget Worksheet can be found in the MGP Budget Instructions document. Please note the following:

- Maintenance of Effort Certification: should be completed and signed by the CFO. Please also include a copy of the budget page for FY 2027 that shows the line item for this transportation program.
- Assignability Certification: Those municipalities participating in a coordinated program through a transit district (HARTransit or NTD) should complete this form and have it signed by the municipal CEO assigning the grant to the transit district.
- Program Budget: Please also include a copy of the budget page that shows the line item for this transportation program. Please mark on the budget page the line item attributable to the dial-a-ride program.

Optional Material: A form titled "In-Kind Contributions" has been added to the SFY 2027 recertification documentation. This form is only required by entities who are choosing to utilize in-kind contributions on the MGP Budget Worksheet.

Certification documents are due Thursday, May 14th, 2027. Please submit completed certification documentation packets to DOT.PTransMGP@ct.gov . Questions regarding the annual certification documentation or requests for technical assistance may be directed to Juliana Lee at CTDOT, at Juliana.Lee@ct.gov or (860) 594-2241, or to the program mailbox at DOT.PTransMGP@ct.gov.

It is recommended that the grant program certifications be placed on the agenda for your municipal boards soon, to avoid any delays.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
 FROM: Mike Wilson, Senior Planner
 DATE: April 8, 2026
 RE: Safe Streets and Roads for All FY26 Funding Opportunity

Background

The Federal Highway Administration is currently accepting applications for the FY26 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) funding opportunity. CTDOT will be providing letters of support to COGs and municipalities applying for SS4A funding.

Discussion

The SS4A program provides funding for two main types of grants:

- **Planning and Demonstration Grants** are used to develop, complete, or supplement an Action Plan, as well as carry out demonstration activities that inform an Action Plan.
- **Implementation Grants** are used to implement strategies or projects that are consistent with an existing Action Plan and may also bundle funding requests for supplemental planning and demonstration activities that inform the Action Plan.

Eligible Project Types:

- Develop a comprehensive Safety Action Plan (Action Plan)
- Conduct supplemental safety planning to enhance an Action Plan.
- Carry out demonstration activities to inform the development of, or an update to, an Action Plan.
- Perform planning, design, and development activities for projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.
- Implement projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan that address roadway safety problems.

If a proposal impacts a state road, CTDOT's Traffic Operations Unit will need to review the proposed project prior to submittal. Attached, please find the following materials to assist the letter of support process:

- SS4A Application Guidance for Municipalities and COGs
- LOS Request Form

Please note that SS4A grants require a 20% local match and are reimbursable projects. CTDOT cannot provide funds for a local match or administer SS4A grants if awarded. Please feel free to reach out with any questions to Jennifer Arienti at Jennifer.orienti@ct.gov.

Deadline: May 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (EDT).

Helpful Information:

- USDOT is placing a priority on Public Safety Infrastructure.
- Eligible applicants may submit one application only to the FY 2026 funding opportunity.

Next steps

CTDOT requests receipt of the following in order to provide a letter of support:

1. Completed LOS Request Form (attached)
2. Project Summary including project description, proposed budget, source of non-federal match, and who will administer the project if the grant is received.

The above materials must be received **no later than April 30, 2026**, in order for a LOS to be provided. Any work performed on a state-owned asset/road needs to be reviewed by the CTDOT's Traffic Engineering Unit prior to submittal. The sooner they receive the requested materials, the sooner CTDOT can review and send back comments and a support letter.

USDOT will host 3 informational webinars on this grant opportunity. Dates and times are listed below. Go to the USDOT [SS4A Webinar Series](#) page for more information and to register.

- SS4A Implementation Grants
Date: April 7, 2026
Time: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm ET
- SS4A Action Plans
Date: April 9, 2026
Time: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm ET
- SS4A Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Activities
Date: April 14, 2026
Time: 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm ET

CTDOT SS4A Application Guidance for Municipalities and COGs

Changes in the FY2026 NOFO

- DOT is placing a priority on Public Safety Infrastructure.
- Section B. Definitions. Clarifying information is added regarding Public Safety Infrastructure for post-crash care, emergency response coordination, and prehospital blood transfusion activities.
- Section G. Application Review Information has been updated to include clearer information regarding how SS4A applications will be assessed.
- Section G. Application Review Information. Added language noting that if DOT does not receive enough merit-worthy applications for Planning and Demonstration Grants to award the 30 percent set aside requirement, surplus funds may be redirected toward merit-worthy Implementation Grants.
- Added language highlighting new Executive Orders and DOT Orders.

