

WestCOG/HVMPO/SWRMPO Meeting Agenda

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

Time. Thursday, July 16, @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)

3. Guest Speaker

Commissioner Garrett T. Eucalitto from CTDOT

4. COG Action Items

- a. Approval of June Meeting Minutes.....Attachment 4a, pp. 1-4
- b. LOTCIP Adjustment.....Attachment 4b, pp. 5-6
- c. Quarterly Financial Update.....Attachment 4c, pp. 7-8
- d. Resolution to accept DEEP Climate Resilience Fund 2025 Award.....Attachment 4d, pp. 9-10

5. MPO Action Items

- a. Approval of the June 2026 Meeting Minutes.....Attachment 4a, pp. 1-4
- b. FY25-FY28 Transportation Improvement Program.....Attachment 5b, pp. 11-15
 - i. SWRMPO - #0056-0316; Greenwich & Stamford, #0300-3806; Various,
 - ii. HVMPO - #0300-3806; Various, #0170-3806; Danbury & Newtown, #0170-3818;
Danbury & Newtown

6. Information Items

- a. 2026 DRAFT LOTCIP Project Solicitation.....Attachment 6a, pp. 16-23
- b. Municipal Legal Notice Assessment.....Attachment 6b, p. 24
- c. POCD Climate Provisions.....Attachment 6c, p. 25
- d. Regional Local Fire Protection Plan Compliance Assistance.....Attachment 6d, p. 26.
- e. Housing Update.....Attachment 6e, p. 27
- f. Urban Forestry Peer ExchangeAttachment 6f, pp. 28-29

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.

- g. Legislative Committee Membership
- h. New Staff

7. Other Business

8. Adjournment

9. Next meeting

- a. Thursday September 24, 2026 @12:00 pm ****Rescheduled from September 17th**
- b. The August COG meeting is tentatively canceled.

Please visit our website for the approved Minutes

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

WestCOG LOTCIP Program
07/16/2026 Adjustments

Municipality	Project	Amount	Cap (Maximum LOTCIP funds)	Status	Expiration Date *
Available funding (FY2014-2027), net of estimated administrative costs		\$160,487,100			
Bethel	Sidewalks, Phase 2	(\$2,000,000)		3. CTF, in final design	8/20/2026
Bethel	TOD Pedestrian and Streetscape, Phase 1	(\$1,500,000)		3. CTF, in final design	4/1/2026
Brookfield	US 202 Streetscape, Phase 1 (Four Corners)	(\$798,351)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Brookfield	US 202 Streetscape, Phase 3	(\$1,017,303)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Brookfield	Streetscape, Phases 5 and 7	(\$1,781,000)		3. CTF, in final design	8/20/2026
Brookfield	Town Hall Campus Pedestrian Improvements	(\$1,063,200)	\$4,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	2/19/2032
Brookfield	Streetscape, Phase 4	(\$2,390,000)		2. Application pending	8/20/2026
Danbury	White Street and Locust Avenue	(\$3,613,000)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Danbury	360 Degree Video Detection	(\$3,948,000)	\$4,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	2/14/2030
Danbury	Downtown Danbury Streetscape Renaissance Project	(\$4,000,000)	\$4,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	N/A
Danbury	Fiber Optic Trunk Cable, Phase 1	(\$6,900,000)	\$7,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	1/18/2029
Danbury	Tarrywile Park, Norwalk River Valley Trail	(\$712,000)		3. CTF, in final design	11/29/2028
Darien	Noroton Avenue-West Avenue Intersection	(\$973,000)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Darien	Noroton Avenue-Ledge Avenue Intersection	(\$1,650,000)		2. Application pending	3/20/2026
Greenwich	Davis Avenue over Indian Harbor	(\$2,917,207)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Greenwich	Frontage Road and Delavan Avenue	(\$1,375,528)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Greenwich	Sound Beach Avenue over Cider Mill Brook	(\$2,534,677)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Greenwich	Glenville Corridor Ped and Road Improvements	(\$2,143,000)		4. Under construction	N/A
Greenwich	Replacement of North Street Bridge over West Brothers Brook	(\$4,276,150)		4. Under construction	N/A
Greenwich	US 1 Sidewalk Connectivity & ADA Accessibility	(\$4,521,000)		3. CTF, in final design	4/26/2029
Greenwich	Replacement of the Fairfield Road Culvert No. 2 over Brother Brook	(\$1,583,000)	\$4,000,000	1. Pre-Application	2/19/2032
New Canaan	Park Street Sidewalks	(\$980,000)		3. CTF, in final design	10/1/2026
New Canaan	Talmadge Hill Railroad Station	(\$860,000)		3. CTF, in final design	10/1/2027
New Canaan	Route 106-Farm Road Intersection Improvement	(\$1,420,000)	\$4,000,000	2. Application pending	2/19/2032
New Fairfield	Route 39 and Saw Mill Road (Candlewood Corners Drainage)	(\$553,981)		5. Construction complete	N/A
New Fairfield	Downtown Sidewalk and Streetscape Improvements	(\$1,956,000)		3. CTF, in final design	8/20/2026
New Milford	Still River Drive and Pickett District Road Roundabout	(\$1,219,175)		5. Construction complete	N/A
New Milford	Wellsville Avenue over East Aspetuck River	(\$1,148,534)		5. Construction complete	N/A
New Milford	East Street-Elm Street Intersection	(\$657,000)		3. CTF, in final design	9/9/2026
New Milford	Intersection Improvements at Grove Street and Hine Hill Road	(\$556,800)	\$4,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	N/A
New Milford	Pumpkin Hill Road-Still River Drive Intersection	(\$1,804,000)		3. CTF, in final design	6/24/2025
New Milford	Wellsville Avenue Road and Sidewalk Improvements	(\$3,243,000)		3. CTF, in final design	8/20/2026
Newtown	Toddy Hill Road over Curtis Pond Brook	(\$2,247,047)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Norwalk	East Wall St-Landmark Square Streetscape Improvements	(\$2,439,000)		4. Under construction	N/A
Norwalk	Wall Street Corridor	(\$7,000,000)	\$7,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	5/17/2029
Norwalk	Roundabout at Richard Avenue and West Cedar Street	(\$4,000,000)	\$4,000,000	2. Application pending	2/14/2030
Ridgefield	Ligi's Way Combined Use Path	(\$3,060,000)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Ridgefield	Norwalk Valley River Trail, Ridgefield Ramble	(\$3,062,000)		3. CTF, in final design	6/17/2027
Ridgefield	Ridgebury Road Drainage Improvements	(\$4,000,000)	\$4,000,000	1. Pre-Application	1/16/2031
Ridgefield	Ridgebury Road Pavement Restoration, Phase I	(\$3,924,000)	\$4,000,000	1. Pre-Application	2/19/2032
Stamford	Fiber Optic Trunk Cable	(\$5,411,892)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Stamford	West Main Street (Route 1) and West Avenue	(\$1,987,496)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Stamford	Greenwich Avenue-Pulaski Street	(\$3,928,312)		4. Under construction	N/A
Stamford	360 Degree Video Detection	(\$2,790,000)		3. CTF, in final design	11/15/2025
Stamford	Atlantic Street-Main Street Intersection	(\$2,841,600)		3. CTF, in final design	4/30/2026
Stamford	Bridge Street Corridor Multimodal Safety and Mobility	(\$4,128,000)		3. CTF, in final design	11/18/2027

