Western Connecticut
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WestCOG / HVMPO/ SWRMPO Approved Meeting Minutes

(A Combined Meeting for Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG), Housatonic Valley and South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organizations (SWRMPO) 1 Riverside Rd, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Scheduled for: Thursday, October 22, 2026 12:00 p.m.
Location. Ridgefield Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT

COG Chairman Rudolph Marconi / Vice Chair- Dan Carter
Treasurer -Jon Zagrodzky / Secretary Julia Pemberton
HVMPO Chairwoman Julia Pemberton / Vice Chairman Dan Carter
SWRMPO Chairman Zagrodzky / Vice Chairman Dionna Carlson

Members Attending

Bethel..... First Selectman Dan Carter COG/HVMPO
Bridgewater..... First Selectman Eric Gsell COG/HVMPO
Brookfield..... First Selectman Steve Dunn COG/HVMPO
Danbury..... Mayor Roberto Alves COG/HVMPO
Darien..... First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky COG/SWRMPO
Greenwich.....Chairman of P & Z Margarita Alban SWRMPO
New Canaan..... First Selectman Dionna Carlson COG/SWRMPO
New Fairfield..... First Selectman Pat Del Monaco COG/HVMPO
New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass COG/HVMPO
Newtown..... First Selectman Bruce Walczak COG/HVMPO
Norwalk..... Chief of Staff Corey Frate SWRMPO
Redding..... Absent
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi COG/HVMPO
Sherman..... Absent
Stamford.....Absent
Weston..... Absent
Westport..... First Selectman Kevin Christie COG/SWRMPO
Wilton.....First Selectman Toni Boucher COG/SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... NTD Director of Service Planning Rick Schreiner SWRMPO
Transit Representative..... Acting HARTransit CEO Bob Yastremski HVMPO
CTDOT..... Absent
MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

Others in Attendance: Sarah Lopez and Genevieve Perruccio from Sen. Murphy's Office, Greenwich Director, Planning and Zoning / Zoning Enforcement Coordinator / Town Planner Patrick LaRow, Newtown Land Use Director Rob Sibley, Adam Goodwin and Trent McCann from the Aspetuck Land Trust and Newtown Forest Association, Andrea Wrinn from Northwell Health, Meg Haffner and Mike D'Elia from the Kennedy Collective

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Sagnik Chand, Nick Trabka, Farnaz Kamyab, Todd Fontanella, Mike Wilson, Amal Malik, Edward Provitz, Harrison Lewis, and Cricket Carpenter.

Call to Order

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:27 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi
The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:27 pm by Chairman Jon Zagrodsky
The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:27 p.m. by Vice Chairman Dan Carter

Public Comment

Northwell Health Vice President, Public and Government Health Relations Andrea Wrinn spoke on the changes coming to Medicaid on January 1, 2027

Featured Presentation

Mike Freda and George Logan presented on the Regional Water Authority and Aquarion Water Authority.

COG Action Items

Approval of September Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the minutes of the September meeting were unanimously approved.

2026-10-22-#01 Regional Freight Study Resolution

WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.
After review and on a motion made by New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco and seconded by Newtown First Selectman Bruce Walczak the 2026-10-22-#01 Regional Freight Study Resolution was unanimously approved.

Quarterly Financial Update

WestCOG Financial Director Vicky Ricks provided the update. After review and on a motion made by Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Bruce Walczak the Quarterly Financials were unanimously approved.

Benefits update- Life Insurance

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Steve Dunn the proposed language for the Employee Handbook pertaining to Life Insurance Benefits was unanimously approved.

2026-10-22-#02 East-West Trail Study Resolution

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Pat Del Monaco the 2026-10-22-#02 East-West Trail Study Resolution was unanimously approved.

Aspetuck Land Trust LOS

Adam Goodwin and Trent McCann from the Aspetuck Land Trust and Newtown Forest Association provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Steve Dunn and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the Aspetuck Land Trust Letter of Support was unanimously approved.

2027 Proposed COG Meeting Dates

Francis Pickering provided an overview. After review and a motion was made by Steve Dunn and seconded by Jon Zagrodzky the 2027 Proposed COG Meeting Dates with the September meeting scheduled for 09/30/2027 to avoid potential conflict with the HRRA meeting were unanimously approved.

MPO Action Items

Approval of the September 2026 Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson and seconded by Jon Zagrodzky the minutes of the September SWRMPO meeting were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Steve Dunn and seconded by Bruce Walczak the minutes of the September HVMPO meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program

SWRMPO – 00300-0916CN; Statewide, 0300-2026TK; Statewide, 0102-0379; Norwalk, #0412-2026EQ; Norwalk TD, 0412-2026CN; Norwalk TD, #0412-2026PA; Norwalk TD, #0412-2026RS; Norwalk TD
HVMPO – #00300-0916CN; Statewide, #0300-2026TK; Statewide, #0034-0364; Danbury, #0170-3806; Danbury & Newtown, #0170-3818; Bethel, #0416-2026CN; HART, #0416-2026EQ; HART, #0416-2026OP; HART, #0416-2026PA; HART, #0416-2026RA; HART

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Bruce Walczak and seconded by Dan Carter the HVMPO amendment #0300-2026TK was voted to be separated from the body of TIP Amendments being acted upon at today's meeting. After discussion and further review, a motion was made by Dan Carter and seconded by Steve Dunn to withdraw the amendment. After review and on a motion made by Dan Carter and seconded by Steve Dunn the HVMPO – #00300-0916CN; Statewide, #0300-2026TK; Statewide, #0034-0364; Danbury, #0170-3806; Danbury & Newtown, #0170-3818; Bethel, #0416-2026CN; HART, #0416-2026EQ; HART, #0416-2026OP; HART, #0416-2026PA; HART, #0416-2026RA; HART TIP Amendments were unanimously approved.

After review and on a motion made by Dionna Carlson and seconded by Jon Zagrodzky the SWRMPO – 00300-0916CN; Statewide, 0300-2026TK; Statewide, 0102-0379; Norwalk, #0412-2026EQ; Norwalk TD, 0412-2026CN; Norwalk TD, #0412-2026PA; Norwalk TD, #0412-2026RS; Norwalk TD TIP Amendments were unanimously approved.

2026-10-22 #03 – HVMPO Self Certification Resolution

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. On a motion made by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi and seconded by Pat Del Monaco the 2026-10-22 #03 - HVMPO Self Certification Resolution was unanimously approved.

2026-10-22 #04 – SWRMPO Self Certification Resolution

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. On a motion made by Dionna Carlson and seconded by Jon Zagrodzky the 2026-10-22 #04 - SWRMPO Self Certification Resolution was unanimously approved.

Information Items

Regional Safety Action Plan

WestCOG's Associate Planner Amal Malik and Data Scientist Sagnik Chand provided an overview and demonstration.

Annual Report

WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an overview.

SW Waste Management RFI

Francis Pickering provided an overview.

Legislative Committee Update

Francis Pickering provided an update.

LOTCIP Solicitation

Kristin Hadjstyliannos provided an update.

Legal Notice Report

Mike Towle provided an update.

CTDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan – WestCOG Area Workshop

Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview.

Housing Update

Mike Towle provided an update.

Adjournment

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm

Next meeting

Thursday November 19, 2026 @12:00 pm