

WestCOG / HVMPO / SWRMPO Meeting Agenda-Redacted

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

Time. Thursday July 18th 2024 @12:00 p.m.

Location. Ridgefield Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877 Ph-475-323-2060

Virtual Option. <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88222966740> (ID: 882 2296 6740)

1. Call to Order:

- a. COG Meeting: Hon. Rudy Marconi
- b. HVMPO Meeting: Hon. Julia Pemberton
- c. SWRMPO Meeting: Hon. Toni Boucher

2. Public Participation: *Limited to topics on this agenda and to 2 minutes per speaker.*

3. Featured Presentation

- a. Don Poland Goman & York – Affordable Housing Finance Study

4. COG Action Items

- a. Approval of 06/20/2024 COG Meeting MinutesAttachment 4a, pp. 1-3
- b. DEMS-SLCP Grant Application
- c. Quarterly Financial Update.....Attachment 4c, pp. 4-5
- d. LOTCIP Adjustments.....Attachment 4d, pp. 6-7
- e. DEMHS REPT Appointments
- f. Regional Services Grant Project Authorizing Resolution: Municipal ADA Transition Plans
.....Attachment 4f pp. 8-9

5. MPO Action Items

- a. Approval of SWRMPO/HVMPO 06/20/2024 Meeting Minutes.....Attachment 4a, pp. 1-3
- b. 2021-2024 HV/SWR Transportation Improvement Program.....Attachment 5b, pp. 10-12

6. COG Information Items

- a. Regional Waste Authority: Next Steps
- b. Legislative Committee
- c. Sustainable CT
- d. Solar Adoption Study

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.

- e. Stormwater Mapping
- f. AI Pilot for Assessors

7. MPO Information Items

- a. Transportation Grant OpportunitiesAttachment 7a, p. 13
- b. USDOT Reconnecting CommunitiesAttachment 7b, pp. 14-15

8. Other Business

9. Adjournment

10. Next meeting

- a. MPO/COG Thursday, August 15th, 2024

Received by email on 07/16/2024 @ 3:20 p.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield

Western Connecticut COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



Disclaimer: These interim minutes of the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (“WestCOG” or “COG”) are released and “available for public inspection” and “posted” on WestCOG’s website, in accordance with C.G.S. §1-225(a). Said interim minutes are subject to review and approval by the COG members, after which time the final approved minutes will be available and posted in accordance with laws. Accordingly, the interim minutes may contain inaccuracies and do not reflect the final action of the COG.

INTERIM MINUTES

Council/Housatonic Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization/South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

1 Riverside Rd, Sandy Hook, CT 06482 Phone: 475-323-2057

for the 06/20/2024 Meeting

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

COG Chairman Rudolph Marconi / Vice Chair- Dan Carter

Treasurer -Jon Zagrodzky / Secretary Julia Pemberton

HVMPO Chairman Julia Pemberton / Vice Chairman Dan Carter

SWRMPO Chairman Toni Boucher/ Vice Chairman Jon Zagrodzky

MEMBERS ATTENDING

- Bethel..... First Selectman Dan Carter COG/HVMPO
- Bridgewater..... Absent
- Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn COG/HVMPO
- Danbury Absent-COG/HVMPO
- Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky COG/SWRMPO
- Greenwich..... Selectwoman Lauren Rabin COG/SWRMPO
- New Canaan..... First Selectman Dionna Carlson COG/SWRMPO
- New Fairfield First Selectman Melissa Lindsey COG/HVMPO
- New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass COG/HVMPO
- Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci COG/HVMPO
- Norwalk..... Absent COG/SWRMPO
- Redding..... First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton COG/HVMPO
- Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi COG/HVMPO
- Sherman..... absent
- Stamford..... Chief of Staff Bridget Fox SWRMPO
- Weston..... First Selectwoman Samantha Nestor COG/SWRMPO
- Westport..... First Selectwoman Jen Tooker COG/SWRMPO
- Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher COG/SWRMPO
- Transit Representative..... Absent-HVMPO
- Transit Representative..... Absent-SWRMPO
- CTDOT Transportation Planner Jane Dunbar (Non-voting MPO member)
- MPO Staff..... Francis Pickering (Non-voting MPO member)