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WestCOG LOTCIP Program
07/16/2026 Adjustments

Municipality	Project	Amount	Cap (Maximum LOTCIP funds)	Status	Expiration Date *
Stamford	Citywide Pedestrian Signal Infrastructure and Safety Upgrades	(\$3,114,000)		3. CTF, in final design	11/29/2028
Stamford	Citywide Signal System Upgrade	(\$3,870,000)		3. CTF, in final design	11/29/2028
Stamford	Glenbrook Rd-Church St Intersection and TOD Improvement	(\$4,321,000)		3. CTF, in final design	5/25/2028
Stamford	Lower Atlantic Street Corridor Improvements	(\$6,955,000)	\$7,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	8/20/2026
Stamford	North State Street Multimodal Gateway	(\$4,600,200)		3. CTF, in final design	8/20/2026
Stamford	Shippan-Harbor-Magee Roundabout	(\$2,830,000)		3. CTF, in final design	4/22/2027
Stamford	Strawberry Hill Avenue-Rock Spring Road Intersection Improvement	(\$1,820,000)		3. CTF, in final design	1/15/2027
Stamford	Strawberry Hill/Newfield Ave Corridor Reconstruction	(\$4,284,000)		3. CTF, in final design	11/29/2028
Stamford	Third Street Corridor and Intersection Improvements	(\$5,772,000)		2. Application pending	1/18/2029
Stamford	Bull's Head Pedestrian Safety Improvements	(\$4,000,000)	\$4,000,000	1. Pre-Application	2/19/2032
Weston	Lyons Plain Road Pavement Rehabilitation	(\$2,715,000)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Weston	Pedestrian Safety Improvements	(\$1,956,500)		4. Under construction	N/A
Weston	Valley Forge Road Pavement Rehabilitation, Phases 1 and 2	(\$5,357,000)		3. CTF, in final design	11/29/2028
Westport	Main Street (Route 57) and Compo Road North (Route 136)	(\$1,138,000)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Westport	Riverside Avenue Roadway and Sidewalk Improvements	(\$985,193)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Westport	Compo Road South (Route 136) Sidewalk Improvements	(\$2,040,000)		4. Under construction	N/A
Westport	Easton Road Pedestrian Safety Improvements	(\$4,000,000)	\$4,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	1/16/2031
Westport	Replacement of the Hillendale Road over Muddy Brook	(\$2,845,000)	\$4,000,000	3. CTF, in final design	2/14/2030
Wilton	Pedestrian Walkway, Wilton Train Station	(\$1,416,000)		5. Construction complete	N/A
Wilton	Preservation of Local Bridges (Nos. 4978, 4980)	(\$2,365,000)		3. CTF, in final design	N/A
Wilton	Wilton Loop North, Norwalk River Valley Trail	(\$3,435,000)		3. CTF, in final design	11/18/2027
	Total COG-Endorsed Funds (including requested adjustments)	(\$186,733,146)			
	Remaining Balance	(\$26,246,046)			
	Endorsed/Allocated	116.4%			

* COG endorsement expires by this date if CT DOT has not issued Authorization to Advertise

- ① Increase by \$150,600 from \$1,432,400
- ② Increase by \$415,000 from \$3,020,000

TAG: Recommended approval 07/08/2026

COG: To be considered 07/16/2026

Net change in COG-endorsed funds

Increase

\$565,600

Western Connecticut Council of Governments
Quarterly Financial Report - Operating Statement
June 2026
(Unaudited)

