

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

The WestCOG Office. 1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook

Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83446033603> | Meeting ID: 834 4603 3603

Meeting Started at 11:15 PM | Meeting Ended at 12:34 PM

Members Attending

Bethel	First Selectman Dan Carter
Brookfield	First Selectman Steve Dunn
Darien	First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky
New Canaan	First Selectman Dionna Carlson
Redding	First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton

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

COG/MPO Agenda Review

Francis Pickering presented the proposed content for the May COG/MPO Meeting Agenda.

Executive Updates

Francis Pickering provided an overview of the following executive updates:

Draft Budget: Francis provided a summary of the revenues and expenditures.

Draft RSG Spending Plan: Francis discussed the projects proposed for the RSG program.

Auditor Selection: The appointment of auditor form is due to OPM by June so this item will be on the May COG meeting agenda.

Legislative Session: Francis provided an overview of the current legislative bills and the end of the legislative session.

Water Utility Coordination: Francis discussed an option to cover the legal fees associated with this coordination. A memo and resolution will be presented at the May COG meeting for consideration.

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.

Personnel/Recruitment

Francis Pickering provided an update on staffing and the hiring process.

Program Updates

A discussion on the status of ongoing projects:

Transportation

RAISE (Western CT Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Project) – The project team has been meeting with the municipalities to review trail segments, planning routing alignments, and met with FHWA to review NEPA requirements. The project team are putting together a public engagement strategy to begin coordinating with stakeholders.

SS4A (Regional Safety Improvements) – Staff are working on updating procurement and solicitation documents.

Regional Transit Study – Staff are waiting for CTDOT approval on draft procurement documents.

FY2027–FY2030 TIP – Draft TIP was available for public comment from April 1st – May 1st. There were three public meetings: Stamford, Danbury, and a virtual Zoom meeting. The final TIP will be circulated for review in early May to the TAG and MPO members and will be presented for endorsement at the May MPO meeting.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Staff provided a demo to the TAG members on how to submit projects for inclusion in the plan.

Federal Certification Review – FHWA and FTA conducted their review of the Bridgeport-Stamford Transportation Management Area and will be presented at the April COG/MPO meeting.

Traffic Calming Plan – Consultants are formatting the final plan which will be available this month.

Microgrants – WestCOG coordinating contracts with grant recipients.

Regional Transportation Safety Plan – Ontrack. Staff have concluded crash analysis and have identified prioritized high risk/injury locations. Starting plan development and municipal meetings in spring/summer. Deadline December 2026.

Regional Planning

ADA Transition Plans – Consultant has continued municipal site visits, presentations, and reports for municipalities in Quad 3. Work for municipalities in Quad 4 is expected to begin soon. Following COG approval, WestCOG issued a contract addendum with WT Group to extend the project schedule to March 31, 2027 and to allocate additional funding to carry out the scope of work.

Regional Waste Authority. ★ Complete. Concluded Phase 1 and determined to not create a second MRRA thus Phase 2 funding is not eligible. WestCOG will confirm project conclusion with DEEP. However, WestCOG will provide Waste Coordination services as part of its Regional Services Effort, such as the joint RFQ for hazardous waste collections, which is underway. [Greenwich] [Stamford] [Darien] [Norwalk] [Westport] [New Canaan]

Sewer Study. Ongoing. Redding Flow Rates available. Ridgefield development boundary uncertain, default is current zoning. Analysis will begin April 1st. Deadline is June 31, 2026. [Redding] [Ridgefield].

Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ontrack. Initiating public engagement and plan development. FEMA BRIC grant funds are not eligible for HMP updates. Project likely completed using RSG funds. Expected for completion December 2026.

Parcel CAMA Updates. Ontrack. State funding to update parcel data and property information where communities can perform updates internally, contracted, or use WestCOG . Scheduled for completion by 12/31/2026 [Newtown] [Redding] [Bridgewater] [Brookfield]

Climate Action Plan. On Track. Awaiting completion of playbooks with CCAP. Using remaining funds out until 2027 to develop additional implementation resources. Deadline is June 2027

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

POCD Support – Public Act 25-33. Ontrack. POCDs adopted after September 30, 2027, require additional content. Dewberry is developing content by June 2026.

Brownfield Passthrough Grants: Ontrack. Expanding. Coordinating with Greenwich and developers.

Housing Bill Support. Ontrack. Municipalities have access to preselected planning consultants for zoning language updates. Next Target is identifying developable lands (December 2026 Deadline).

Data Collection Campaign. Ontrack. Collecting. kickoff April 1st. Collected by May 1st. Submitted to OPM by June 1st

Ongoing Services

Economic Development. Providing economic development support in grants, plan development, and WCEDD coordination. Next WCEDD Meeting is scheduled for June 2026 .

Flood Assistance Program. Ongoing. Coordinating with Dewberry, municipalities, State, and homeowners. FEMA's BRIC grant is now available for municipal resilience projects.

Stormwater Service. Technical support navigating MS4 permit requirements. Staff coordinate with fellow COGs to develop education and training content as well. See stormwater infrastructure Mapping Effort for progress details on that effort.

Grant Applications

CTDEEP Recreational Trails Grant Program – WestCOG resubmitted last year’s application for the East-West Trail Study. Requested \$520,000 with a \$130,000 match (to be split by WestCOG and NVCOG).

FEMA’s HMP Grant Program. To develop the regional HMP Update. Requesting \$200,678 with a \$66,892 match. COG approved application. Applications submitted. awaiting response.

EPA Community Wide Assessment Grant. To establish a site assessment program to identify brownfields within WestCOG. Requesting \$500,000 with no match. COG approved application. Submitted application January 27, 2026. Awaiting response.

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF). To develop a feasibility study regarding Resilience Districts and Stormwater Utilities. Requesting \$246,457, no match required. COG approved application Submitted, awaiting response.

Upcoming meetings

TAG meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 @11:00 AM

MPO/COG Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2026 @12:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday June 2, 2026 @2:00 PM