

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Started at 2:02 PM | Meeting Ended at 3:07 PM

Members Attending

Bethel	First Selectman Dan Carter
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 September COG/MPO Meeting Agenda.

Executive Updates

Francis Pickering provided an overview of the following executive updates:

Federal Rulemaking (OMB): Francis provided a summary of proposed language.

Housing Planning: Discussion on coordination with OPM and WestCOG's work related to the Regional Housing Growth Plan and developing targets.

Personnel/Recruitment

Francis Pickering provided an update on staffing.

Program Updates

A discussion on the status of ongoing projects:

Transportation

RAISE (Western CT Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Project) – Project website is live and consultants have prepared public engagement materials for municipal use (meeting in a box).

SS4A (Regional Safety Improvements) –Staff are working on updating procurement and solicitation documents. Initiated coordination with municipalities to review list of 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.

Regional Transit Study –Received five responses through the RFQ. Evaluation committee has reviewed all submissions and will be holding interviews in September.

Regional Freight Study – Received five responses through the RFQ. Evaluation committee has reviewed all submissions and will be holding interviews in September.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Public engagement and outreach will be conducted at various community events in the Fall. Staff are working on report content.

Microgrants – WestCOG received one application this quarter and are coordinating with existing recipients on grant updates.

Regional Transportation Safety Plan – The High Injury Network and High Risk Network lists have been completed and staff are preparing data and crash information to share with municipalities.

Sherman Connectivity Study – The draft Existing Conditions report has been finalized and will be shared with the Project Advisory Committee in early September for review.

Roundabout Study – Developing a screening analysis of intersections in the region to identify ideal locations for roundabouts.

Procurement Process – Staff have mapped out the process for procuring technical services to identify state and federal requirements and opportunities to streamline steps.

AMPO 2026 Conference –Staff will be attending in September and presenting on WestCOG's *Traffic Calming Plan and Complete Streets Best Practices Toolbox* and participating in a panel regarding innovative funding solutions.

Regional Planning

Training Facility. Pending \$950k Grant Award from Department of Justice. Will be convening with chiefs and municipalities to purchase tactical training equipment. VR Tactical Training Equipment, Shooting Box. Plan to augment these funds with RPIP funds. Deadline June 2030.

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.

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]

Housing Growth Plan. Ontrack. Next Target is identifying developable lands (December 2026). Developing Regional Housing Growth Plans for municipalities to use (June 2029 Deadline).

Building Energy Management Data. Not Started. Will initiate upon hiring new staff member. Will identify energy-saving opportunities for municipal buildings. Funded with remaining EPA CPRG funds. The deadline of this grant project is June 2027.

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

Brownfield Passthrough Grants: Ontrack. Currently working on three properties:

- Greenwich – Mason Street Partners developers (2 grants at \$4million each) WestCOG to begin the reimbursement process with developers and DECD,
- Stamford – Atlantic Street (\$950k for soil remediation),
- Stamford - Woodland Pacific (\$950k for soil remediation).
- Westport – Saugatuck
- Norwalk – Open Doors

CT Tree Study. On Track. WestCOG is coordinating with CRCOG, OPM, DEEP, UConn, and Sustainable CT to assess tree management policies across the state and develop a canopy analysis to quantify benefits and plan targeted tree planting recommendations. Assessment of policies planned for September 2026. Tree Canopy Analysis planned for February 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

Legal Notice Cost Assessment. Delayed. Final review of the report required. Developed an inventory of costs, legal notices, newspapers, and policy requirements along with an accompanying report of observations and recommendations. Deadline ~~August 2026~~ September 2026

Agriculture and Vacant Land Assessment. Reupped Contract. Coordination continues between WestCOG communities, UConn Extension, Land Trusts, and Farmers to identify municipal properties that could be temporarily used for agricultural purposes. Deadline September 2027.

Urban Forestry Peer Exchange. WestCOG is partnering with TNC to host a peer exchange of urban foresters in the WestCOG Region to share practices and showcase success stories.

Hazard Mitigation Plan. Expanding Scope. Additional funding available. for expanded planning. CT DEMHS is offering up to \$116,716 in HMP funds (requires 50/50 match). Expected for completion December 2026.

Branchville Sewer Study. Course Correction. Updated existing conditions and proposed development plans require the project to explore additional options for the study. Currently coordinating between Ridgefield, Redding, and the consultant. Project deadline of March 31st, 2027. [Redding] [Ridgefield].

Regional Local Fire Protection Plan Compliance Assistance. Pending on DEMHS Funds. The purpose of the project is to assist participating municipalities in preparing the documentation, inventories, maps or geographic descriptions, and related materials needed to satisfy the municipal requirements of Section 1 of Public Act 26-144. Deadline: June 2027

WCEDD. Providing economic development support in grants, plan development, and WCEDD coordination. Next WCEDD Meeting is scheduled for October 9th. Looking a at refresh of members, inviting new ideas.

Flood Assistance Program. Ongoing. Coordinating with Dewberry, municipalities, State, and homeowners. 3 applications are under way for Swift Current FMA.

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.

Noise Pollution and Solar Farms Assessment. On Track. Assessing Solar Farm's environmental review process for noise. December 2026.

Bridge & Culvert Mapping. On Track. Interns are mapping bridges and culverts to meet a state mandate for 2028.

Joint Household Hazardous Waste Collection Procurement. On track. Coordination with SW towns to organize contracting for hazardous waste collections.

Water Supply/Treatment Study. Assessing the capacity and service areas of both drinking water and water treatment facilities.

Grant Applications

DEEP Climate Resilience Fund (DCRF). AWARDED Pending! Bringing to the COG for approval of funds to develop a feasibility study regarding Resilience Districts and Stormwater Utilities. Requested \$246,457, no match required.

FEMA's HMP Grant Program. AWARDED Pending! A lower amount than requested of \$116,716.70. WestCOG is modifying the scope to reflect these changes and to align with previously performed resilience planning. The project requires a 25% Match (\$38,905.57).

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).

USDOT PROTECT Grant: USDOT announced a NOFO for the *Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation* (PROTECT) program. WestCOG plans to resubmit a grant application seeking funds to develop a Regional Resilience Improvement Plan (RRIP) in coordination with MetroCOG. This grant was previously supported by the COG and submitted in 2023. The RRIP will be data driven and include a risk-based assessment of vulnerabilities of transportation assets and systems to current and future weather events and natural disasters, such as severe storms, flooding, and sea level rise. If awarded, the grant would be 100% Federally funded and require no local match.

Upcoming meetings

TAG meeting: Wednesday, October 13, 2026 @11:00 AM

MPO/COG Meeting: Thursday, September 24, 2026 @12:00 PM

Executive Committee Meeting: Wednesday October 7, 2026 @2:00 PM