	Current Month Actual	Year to Date 6/30/2026	Prior Year to Date 6/30/2025	Annual Budget Approved June 2025
REVENUES				
State/Federal/Local Grants	\$ 374,873	\$ 3,622,460	\$ 3,593,501	\$ 10,783,510
Local Dues	\$ 1,800	\$ 146,918	\$ 328,928	\$ 339,076
Misc./Interest Income	\$ 7,587	\$ 97,747	\$ 111,205	\$ 120,000
Pass-Thru Grant Income	\$ -	\$ 63,518	\$ 56,506	\$ 10,593,430
TOTAL:	\$ 384,260	\$ 3,930,643	\$ 4,090,140	\$ 21,836,016
EXPENSES				
DIRECT CONTRACT EXPENSE: (Reimbursable through contracts)				
Project Consultants	\$ 108,071	\$ 1,181,181	\$ 1,406,416	\$ 11,397,811
Other Direct Costs	\$ 32,506	\$ 84,240	\$ 129,257	\$ 132,775
Pass-Thru Grants	\$ -	\$ 63,518	\$ 56,526	\$ 7,443,430
PERSONNEL EXPENSE:				
Salaries (Direct & Indirect)	\$ 175,540	\$ 1,662,904	\$ 1,491,889	\$ 1,826,000
Pension	\$ 4,647	\$ 125,372	\$ 115,158	\$ 135,000
Payroll Taxes	\$ 11,820	\$ 123,520	\$ 118,977	\$ 147,000
Fringe Benefits	\$ 4,691	\$ 264,145	\$ 311,947	\$ 400,000
GENERAL OVERHEAD EXPENSE:				
Rent	\$ -	\$ 114,243	\$ 110,543	\$ 121,000
Utilities	\$ 2,363	\$ 33,596	\$ 29,986	\$ 32,500
Audit/Payroll & Legal Services	\$ 1,538	\$ 30,809	\$ 26,792	\$ 40,400
Other Professional Services	\$ -	\$ 529		\$ 5,000
Service Agreements	\$ 3,688	\$ 19,612	\$ 12,513	\$ 18,100
Reproduction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000
Office Supplies	\$ 1,086	\$ 7,388	\$ 4,495	\$ 10,000
Conf/Travel/Mtg. Expense	\$ 677	\$ 3,305	\$ 5,994	\$ 5,000
Membership Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 1,701	\$ 13,927	\$ 13,735	\$ 17,000
Postage	\$ 3	\$ 369	\$ 324	\$ 1,000
Commercial Liability Insurance	\$ 43	\$ 20,143	\$ 23,524	\$ 26,000
Software Expense	\$ 140	\$ 1,480	\$ 907	\$ 4,000
Recruitment/Ads	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Legal Notices	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 295	\$ 1,000
Misc.	\$ 2,356	\$ 8,693	\$ 4,621	\$ 10,000
Depreciation	\$ 1,200	\$ 15,050	\$ 8,101	\$ 20,000
Interest Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,685	\$ 10,000
Capital Expense	\$ 3,714	\$ 12,495	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 15,000
TOTAL	\$ 355,784	\$ 3,786,519	\$ 3,877,685	\$ 21,836,016
SURPLUS/<DEFICIT>	\$ 28,476	\$ 144,124	\$ 212,455	\$ -

Western CT Council of Governments**Balance Sheet****June 30, 2026****ASSETS****Current Assets**

Bank of America Checking	\$	874,567	
Bank of America Money Market		101,719	
CT STIF		2,486,557	
Petty Cash		400	
Accounts Receivable		365,129	
Prepaid Service Agreements		20,340	
Prepaid Dues/Subscriptions		911	
Prepaid Security Deposits		4,245	
Total Current Assets			3,853,868

Property and Equipment

Fixed Assets		186,219	
Right-of-Use Asset		612,800	
Allowance for Depreciation		(145,350)	
Accumulated Amortization		(496,865)	
Total Property and Equipment			156,804

Other Assets

Total Other Assets			0
Total Assets	\$	4,010,672	

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL**Current Liabilities**

Due to CTDOT	\$	(39,015)	
Lease Payable		131,300	
Deferred Rev-Local Dues		192,157	
Deferred Rev-LOTICIP		173,067	
Deferred Rev - FY25-26 RSG		156,548	
Deferred Rev-Health Depts		2,549	
Accrued Vacation		161,087	
Accrued Pension		59,636	
SS & MC Taxes Payable		441	
Total Current Liabilities			837,770

Total Liabilities			837,770
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Capital

Fund Balance Designated		120,000	
Fund Balance-Restricted		2,908,778	
Net Income		144,124	
Total Capital			3,172,902
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	4,010,672	

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
 FROM: Michael Towle, WestCOG Deputy Director
 DATE: July 7, 2026
 RE: Resolution to Accept DEEP Climate Resilience Fund Award

Background

In the December 2025, the COG directed staff to apply for funding under The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF) to develop a planning study to assess the feasibility and potential benefits of Resilient Improvement Districts and Stormwater Utilities. WestCOG requested, and was awarded, \$246,457 with no match requirement.

Recent state legislation has made several new tools available for municipalities to fund infrastructure investments related to climate resilience. Two of these promising mechanisms are RIDs (PA 25-33/SB9, 2025) and joint stormwater authorities (PA 21-115, 2021). Planning activities that promote the establishment of such mechanisms are a priority for DEEP's grant program.

The planning study will assess the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing these intermunicipal funding mechanisms to reduce climate risk and build resilience across municipal borders. Natural hazards that will be addressed in the study may include flooding, extreme heat, droughts, and more.

Next Steps

Entertain a motion: "to approve the Resolution to accept Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Climate Resilience Fund award and authorize WestCOG Executive Director."

2026/07/16 #01

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE WESTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL
OF GOVERNMENTS TO ACCEPT FUNDS FROM THE CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S
CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUND**

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 July 16 in Ridgefield, Connecticut, a quorum being present:

Resolved, that WestCOG that WestCOG executed and delivered to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) a grant agreement in the amount of \$246,457 under the DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF) to perform a feasibility study on Resilience Improvement Districts and Stormwater Utilities.

