

# Executive Committee Notes

Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Started at 2:01 PM | Meeting Ended at 2:56 PM

## Members Attending

Bethel	First Selectman Dan Carter
Brookfield	First Selectman Steve Dunn
Darien	First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky
New Canaan	First Selectman Dionna Carlson
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi

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

## COG/MPO Agenda Review

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

## Executive Updates

Francis Pickering provided an overview of the following executive updates:

**Office Lease** – Recommendation to renew lease.

**Special MetroCOG meeting on Aquarion** – A meeting will be held to discuss the legal approach.

**2027 RSG Spending Plan** – Discussion on project ideas.

**Draft Budget** – Draft budget will be shared with Executive Committee and then with the COG in May.

## Personnel/Recruitment

Francis Pickering provided an update on staffing. WestCOG will be hiring to fill a vacancy and there will be three field technicians starting this spring to conduct culvert mapping.

## 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 the scope of work and trail segments.

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

**Regional Transit Study** – Staff are coordinating with CTDOT on the review of the procurement documents.

**FY2027–FY2030 TIP** – Draft TIP will be available for public comment from April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be three public meetings: Stamford, Danbury, and a virtual Zoom meeting. The final TIP is expected to be presented to the TAG and MPOs for endorsement at the May meetings.

**Metropolitan Transportation Plan** – Staff are beginning the update for the 2027 MTP and will be presenting to the TAG and MPO on how to submit transportation projects for inclusion in the plan.

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

**Traffic Calming Plan** – Held the final Project Advisory Committee meeting on 3/25 and the consultants are finalizing the plan.

**Quiet Zone** – MetroNorth staff are reviewing the scope of work.

**Microgrants** – WestCOG submitted 8 applications to CTDOT.

**Regional Transportation Safety Plan** – Staff are continuing to analyze crash data.

### Regional Planning

**ADA Transition Plans** – Consultant held municipal staff trainings in March and is continuing municipal site visits and presenting draft reports at municipal meetings. WestCOG and WT Group have discussed an amendment to the current contract to extend the project schedule to March 31, 2027 and to allocate additional funding to carry out the scope of work.

**Economic Development** – Ongoing. Providing economic development support in grants, plan development, and WCEDD coordination. Next WCEDD Meeting scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Stormwater** – Ongoing. Mapping services ongoing. Culvert Mapping in development. Coordinating COGs on stormwater permit resources. Stormwater Utility Study funding requested.

**Regional Waste Authority**. On hold. Meeting with DEEP April 14<sup>th</sup> for next steps. WestCOG providing joint RFQ for hazardous waste collections.

[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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.

**Preselected Planning Consultants.** Complete. Lists and contact information online.

**Brownfield Passthrough Grants:** Ontrack. Expanding. Coordinating with Greenwich and developers. Meeting with Open Doors a non-profit in Norwalk for an area wide planning grant, with WestCOG as the pass through (\$200,000). Danbury is exploring potential Brownfield grant submission.

**Housing Bill Support.** Ontrack. Developing review of bill and housing requirements. Technical guidance for short-term updates. Hiring staff and preparing for build-out scenario planning.

**Data Collection Campaign.** Ontrack. Collecting. kickoff April 1<sup>st</sup>. Collected by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Submitted to OPM by June 1st

## 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

- a. TAG meeting: **\*\*Wednesday, April 8, 2026 @11:00 AM**
- b. MPO/COG Meeting: **Thursday, April 16, 2026 @12:00 PM**
- c. Executive Committee Meeting: **@WestCOG Wednesday, May 6, 2026 @2:00 PM**