Western Connecticut
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WESTCOG

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WestCOG / HVMPO/ SWRMPO Interim 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

INTERIM MINUTES SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY THE COG MEMBERS

Members Attending

Bethel	First Selectman Dan Carter COG/HVMPO
Bridgewater	Absent
Brookfield	Absent
Danbury	Mayor Roberto Alves COG/HVMPO
Darien	First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky COG/SWRMPO
Greenwich	Selectman Lauren Rabin 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	Absent
Redding	First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton COG/HVMPO
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi COG/HVMPO
Sherman	Absent
Stamford	Absent
Weston	First Selectman Samantha Nestor COG/SWRMPO
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	Absent
CTDOT	Transportation Planner II Matt Abbott
MPO Staff	Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

Others in Attendance: Danbury P&Z Planning Director Waleed Albarkry, Genevieve Perruccio from Sen. Murphy's Office, Newtown Land Use Director Rob Sibley, Andrea Wrinn from Northwell Health, John Wardzula and Mike D'Elia from the Kennedy Collective, Lisa Shirk and Holly Kocet from the Newtown Conservation Commission, Newtown resident Jill Soderholm, and James Root from the Sierra Club

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Nick Trabka, Todd Fontanella, Amal Malik, Harrison Lewis, Eddie Provitz, and Cricket Carpenter.

Call to Order

The COG meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi
The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:08 pm by Chairman Jon Zagrodzky
The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:25 p.m. by Chairman Julia Pemberton

Public Comment

Holly Kocet from the Newtown Conservation Commission discussed the environmental impact of the use of Rodenticides.

COG Action Items

Approval of October Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Dan Carter the minutes of the October 2026 meeting were unanimously approved.

HMGP Grant Application

WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided an overview with commentary offered by Francis Pickering. After review, a motion was made by Dan Carter with a second made by Julia Pemberton. Further discussion ensued, with Dan Carter and Julia Pemberton withdrawing their motions. A motion was made by Dan Carter and seconded by Jon Zagrodzky to direct WestCOG staff to coordinate with congressional staff as well as other COGs on the HMGP Grant Application. The motions were unanimously approved.

2026-11-19 #01 Resolution – Western Connecticut Training Facility Equipment and Technology Project

Mike Towle provided an overview with commentary offered by Francis Pickering. After review and on a motion made by Dan Carter and seconded by Bruce Walczak the 2026-11-19 #01 Resolution for the Western Connecticut Training Facility Equipment and Technology Project was unanimously approved.

CCIA Sign on Letter

Francis Pickering provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Dan Carter and seconded by Jon Zagrodzky the CCIA Sign on Letter was unanimously approved.

MPO Action Items

Approval of the October 2026 Meeting Minutes

After review and on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Dan Carter the minutes of the October 2026 HVMPO meeting were approved with an abstention made by Julia Pemberton.

After review and on a motion made by Dionna Carlson and seconded by Jon Zagrodzky the minutes of the October SWRMPO 2026 minutes were unanimously approved.

FY27-30 Transportation Improvement Program

SWRMPO – #0302-0023CN, Various; #0412-2025CN, Norwalk; #0412-2025EQ, Norwalk; #0412-2025PA, Norwalk
HVMPO – #0302-0023CN, Various
WestCOG Transportation Director Kristin Hadjstylianos provided an overview. After review and on a motion made by Dionna Carlson and seconded by Toni Boucher the SWRMPO TIP amendments were unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Pat Del Monaco and seconded by Bruce Walczak the HVMPO TIP amendments were unanimously approved.

Information Items

Draft Legislative Agenda

Francis Pickering provided an update.

Legislative Reception

Francis Pickering provided an update.

Federal Update

Francis Pickering provided an update.

Housing Update

Mike Towle provided an update.

Annual Dues

Francis Pickering provided an update.

Safety Performance Measures – 2027 CTDOT Safety Targets

WestCOG Associate Planner Amal Malik provided an overview.

Infrastructure & Reliability Performance Measures – 2027 & 2029 CTDOT Targets

WestCOG Planner Harrison Lewis provided an overview.

Other Business

Mike Towle introduced Data Scientist Eddie Provitz who showcased the work he is doing on the Regional Canopy Analysis. For more information, visit https://westcog.org/tree-canopy-analysis/

Adjournment

On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.



Next meeting

Legislative Reception Thursday, December 17, 2026 @12:00 pm