Resolved, that Franics 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 and by any previously executed agreements between WestCOG and CT DEEP under the DCRF Program.

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

Julia Pemberton, Secretary
Western Connecticut Council of Governments

July 16, 2026

[Affix seal here]



Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

TO: MPO Members
 DATE: June 29, 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. 0056-0316 – Pavement Preservation from NY State Line to Exit 6
2. 0300-2026CN – NHL Time Phase 1 (Track, Catenary Upgrades – 6 Bridges, CP 259 Interlocking)

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

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

HVMPO FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Background: The FFY2025-2028 Housatonic Valley 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. 0300-2026CN – NHL Time Phase 1 (Track, Catenary Upgrades – 6 Bridges, CP 259 Interlocking)
2. 0170-3806 – Replace Variable Message Signs
3. 0170-3818 – Install Variable Message Signs

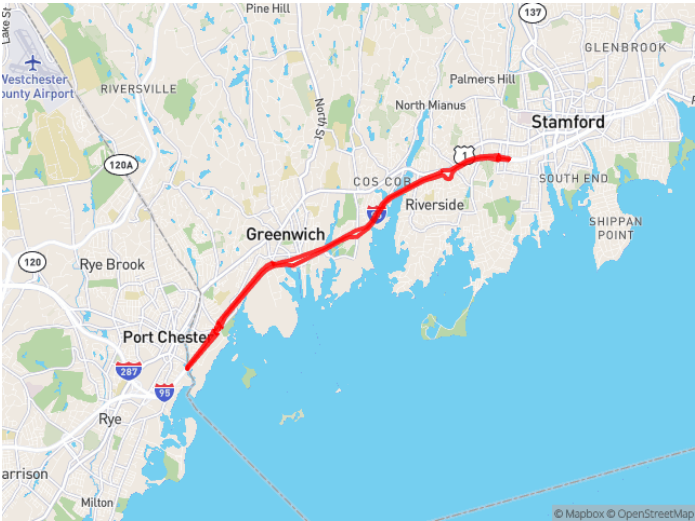
Details of these amendments can be viewed on the following pages.

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

0056-0316 - PAVEMENT PRESERVATION FROM NY STATE LINE TO EXIT 6

PAVEMENT PRESERVATION FROM NY STATE LINE TO EXIT 6

Lead Agency:	CTDOT
Project Type:	FHWA
Region:	1
Town:	GREENWICH, STAMFORD
Air Quality Status:	-
Total Cost:	\$5,789,974



Phase	Fund Source	Prior	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	Future	Total
Construction	NHPP	\$0	\$3,860,977	\$1,350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,210,977
Construction	State Match	\$0	\$428,997	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$578,997
Total Construction		\$0	\$4,289,974	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,789,974
-	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Programmed		\$0	\$4,289,974	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,789,974
Current Change Reason:	Schedule / Funding / Scope- Update 01 - Move projects from one year in the STIP to another year in the STIP - 04 - Adjust existing projects for revised cost estimates							
Project Changes:	Plan Revision Name changed from "May 2025 Amendment" to "July 2026 Amendment"							

0300-2026CN - NHL - TIME PHASE 1 (TRACK, CATENARY UPGRADES - 6 BRIDGES, CP 259 INTERLOCKING)

NHL - TIME PHASE 1 (TRACK, CATENARY UPGRADES - 6 BRIDGES, CP 259 INTERLOCKING)

Lead Agency:	CTDOT
Project Type:	FTA
Region:	78
Town:	VARIOUS
Air Quality Status:	-
Total Cost:	\$25,000,000

Phase	Fund Source	Prior	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	Future	Total
Construction	5337	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000
Construction	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000
Total Construction		\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000
Total Programmed		\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000

Current Change Reason:	New Project
Air Quality Changes:	Air Quality has changed from None to X6

Programming Information | Min Match 20% Effective Match 20%

Choose columns (13)
Fiscal Constraint Roll-U...

FY *	FUND TYPE *	FISCAL CONSTRAINT ROLL-UP CODE	AC ENTRY/CONVERSION	PL	PE	PD	FD	ROW	ACQ	CON	OTH	ALL	TOTAL
2026	5337			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000
2026	State Match			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000
	FY 2026			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000
	5337			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000
	State Match			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000
	Active Years			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0	
	GRAND TOTAL			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000,000

Change Reason Details

Change Reason *

☐ New Project ☐ Project Changed (e.g. Schedule / Funding / Scope) ☐ Project Completed ☒ Project Removed

Narrative Description of Changes *

Delete project from 2026. Project currently programmed in FY27 -MK

Prior Project Revision Comparison

CURRENT CHANGE REASON	Project Removed
PROJECT CHANGES	Plan Revision Name changed from "Adoption" to "July 2026 Amendment"
FUNDING CHANGES	N/A
FEDERAL PROJECT COST	Stays the same \$20,000,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	Stays the same \$25,000,000

0170-3806 - REPLACE VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

REPLACE VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

Lead Agency:	CTDOT							
Project Type:	FHWA							
Region:	2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13							
Town:	STATEWIDE							
Air Quality Status:	-							
Total Cost:	\$19,926,500							

Phase	Fund Source	Prior	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	Future	Total
Preliminary Design	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$869,520	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$869,520
Preliminary Design	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$217,380	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$217,380
Total Preliminary Design		\$0	\$0	\$1,086,900	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,086,900
Final Design	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$579,680	\$0	\$0	\$579,680
Final Design	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$144,920	\$0	\$0	\$144,920
Total Final Design		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$724,600	\$0	\$0	\$724,600
Construction	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000,000	\$6,492,000	\$14,492,000
Construction	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$1,623,000	\$3,623,000
Total Construction		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$8,115,000	\$18,115,000
-	NHPP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Future Costs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,115,000	\$8,115,000
Total Programmed		\$0	\$0	\$1,086,900	\$724,600	\$10,000,000	\$8,115,000	\$19,926,500

