

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, June 18, 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 Absent
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..... Absent
Stamford..... Mayor Caroline Simmons COG/SWRMPO
Weston..... Absent
Westport..... First Selectman Kevin Christie COG/SWRMPO
Wilton Selectman Ross Tartell COG/SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... NTD Director of Service Planning Rick Schreiner SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... HARTransit CFO Lori Wilk HVMPO
CTDOT Absent
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

Others in Attendance: Newtown Director of Planning and Land Use Rob Sibley, Ridgefield Director of Public Works Jacob Muller, Jennine Lupo from Jahanna Hayes office, Stamford Executive Secretary Ngan Nguyen, Debra Franceschini-Gatje from HARTransit, Meg Haffner and Mike D’Elia from the Kennedy Collective, James Root from the Sierra Club, and Andrea Rynn from Northwell Health

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Kristin Floberg, Todd Fontanella, Mike Wilson, Nick Trabka, Eddie Provitz, Vicky Ricks, Princeton Fellow Kameil Crane, Summer Planning Aides Julie Thibault, Howard Truax, and Julia Kaiser, Sustainable CT Fellows Brianna Jackson and Lyah Muktavaram, 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 Chairwoman Julia Pemberton

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

Public Comment

No comment was made during the public comment period.

A motion was made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter to amend the agenda to include MPO Action item: “5c. FY 2025 Section 5310 Updated Application Rankings (HVMPO)”. The motion was unanimously approved.

Staff Program Updates

WestCOG’s Regional Housing Planning

WestCOG Planner Farnaz Kamyab provided an update.

WestCOG’s Parcel and Cama Improvement Grant Update

WestCOG Senior Data Scientist Nick Trabka provided an update.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update

WestCOG Senior Planner Kristin Floberg provided an update.

ADA Transition Plan Update

WestCOG Senior Planner Mike Wilson provided an update.

COG Action Items

Approval of May 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 May 2026 meeting were unanimously approved.

LOTICIP Adjustment

WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney provided an overview. He introduced Ridgefield Director of Public Works, Jake Muller who offered commentary. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco to direct WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering to submit a letter authorizing a supplemental grant up to the previously approved amount of three million sixty thousand dollars for the LOTICIP Adjustment. The motion was approved with abstention made by Wilton Selectman Ross Tartell.

Regional Services Grant Spending Plan and 2026-06-18-#01 Resolution

WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Redding First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the Regional Services Grant Spending plan including the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan and 2026-06-18-#01 Resolution was unanimously approved.

Agency Budget

WestCOG's Francis Pickering provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the Agency Budget was unanimously approved.

MPO Action Items

Approval of the May 2026 Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco the minutes of the HVMPO meeting minutes were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and Seconded by Greenwich Selectman Lauren Rabin the minutes of the SWRMPO meeting were unanimously approved

FY25-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program

SWRMPO - #170S-SNON; Statewide

HVMPO - #170S-SNON; Statewide, 0174-0492; Danbury

WestCOG's Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Greenwich Selectman Lauren Rabin the SWRMPO FY25-FY28 TIP amendments were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco the HVMPO FY25-FY28 TIP amendments were unanimously approved.

FY 2025 Section 5310 Updated Application Rankings (HVMPO)

WestCOG's Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the FY 2025 Section 5310 Updated Application Rankings (HVMPO) were unanimously approved.

Information Items

Summer Staff for 2026

WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an overview.

Culvert and Bridge Mapping

WestCOG's Mike Towle provided an update.

Other Business

WestCOG's Francis Pickering led a discussion on Statutory Land Use Referrals sent from municipalities to WestCOG. A reminder was made to municipalities to allow the statutory time allotment for referrals. For more information, visit the WestCOG website.

<https://westcog.org/land-use/land-use-referrals/>

Adjournment

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Next meeting

Thurs. July 16, 2026 @12:00 pm