1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482

Visit us online at westcog.org
Telephone/fax 475-323-2060

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

WestCOG Staff: Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Charles Vidich, Todd Fontanella, Kristin Floberg, Nicole Sullivan, Vicky Ricks, Cricket Carpenter, Princeton Intern Adem Aricanli, Summer Fellows Dylan Steer and Ella Burns-DeMelo. Also in attendance were: Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Collective, and Rachel Gonzalez, Cyndi Tolosa, and Pamela Wright from America|250

The COG meeting was to order at 12:15 p.m. by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

The HVMPO meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Chairwoman Julia Pemberton

The SWRMPO meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Chairman Toni Boucher

Public Participation: No member of the public spoke when asked to do so.

Featured Presentation

America 250 | CT- Cyndi Tolosa from Connecticut Humanities presented on the upcoming 2026 commemoration.

COG Action Items

Approval of 05/16/2024 COG 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 16th 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

State POCD Comments: WestCOG Senior Planner Kristin Floberg provided the review. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the State POCD Comments were unanimously approved.

Transportation Alternatives Program East West Trail Project Application: Kristin Floberg provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the Transportation Alternatives Program East West Trail Project Application was unanimously approved.

Regional Waste Authority Study Resolution: WestCOG Principal Planner Todd Fontanella provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher the Regional Waste Authority Study Resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution Authorizing the pass-through of funds for the Blickensderfer Brownfield Remediation: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided the review. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the Resolution Authorizing the pass-through of funds for the Blickensderfer Brownfield Remediation was unanimously approved.

FY 2025 Regional Services Grant Spending Plan and Authorizing Resolution: Francis Pickering provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Newtown First Selectman Jeff Capeci and seconded by

Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky the FY 2025 Regional Services Grant Spending Plan and Authorizing Resolution was unanimously approved.

FY 2025 Agency Budget: Francis Pickering provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Toni Boucher the FY 2025 Agency Budget was unanimously approved.

MPO Action Items

Approval of SWRMPO/HVMPO 05/16/2024 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Toni Boucher and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Dionna Carlson the minutes of the May 16th 2024 SWRMPO meeting was unanimously approved. After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the minutes of the May 16th 2024 HVMPO was unanimously approved.

Transportation Alternatives Program HV Priorities: WestCOG's Kristin Floberg provided the review. After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Dan Carter the Transportation Alternatives Program HV Priorities were unanimously approved.

2021-2024 SWR Transportation Improvement Program: WestCOG Planner Nicole Sullivan provided the overview. After review and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky and seconded by Greenwich Selectwoman Lauren Rabin the 2021-2024 SWR Transportation Improvement Program Amendments were unanimously approved.

COG Information Items

Flood Assistance Program: WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle provided the review.

PICS Intern: Mike Towle provided the review.

Sustainable CT Fellows: Mike Towle provided the review.

MPO Information Items

USDOT Charging and Fueling infrastructure (CFI): WestCOG's Todd Fontanella provided the overview.

Other Business: There was no other business discussed.

Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18th, 2024.

Adjournment: On a motion duly made the meeting was adjourned at 1:37p.m.

Western Connecticut Council of Governments
Quarterly Financial Report - Operating Statement
June - 2024
(Unaudited)