Current Change Reason:	New Project
Air Quality Changes:	Air Quality has changed from None to X6

0170-3818 - INSTALL NEW VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

INSTALL NEW VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS

Lead Agency:	CTDOT
Project Type:	FHWA
Region:	2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15
Town:	STATEWIDE
Air Quality Status:	-
Total Cost:	\$21,202,500

Phase	Fund Source	Prior	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	Future	Total
Preliminary Design	CMAQ	\$0	\$0	\$925,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$925,200
Preliminary Design	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$231,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$231,300
Total Preliminary Design		\$0	\$0	\$1,156,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,156,500
Final Design	CMAQ	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$616,800	\$0	\$0	\$616,800
Final Design	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$154,200	\$0	\$0	\$154,200
Total Final Design		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$771,000	\$0	\$0	\$771,000
Construction	CMAQ	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,000,000	\$6,420,000	\$15,420,000
Construction	State Match	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,250,000	\$1,605,000	\$3,855,000
Total Construction		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,250,000	\$8,025,000	\$19,275,000
-	CMAQ	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Future Costs		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,025,000	\$8,025,000
Total Programmed		\$0	\$0	\$1,156,500	\$771,000	\$11,250,000	\$8,025,000	\$21,202,500

Current Change Reason:	New Project
Air Quality Changes:	Air Quality has changed from None to X6
CMAQ Information Changes:	CMAQ Emission Analysis has changed from None to Yes

**Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program
Project Solicitation
September 25, 2026**

1. **Objective:** To invite proposals from Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG) municipalities for funding through the Region's Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP). This document also identifies the framework to be used for selecting and administering regional LOTICIP projects. It is WestCOG's goal to program and administer funds in a manner that is orderly, equitable, and beneficial to the Region. **Interested municipalities must submit Project Proposals and supporting attachments (cost estimate, CEO letter committing to fund design, other as appropriate) for each proposed project by 4:00 PM, November 13, 2026.** Digital-only submissions are requested. A Project Proposal Outline and Cost Estimate template are provided with this Solicitation.
2. **Background:** LOTICIP provides State funding for a variety of municipal transportation capital improvements, including bridge rehabilitation and replacement, road/street reconstruction, intersection improvements, traffic signalization, streetscapes, sidewalks, multi-use trails and pedestrian facilities (including pedestrian bridges). As established by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and outlined in the latest version (currently November 2021) of the [LOTICIP Guidelines](#), COGs are assigned certain administration responsibilities including soliciting, prioritizing and endorsing projects. Consequently, WestCOG will review proposals for eligibility, scope, and reasonable cost estimation. WestCOG will prioritize and selectively endorse eligible projects.
3. **Eligibility:** LOTICIP provides up to 100% funding for eligible construction and Right of Way (R/W) acquisition costs. The [LOTICIP Guidelines](#) provide detailed eligibility criteria, which are summarized below:
 - Improvements to roads/street and bridges (regardless of length) functionally classified as a rural major collector, urban collector or arterial (see next two bullets related to broader eligibility for bridge and Transportation Alternative projects).
 - Improvements to bridges (rehabilitation or replacement) on public roads with lengths 20 feet and greater, regardless of functional classification.
 - Transportation Alternative projects (typically, bicycle and pedestrian improvements) are eligible, regardless of location (i.e., do not need to be associated with a collector or arterial).
 - Minimum project construction cost is \$300,000.

Projects shall be in compliance with the Connecticut General Statutes § 13a-153(f), which requires that "accommodations for all users shall be a routine part of the planning, design, construction, and operating activities of all highways."

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In addition to the CTDOT criteria, projects selected through this solicitation will be limited to \$4,000,000 of LOTCIP funds. Costs above this amount, regardless of eligibility, will be the responsibility of the municipality unless a waiver is approved by the COG.

Project proposals submitted under previous solicitations that have not been endorsed by the COG by the issuance date of this solicitation will not be given further funding consideration unless an updated proposal is submitted pursuant to this solicitation. Municipalities are encouraged to submit updated proposals.

A sponsoring municipality will be required to have a current, executed CTDOT Master Municipal Agreement (MMA) prior to COG endorsement.

Eligible applicants are the eighteen municipalities comprising WestCOG.

The cost of project design, which may be performed by either municipal staff or consultants, is the responsibility of the sponsoring municipality. This cost is considered the municipal “match” or share of the project’s total cost. A letter signed by the municipal Chief Elected Official committing to fund project design is a required element of a Project Proposal.

4. **Funding and Programming:** WestCOG “over programs” LOTCIP funds which means that it will, as appropriate, endorse an aggregate funding amount greater than has been allocated by legislation. Over programming allows more effective use of allocated funds by considering the time required to advance from project initiation to construction and the possibility of attrition.

The established “end-of-year target” (i.e., total WestCOG-endorsed LOTCIP funds as of June 30, 2027) is \$202 million. It is anticipated that approximately \$12 million of LOTCIP funds will be committed to new projects selected through this solicitation and \$3 million of funding increases will be committed to previously approved projects in the design phase. As previously noted, the maximum LOTCIP funds per project endorsed through this solicitation is \$4,000,000.

5. **Project Evaluation Criteria:** The following factors will be used to evaluate and prioritize proposals:

- Conformance to CTDOT requirements and [LOTCIP Guidelines](#)
- Status of design.
- Shared program benefit (i.e., past program funding).
- Municipality’s historical performance advancing projects.
- Regional significance.

