

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Started at 2:05 PM | Meeting Ended at 2:49 PM

Members Attending

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| Bethel | First Selectman Dan Carter |
| Brookfield | First Selectman Steve Dunn |
| New Canaan | First Selectman Dionna Carlson |
| Redding | First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton |
| Ridgefield | First Selectman Rudy Marconi |

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 June 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.

Legislative Session: There was discussion regarding a new municipal requirement to develop a fire study by July 1, 2027.

Personnel/Recruitment

Francis Pickering provided an update on a new staff member and the hiring process to fill a vacancy.

Program Updates

A discussion on the status of ongoing projects:

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.

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 a Project Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 11th.

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

Regional Transit Study –RFQ was issued on 5/26 and submissions are due 7/7 with interviews expected to take place in early August.

Regional Freight Study – RFQ will be issued this week and submissions are due 7/15 with interviews expected to take place in mid-August.

FY2027-FY2030 TIP – TIPs were endorsed at the May MPO meetings. Staff are coordinating the submission package to CTDOT and the documents will be reviewed by FHWA, FTA and EPA for final approval.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Staff are reviewing the list of projects submitted by municipalities and will be sending information to CTDOT in July to begin the air quality conformity modeling process.

Microgrants – Next quarterly deadline for applications is June 12th.

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

Regional Planning

ADA Transition Plans – Consultant has continued municipal site visits, presentations, and reports for municipalities in Quad 3 and Quad 4. Work on track for completion by March 2027.

Sewer Study. ⚠ Timeline extension. Coordination and analysis for the sewer study is taking longer than planned. A grant extension is requested to push the deadline to March 31st, 2027 (Previously June 31, 2026). [Redding] [Ridgefield].

Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ontrack with opportunities for expanded planning. CT DEMHS is offering up to \$116,716 in HMP funds (requires 50/50 match). 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 the CCAP playbooks. Remaining funds are available through 2027 to develop Building Energy Management Data and identify energy-saving opportunities for municipal buildings. The deadline for the CCAP is June 2026. The deadline of this grant project is June 2027.

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

POCD Climate Provisions. Ontrack. POCDs adopted after September 30, 2027, will require additional content. WestCOG has contracted Dewberry to develop this content for municipal use in future POCDs. Deadline: June 2026.

Brownfield Passthrough Grants: Ontrack. Currently working on three properties: Greenwich – Mason Street Partners (2 grants at \$4million each), Stamford – Atlantic Street (\$950k for soil remediation), and Stamford – Woodland Pacific (\$950k for soil remediation) Coordinating with Greenwich and developers.

Housing Growth Plan. Ontrack. Municipalities have access to preselected planning consultants for zoning language updates (language updates due July 1st 2026). Next Target is identifying developable lands (December 2026). Developing regional Housing Growth Plans for municipalities to use (June 2029 Deadline).

Agriculture & Vacant Land Coordination. Starting. Leveraging PICS intern and UConn Extension to coordinate with municipalities, land trusts, and local farmers to identify properties for agricultural use. Deadline September 2026.

CT Tree Study. Starting. WestCOG is coordinating with CRCOG, OPM, DEEP, UConn, and Sustainable CT to assess tree management polices across the state and develop a canopy analysis to quantify benefits and plan targeted tree planting recommendations. Tentative Deadline: February 2027.

Data Collection Campaign. Complete ★

Police Tactical Training. Restarting. Previously the regional firearm training facility, WestCOG has received earmark funds to fund regional training equipment. This may manifest as virtual training equipment or as a transportable Firearms Training Unit. Next phase requires developing quotes for each of these. Deadline June 2027.

The Economic Plan. aka the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). WestCOG is looking to develop its Economic Plan for 2027 and has initiated the planning process. Deadline: January 2027

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, June 9, 2026 @11:00 AM

MPO/COG Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2026 @12:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday July 1, 2026 @2:00 PM