General Comments from CTDOT regarding SS4A Grant Applications and Awards

- A city/town will assume all maintenance responsibilities for the following, constructed as part of an SS4A award:
 - Signs, including RRFB/PHB
 - Pavement markings, including bike lane markings
 - Snow plowing new bump out areas
 - all decorative streetscape features
 - A Maintenance Agreement with CTDOT will be required for certain aspects of the proposed concept
- MUTCD – Federal Standards Compliance
 - All proposed signs, pavement markings and traffic signal work must be MUTCD compliant and per CTDOT Standard
 - New traffic signals will need to meet signal warrants prior to approval
 - Design plans must meet MUTCD and all other applicable federal standards
 - OSTA approval will be required for installation of new signals and changes to signals owned by the municipality
- Work on State routes
 - Work performed within the State's right of way will require an Encroachment Permit and may be subjected to CTDOT approval
 - Bollards and speed bumps may not be allowed on the state roads
 - Speed tables and bump outs will require further review
 - Approval will be required for signal modifications
- Design Considerations
 - Consider including bicycle pavement markings at signalized intersections to facilitate left turns for cyclists

- Pedestrian facility design must be Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and PROWAG compliant
- Consistent standards with respect to controlling factors such as traffic volume

Suggested Resources for Preparing Applications

- **Regional Transportation Safety Plans (RTSPs):**
 - May be able to be used by Municipalities and COGs as part of an SS4A application
 - Are included in the State’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)
 - Were completed by all COGs in 2021
 - Include specific crash data for each town
 - Incorporate local stakeholder input
 - Are data-driven, multimodal, and multidisciplinary
- **Local Road Safety Plans (such as the RTSPs) are considered a FHWA proven safety countermeasure: [Local Road Safety Plans | FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)**
- **Transportation Enterprise Data (TED):**
<https://connecticut-ctdot.opendata.arcgis.com/>
 - “One stop” resource for integrated authoritative geospatial transportation data
- **Connecticut Roadway Safety Management System: [Safety Analysis | Connecticut Transportation Safety Research Center \(uconn.edu\)](#)**
 - Data-driven, enterprise-level web application developed to implement the latest Highway Safety Manual (HSM) methods
- **CT Training and Technical Assistance Center – Safety Circuit Rider Program: [CT Safety Circuit Rider Program | T2 Center \(uconn.edu\)](#)**

Support Letter Process

- **Submit draft applications to DOT.Grants@ct.gov by:**
 - April 30 for the May 26 deadline
- **The following information is required:**
 - LOS Request Form
 - Applicant: Municipality/COG name
 - Point of Contact
 - Description of the Project
 - Budget with Cost Estimate and source of non-federal match
 - Is the application for a Planning and Demonstration (Action) Grant or an Implementation Grant?
 - If for an Implementation Grant, are you proposing work on a State Road?
- **Support letter timeline and application feedback:**
 - DOT will review applications and provide Support Letters before the deadline(s)
 - DOT will not provide comments on individual applications

- DOT will only provide comments on Implementation Grant applications that propose work on State Roads if our Traffic Safety team identifies major red flags with your proposals

SS4A Grant Projects are Federal Projects

- SS4A grants require a 20% local match and are reimbursable projects
 - CTDOT cannot provide funds for a local match
- The municipality/COG will be the direct recipient of the grant funds
- FHWA will administer the project under 2CFR200
- Federal requirements for implementing the project will apply, for example:
 - NEPA
 - Rights-of-Way
 - ADA
 - Proprietary Items
 - Buy America
 - DBE
 - Contract Bidding & Award
 - Construction Inspection
 - Public Engagement
- Resources to consider: [Federal-aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies \(dot.gov\)](#)

**Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Letter of Support (LOS) Request Form:**

****Please provide a Letter of Support Template along with your completed Request Form****

Contact Information

Name/Title:

Organization:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

General Project Information

Funding Opportunity:

Applicant:

Joint Applicant (if applicable):

CT Congressional District(s):

Project Name:

Project Location and Scope Description (2-3 sentences describing the project):

Purpose and Need Statement (2-3 sentences describing the P&N):

Is the project on a state road or impacts a state-owned facility?

If the applicant is working with CTDOT on this project, indicate CTDOT project manager?