The status of design will be assessed based on the extent that the scope, limits, right-of-way requirements, public concerns and likely impacts have been defined, considered and/or resolved, as applicable, and reflected in the cost estimate. Historically, too many projects have been abandoned, significantly altered or meet public opposition after being endorsed by the COG. Project concepts that have not been carefully evaluated for feasibility and/or potential negative impacts (e.g., property,

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existing infrastructure, environmental resources) should not be submitted but rather considered for a subsequent solicitation, after completing critical reviews and refinement.

6. **Project Review and Endorsement Process:**

- **Municipalities submit proposals:** Interested municipalities submit a Project Proposal, Cost Estimate, letter signed by the Chief Elected Official committing to fund design and other supporting information (Project Proposal Outline and Cost Estimate templates provided).
- **Staff review and evaluation of proposals:** WestCOG staff will review proposals for eligibility, conformance with program requirements, and in relation to the evaluation criteria resulting in a recommendation for each proposal.
- **TAG review:** Staff will present a summary of its evaluation and recommendations to the TAG, after which the TAG will make recommendations to the COG.
- **COG endorsement:** The COG will present the staff and TAG recommendations, after which the COG will determine which projects and associated funding level it will endorse.

Project Proposals that are considered eligible for LOTCIP funding but lack an adequate level of scope definition and/or cost estimation will be referred back to the sponsoring municipality for refinement and subsequent reconsideration for COG endorsement under the current or subsequent solicitation.

7. **Post-Endorsement Project Development and Administration:** Sponsoring municipalities have primary responsibility for advancing development of LOTCIP projects, including design, R/W acquisition, construction contract solicitation (i.e., bidding), construction inspection and contract administration. These functions can be performed by municipal staff or consultants. Following the COG's initial endorsement, the focus turns to securing CTDOT funding (Commitment to Fund letter) and project delivery. To facilitate continued progress, COG-endorsed projects will be monitored and managed as described below.

Progress and Schedules

The COG endorses projects based on information provided in Project Proposals. However, to secure a Commitment to Fund from the CTDOT, the municipality must complete a LOTCIP Application ([LOTCIP Guidelines](#), Appendix B). The municipality is required to submit a DRAFT LOTCIP Application (complete but not signed) to WestCOG within 60 days of COG endorsement. WestCOG's review typically results in comments and revision prior to signing and resubmission.

Once a COG-endorsed Application is submitted to CTDOT, the Local Roads Unit staff will review it and coordinate with the municipality, typically making comments and asking questions. The municipality is responsible for providing responses. Timely resolution of comments is critical to overall project delivery. The municipality should coordinate any issues related to scope or cost increase with WestCOG staff prior to responding to the CTDOT. In some cases, a supplemental COG endorsement will be required. Following satisfactory resolution of comments, CTDOT will issue a Commitment to Fund letter.

Within 60 days of the Commitment to Fund letter, the sponsoring municipality is required to prepare and submit a project delivery schedule to WestCOG. The schedule should include the expected dates of reaching significant pre-construction and construction milestones. Example milestones include design

initiation (consultant notice to proceed), phase design submissions (preliminary, semi-final, final), completion of property maps and appraisals, completion of R/W acquisition, recipient of permits, authorization to advertise, advertisement for bids, contract award, construction notice to proceed and completion of construction. Although schedules are subject to change, maintaining progress is important and schedule discipline should be exercised.

The COG's commitment (endorsement) of LOTCIP funding for projects expires six (6) years from the initial endorsement, unless the Authorization to Advertise milestone has been reached within that time. A municipality may apply for an extension of the expiration date or, in the case of an expired endorsement, reapply for LOTCIP funding. These requests will be considered in the context of other pending requests.

Quarterly Reports

The CTDOT requires that sponsoring municipalities provide updated schedule and cost information for all projects that have received a Commitment to Fund letter. See [LOTCIP Guidelines](#), Appendix M. The information is used by CTDOT for staff workload scheduling and financial planning (i.e., funds are available for projects when needed). WestCOG staff collect the information from municipalities and prepare/deliver the report to CTDOT.

Changes

Projects are scoped, reviewed, and initially endorsed based on preliminary information. Subsequent project development (i.e., detailed evaluation and design, public involvement, impact mitigation) may reveal additional information, requirements, and cost. The following guidance is provided in relation to scope and cost increases.

Projects with CTDOT funding commitments that experience an increase estimated cost of 20% or more require coordination with WestCOG and CTDOT as outlined in the [LOTCIP Guidelines](#).

LOTCIP funding is designated (by WestCOG and CTDOT) for a particular project scope and location. These funds are not "block grants" that may be used for any eligible purpose. In the event a project, as endorsed by the COG, is no longer viable, municipal staff shall inform WestCOG. Depending on circumstances, rescoping or cancellation with or without a replacement project may be appropriate. Significant consideration is given to the preference of the municipal sponsor.

If at any time during project development (i.e., after COG endorsement and prior to Authorization to Award), the estimated project cost exceeds the COG-endorsed amount, regardless of the reason, the municipality will be required to fund the increase with municipal sources or secure the COG's endorsement for additional LOTCIP funding. Although an increment LOTCIP funds will be reserved for adjustments to previously endorsed projects, municipalities should not assume that LOTCIP funds will be available for all cost increases. Municipalities should be prepared to 'offset' cost increases (e.g., reducing LOTCIP funds for other projects, municipal funds).

