

Executive Committee Notes

Wednesday February 4th at 2:00 p.m.

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

Meeting Started at 2:13 PM | Meeting Ended at 3:04 PM

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel	First Selectman Dan Carter
Darien	First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky
Redding	First Selectman Julia Pemberton
Wilton	First Selectman Toni Boucher

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

COG Agenda Review

Francis Pickering presented the proposed content for the February COG Meeting Agenda.

Executive Updates

A discussion of topics to be brought before the Executive Committee.

Financial Strategy RSG – Estimate of Regional Services Grant funding for the next year.

Dewberry Contract Update – Discussion of work tasks.

Regional Waste Authority – WestCOG will be doing a debrief with DEEP on the grant application that was not awarded.

Executive Committee Nominations – Nominations will be presented this month.

Program Updates

A discussion on the status of ongoing projects.

Transportation

RAISE (Western CT Trail Bicycle and Pedestrian Project) – WestCOG and Stantec have been meeting to get started on project tasks. WestCOG has reached out to the PAC members to begin scheduling a kick-off meeting.

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

Regional Transit Study – CTDOT is reviewing the draft subrecipient agreement.

FY2027-FY2030 TIP – Staff are working on a draft report and are planning for the public comment period to begin in mid-March.

Traffic Calming Plan – Consultants are waiting for final comments from CTDOT on the draft documents and expect to finalize the report this month. They will attend a future COG meeting to present the final recommendations.

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

Microgrants – CTDOT is accepting applications again and WestCOG sent out an email about this quarter's solicitation.

LOTCHIP – Staff reviewed 14 proposals with the TAG and have recommended 5 projects for funding. The TAG's recommendations will be presented at the February COG meeting.

Regional Transportation Safety Plan – Staff are working on an update of the 2021 plan and beginning to analyze crash data.

Transit Performance Measures – Staff will present updated transit safety targets at the February COG meeting.

Regional Planning

ADA Transition Plans – Consultant is continuing municipal site visits, presenting draft reports at municipal meetings, and coordinating in-person ADA trainings in March for municipal staff.

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

Flood Assistance Program – Hold. Awaiting FEMA grant announcements. Dewberry overseeing activity.

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

Regional Waste Authority. On hold. Following completion of the RWA plan on October 31st DEEP has halted activity and funding for implementation. Scheduling meeting with DEEP to discuss next steps. [Greenwich] [Stamford] [Darien] [Norwalk] [Westport] [New Canaan]

Sewer Study. On hold. Confirming Ridgefield study area for usage estimates and exploring multiple scenario planning. Deadline is June 31, 2026. [Redding] [Ridgefield].

Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ontrack. Initiating public engagement and plan development. Submitted for FEMA grant funding to offset costs. Project initiated through RSG funds. Expected for completion December 2026.

Parcel CAMA Updates. Ontrack. Scheduled for completion by 12/31/2026

Noise Ordinance Inventory & Initial Report. Completed. Published.

Climate Action Plan. Extended deadline to June. Awaiting completion of playbooks with CCAP. Using remaining funds out until 2027 to develop additional implementation resources.

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. WestCOG is updating contract with Dewberry to develop these resources by June 2026.

Preselected Planning Consultants. On track. Interviewing potential candidates. Expected February 27, 2026.

Brownfield Passthrough Grants: Ontrack. Coordinating with Greenwich and developers. Meeting with Newtown, and Danbury for 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.

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** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 @ 11:00 AM
- b. **COG/MPO Meeting:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 @12:00 *Lunch @ 11:30AM
- c. **Executive Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, March 4, 2026 @ 2:00 PM