Budget Information

Total Project Cost:

Requested Award Amount:

Total Federal Match:

State/Local Match:

Who will be providing the cost share?

What will be the source of the cost share?

Project Readiness

Current Phase of Project:

Design/Construction Schedule:

Can the project meet the obligation dates listed in the NOFO?

NEPA Status:

Permitting Status:

Will the proposed project be listed on the STIP/TIP if the grant is awarded?

Does the proposed project require Air Conformity analysis?

If awarded, who is going to administer the grant and project?

Does the proposed project require acquisition of real property or easements, including temporary construction easements? If yes, is the applicant requesting CTDOT to administer the ROW acquisition process?

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Michael Towle, WestCOG Deputy Director
DATE: April 10, 2026
RE: Resilience Planning and Grants

Purpose

WestCOG is conducting a Regional Hazard & Resilience Assessment to better understand how storms and other hazards affect our communities. Additionally, WestCOG is providing grant technical support for municipalities to develop competitive grant applications for the newly announced Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant.

Background

The resilience planning effort will identify vulnerabilities, highlight local priorities, and support future resilience investments across the region. The results of this assessment will inform future resilience planning and help municipalities advance practical projects to reduce risk, protect public health, and strengthen infrastructure. WestCOG has recently released a public facing survey for residents to share their experiences and observations with natural hazards.

The BRIC Grant

- **Purpose:** Funds for resilience infrastructure. Focus on shovel ready projects.
- **Amounts/Match:** \$20 Million Max Request. 75% Federal / 25% non-federal
- **Deadline:** July 1, 2026 (Submitted to the State. The state then submits it to the FEMA by July)

Next Steps

Municipalities can contact Mike Towle at mtowle@westCOG.org to coordinate for potential BRIC grant applications or to learn more on the Resilience Assessment.

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Michael Towle
DATE: April 10, 2026
RE: POCD Climate Provisions

Background

Public Act 25-33, enacted during the 2025 legislative session, introduces new requirements for municipal Plans of Conservation and Development (POCDs) adopted on or after October 1, 2027. The Act substantially expands the scope of POCDs to incorporate climate resilience and vulnerability assessment, reflecting growing legislative emphasis on integrating climate adaptation into local land use policy. It will also require plans to note any inconsistencies with defined growth management principles.

To assist member municipalities, WestCOG will provide the technical analyses and template materials necessary for compliance with the new climate-related provisions, ensuring that each municipality can seamlessly incorporate these requirements into its next POCD update.

Next Steps

Currently, the next tranche of municipalities required to update their POCDs with these new provisions takes place in 2029. WestCOG will be developing this resource further and aims to have this support prepared by close of 2028. Regional staff will be reaching out to affected municipalities individually with additional details as the effective date gets closer.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Tucker Beckett, Senior Planner
DATE: April 10, 2026
RE: **Update: Planning Consultant Pre-Selection Process**

Background

At the December meeting of the COG, it was announced that WestCOG would be working to adapt the vendor pre-selection process previously used for capital improvement projects to develop a list of pre-selected consulting firms for planning purposes. In the months since, a selection committee consisting of municipal planners, land use commissioners, and regional staff has evaluated the solicited qualifications submitted by interested firms, conducted interviews with finalists, and developed a final list of pre-selected vendors.

Current Status

As of this week, WestCOG has signed on-call contracts with each selected firm and the list of pre-selected planning consultants is available with contact details on the WestCOG website (<https://westcog.org/planning-consulting-services/>). The selected firms are:

- **AKRF**
- **BFJ Planning**
- **SLR**
- **Goman & York**
- **IMEG**
- **MP Planning Group**
- **Collier Engineering & Design**

Municipalities may reach out to any of these selected firms to negotiate individual contracts for planning projects without the need for a standard bid process. If you have any questions about the development of this list or its use, please direct them to tbeckett@westcog.org.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Tucker Becket
DATE: April 10, 2026

RE: **WestCOG Report: Re-Examining Industrial Zoning in Connecticut**

WestCOG has released a new report which examines the convergence of industrial and commercial land uses over the last century, the consequences of misclassification, and the necessity of intentional zoning for industry. It then explores the concept of service-industrial zoning as a valuable and tested planning tool for Connecticut. This report is available on the WestCOG website and will be accompanied by an educational session for land use commissioners at a later date.

<https://westcog.org/reexamining-industrial-zoning/>