Attachments

- Project Proposal Outline
- Cost Estimate Template

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)
Project Proposal Outline
Project Solicitation

1. **Project Title:**

2. **Project Sponsor Information:**

Municipality:

Contact Name:

Title:

Contact's email address:

3. **Project Location:** *Please attach location map.*

4. **Project Eligibility:**

- ☐ Road, bridge or intersection on a major rural collector, urban collector or arterial
- ☐ Improvement to a bridge with span of 20 feet or greater
- ☐ Pavement preservation or pavement rehabilitation
- ☐ Sidewalk-only construction
- ☐ Transportation Alternative project, e.g., multi-use trail, pedestrian bridge, etc.

Note: Project construction cost must be at least \$300,000 to be eligible under this program. The maximum LOTICIP funds per project is \$4,000,000. [See solicitation.]

5. **Project Purpose and Need:** *Describe the project objectives and problems or deficiencies that will be addressed by the project.*

6. **Project Description:** *Describe the specific infrastructure (i.e., types, materials, locations, limits) being proposed.*

7. **Cost Estimate:** *Provide a detailed cost estimate spreadsheet, including 10% contingencies and 10% incidentals (construction inspection and materials testing), as well as right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs. Indicate funding (LOTICIP, municipal share) for each phase. The Cost Estimate template (Sample Cost Estimate Form) is available at the CT DOT [LOTICIP web page](#) and a copy is also provided with WestCOG's solicitation.*

Summary of Estimated Costs:

Complete the table below to indicate the funding of each LOTCIP-eligible phase. LOTCIP funds are not eligible for design. Most (but not all) right-of-way (R/W) and Construction phase work is eligible for 100% State (LOTICIP) funds. Utility relocations are eligible as indicated by the [CT DOT Cost Estimate Guidelines](#), Table 2.

Phase	LOTICIP Funds (\$)	Municipal Funds (\$)	Total (\$)
Right-of-Way (R/W)			
Construction (CON)			
Utility Relocations (UTL)			
Total (R/W, CON, UTL)			

8. Status of Design: Design and contract documents prepared by (indicate which):

Municipal staff _____

or

Consultant _____

Design (include current plans as part of supporting information)

_____ % complete

9. Supporting Information (as applicable):

- *Planning or engineering studies*
- *Plans*
- *Traffic volumes (ADT and/or turning movements)*
- *Speed data*
- *Crash data*
- *Safety issues*
- *Right-of-Way acquisition needed*
- *Other funding sources (if applicable)*
- *Other applicable information*

10. Priority of Project for Sponsor:

If a municipality is submitting more than one application, please provide the numerical rank for this project (i.e., 1st priority, 2nd priority, etc.)

11. **Local Commitment to Fund Design:** *Attach a letter signed by the Chief Elected Official, indicating the municipality's commitment to fund engineering design, as well as any proposed municipal share of right-of-way or construction costs, if applicable.*

12. Please submit the completed proposal in digital format to Kevin Mahoney KMahoney@westcog.org at WestCOG by the due date.

Project Name, Town Name

Major and Minor Contract Items

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Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: _____ WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Kameil Crane, WestCOG Intern
DATE: July 9, 2026
RE: _____ Legal Notice Assessment

Background

_____ Connecticut Municipalities are required by state law to provide public notice for a wide range of governmental actions, including public hearings, elections, zoning decisions, tax collection, and redevelopment activities. In many cases, these notices must be published in a newspaper. This creates a recurring cost for municipalities and requires staff time to prepare each publication.

WestCOG is performing an assessment on municipal legal notices covering statutory requirements, costs and fees, circulation coverage, and the practices municipalities undertake to produce legal notices. The project will also review alternative practices and provide opportunities for alternative practices while also while maintaining transparency and legal compliance. The summary of findings is expected to wrap up in early September 2026.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Michael Towle
DATE: July 9, 2026
RE: POCD Climate Provisions – Now Available

Background

WestCOG has developed model content for municipal use in future POCD updates which meet compliance requirements under Public Act 25-33 (An act which included requirements for POCDs to consider climate change impacts). This content is available on:

<https://westcog.org/pocd-climate-provisions/>

Next Steps

WestCOG encourages its council members to distribute the content among appropriate staff and consider these resources when preparing for bids to update POCDs.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Michael Towle, WestCOG Deputy Director
DATE: July 9, 2026
RE: Regional Local Fire Protection Plan Compliance Assistance Purpose

Background

Public Act 26-144 requires each municipality, on or before July 1, 2027, to establish a local fire protection plan and submit the plan to the municipality's chief elected officer, legislative body, and emergency management director.

The Act also requires each fire protection entity responsible for providing fire protection services within one or more geographic areas of a municipality to register with that municipality by July 1, 2027, and annually thereafter. Such registration must include, but need not be limited to, the demographic information of the geographic area served by the entity and the name and contact information of the entity. Fire protection entities must file amendments to the registration reporting material changes within thirty days after the entity knows or should know of such material change.

WestCOG is undertaking this project to create efficiencies for participating municipalities by procuring one qualified consultant to prepare compliant local fire protection plans and associated compliance materials using a consistent regional template and process.

Project Description

The Regional Local Fire Protection Plan Compliance Assistance Project will identify a selected consultant to prepare one local fire protection plan for each participating municipality. Plans shall be tailored to each municipality's local fire protection arrangements while following a standardized format to ensure consistency, efficiency, and responsiveness to Section 1 of Public Act 26-144.

The consultant shall document existing fire protection arrangements. The consultant shall not recommend changes to fire protection services, evaluate the adequacy of staffing or apparatus, propose regionalization or consolidation, or prepare a broader fire services master plan unless separately authorized in writing by WestCOG and the affected municipality.

Next Steps

WestCOG will coordinate with council members to determine participation within the project.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Farnaz Kamyab, WestCOG Housing Planner
DATE: July 9, 2026
RE: **Housing Growth Plans – Developable Land**

Background

The Regional Housing Growth Plan process Under SSPA 25-1, establishes a coordinated framework for addressing current and future housing needs across municipalities. The plan is intended to align local, regional, and state-level housing strategies by setting production goals, identifying constraints, and sustainable growth over a ten-year planning horizon.

A central component of this effort is the developable land inventory, which identifies land with the potential for residential development. The process evaluates physical, regulatory, and infrastructure-related constraints which in turn is used to inform realistic housing production targets. WestCOG has initiated the creation of the developable-land inventory, beginning with the integration of state-provided data with regional datasets. WestCOG will then coordinate with municipalities on the process and development of this inventory in a series of three municipal workshops.

Next steps

The first workshop is scheduled for September 15. Municipalities are encouraged to designate at least one representative to participate, ensuring that local considerations are incorporated into the refinement of the inventory. Feedback gathered through this process will inform revisions to the map, which is targeted for submission to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) by December 1, 2026.

In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Farnaz Kamyab, Lead Planner, with any questions or input at fkamayb@westcog.org or by phone at (475) 323-2058.

Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Michael Towle, Deputy Director
DATE: July 9, 2026
RE: Urban Forestry Peer Exchange

Background

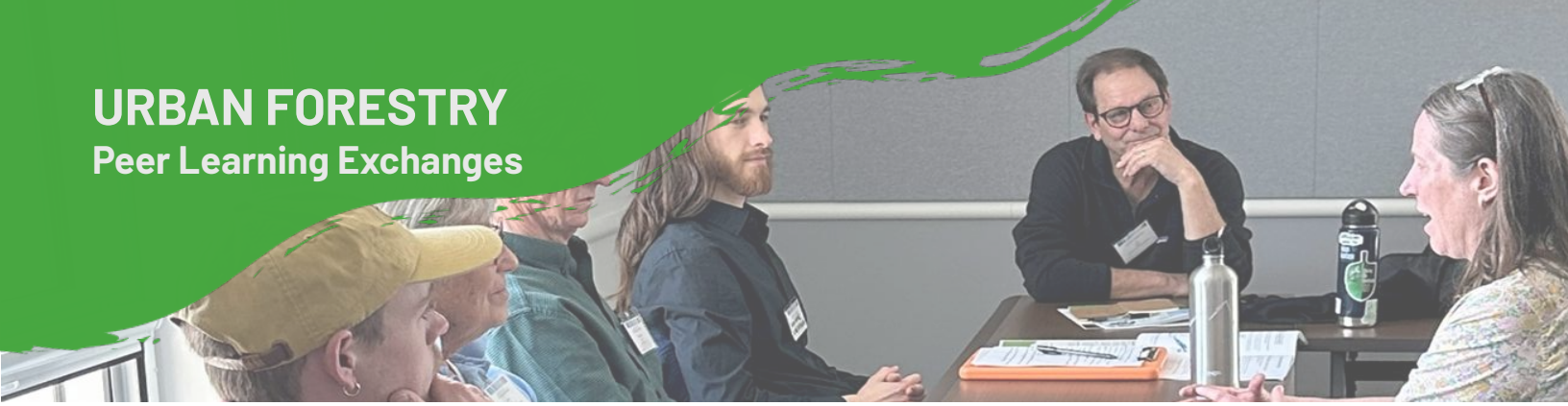
WestCOG is partnering with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to host an Urban Forestry Peer Exchange in the WestCOG region, tentatively planned for late September or October. The event will bring together urban foresters and municipal staff to share best practices, discuss recent initiatives, and strengthen regional collaboration. I've attached a flyer from TNC that provides an overview of the event.

An initial kickoff meeting with the core planning team was scheduled for July 14th

A flyer with more details of the program is attached.

URBAN FORESTRY

Peer Learning Exchanges



Connecticut's Urban Forestry Network

All over Connecticut urban trees cool and clean the air, provide shade, reduce flooding, support wildlife habitats, and strengthen physical and mental health. Urban trees also create inviting, walkable neighborhoods that foster social interaction and strengthen community bonds.

While urban forest canopy coverage in Connecticut exceeds 60%, it can fall to the single digits in some neighborhoods. We are among the many who believe that all Connecticut residents deserve access to trees to support their mental, physical, and social wellbeing. We envision facilitating deeper collaborations between the people and organizations stewarding healthier cities.

What is a Peer Learning Exchange?

Peer Learning Exchanges are events sponsored by The Nature Conservancy where Councils of Government (COGs), community groups, and municipalities discuss urban forestry, exchange knowledge and approaches, build connections, and leverage access to resources and decision making. Peer Learning Exchanges include two models (1) in the field, communities learn from one another through showcasing their work, and (2) a series of webinars where urban forestry leaders and practitioners present on what's working (and isn't) in their communities.

 **Peer Learning Exchanges are an opportunity for those involved, or looking to get involved, in urban forestry to exchange knowledge and grow capacity.** 

Activities

Through interactive activities, Peer Learning Exchanges will facilitate conversations between community groups, organizations, and government leaders, focusing on topics such as...

- Successes and challenges in urban forestry
- Technical advice
 - Grant writing and administration, urban forestry analysis, etc.
- Management and benefits of urban forests
 - Flooding mitigation, extreme heat relief, air quality, etc.
- Sustainable resourcing for long-term success of projects

LET'S BRANCH OUT TOGETHER!

Join us in creating a greener, healthier Connecticut! If your organization is interested in partaking in a Peer Learning Exchange, please contact Arcadia Davies (arcadia.davies@tnc.org).