	Current Month Actual	Year to Date 45473	Annual Budget Approved June 2023	Projected at 6/30/2023
REVENUES				
State/Federal/Local Grants	\$ 205,568	\$ 2,771,957	\$ 4,741,394	\$ 2,771,957
Local Dues	\$ 26,191	\$ 314,248	\$ 314,250	\$ 314,248
Misc./Interest Income	\$ 10,093	\$ 83,105	\$ 15,000	\$ 83,105
TOTAL:	\$ 241,852	\$ 3,169,310	\$ 5,070,644	\$ 3,169,310
EXPENSES				
DIRECT CONTRACT EXPENSE: (Reimbursable through contracts)				
Project Consultants	\$ 35,415	\$ 670,376	\$ 2,563,644	\$ 670,376
Other Direct Costs	\$ 31,600	\$ 111,853	\$ 110,000	\$ 111,853
PERSONNEL EXPENSE:				
Salaries (Direct & Indirect)	\$ 128,904	\$ 1,372,750	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,372,750
Pension	\$ 9,104	\$ 106,234	\$ 115,000	\$ 106,234
Payroll Taxes	\$ 8,700	\$ 109,744	\$ 120,000	\$ 109,744
Fringe Benefits	\$ 5,357	\$ 271,949	\$ 310,000	\$ 271,949
GENERAL OVERHEAD EXPENSE:				
Rent	\$ -	\$ 105,160	\$ 125,000	\$ 105,160
Utilities	\$ 362	\$ 25,900	\$ 55,000	\$ 25,900
Audit/Payroll & Legal Services	\$ 401	\$ 24,984	\$ 41,000	\$ 24,984
Other Professional Services	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Service Agreements	\$ 3,139	\$ 17,114	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,114
Reproduction	\$ -	\$ 393	\$ 5,000	\$ 393
Office Supplies	\$ 200	\$ 8,513	\$ 10,000	\$ 8,513
Conf/Travel/Mtg. Expense	\$ 140	\$ 1,842	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,842
Membership Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 843	\$ 10,948	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,948
Postage	\$ 68	\$ 274	\$ 10,000	\$ 274
Commercial Liability Insurance	\$ 5,729	\$ 26,079	\$ 36,000	\$ 26,079
Lease	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -
Software Expense	\$ 21	\$ 2,357	\$ -	\$ 2,357
Recruitment/Ads	\$ -	\$ 180	\$ 2,000	\$ 180
Legal Notices	\$ -	\$ 380	\$ 2,000	\$ 380
Misc.	\$ 236	\$ 6,950	\$ 10,000	\$ 6,950
Depreciation	\$ 1,850	\$ 22,200	\$ 30,000	\$ 22,200
Interest Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ -
Capital Expense	\$ -	\$ 8,345	\$ 25,000	\$ 8,345
Due back to State*(adj for BFO)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 232,069	\$ 2,904,525	\$ 5,070,644	\$ 2,904,525
SURPLUS/<DEFICIT>	\$ 9,783	\$ 264,785	\$ -	\$ 264,785

**Financial Notes of Interest* : (1) Negative revenue variances can be the result of fluctuations in the timing of consultant invoices on various projects, and do not indicate a 'lack' of or underbilling of revenue sources. Variances may fluctuate on both the expense and revenue sides as well due to changes in staffing and timing of expenses. (2) Surplus "total" amounts partially reflect we are invoicing our grants at a burden, fringe and overhead (BFO) rate that may be too high, and at fiscal year end may owe money back to grantors at the conclusion of our annual audit. (See 'Due back to State')

Western CT Council of Governments
Balance Sheet
June 30, 2024
ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank of America Checking	\$	639,676.76	
Bank of America Money Market		101,638.25	
CT STIF		2,279,131.83	
Petty Cash		400.00	
Accounts Receivable		434,225.33	
Prepaid Service Agreements		17,072.38	
Pre-paid Heating Oil		1,948.79	
Prepaid Dues/Subscriptions		1,114.00	
Prepaid Security Deposits		4,245.00	
Total Current Assets			3,479,452.34

Property and Equipment

Fixed Assets		213,329.35	
Right-of-Use Asset		612,800.00	
Allowance for Depreciation		(173,356.71)	
Accumulated Amortization		(298,119.00)	
Total Property and Equipment			354,653.64

Other Assets

Total Other Assets			0.00
Total Assets	\$		3,834,105.98

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

Due to CTDOT	\$	36,581.57	
Lease Payable		339,328.00	
Deferred Rev - Norwalk Route 1		27,473.92	
Deferred Rev-LOTICIP		17,006.93	
Deferred Rev-FY 23-24 OPM RSG		384,818.04	
Deferred Rev-Health Depts		14,048.81	
Deferred Rev - Farm Viability		2,422.25	
Accrued Vacation		123,624.82	
Accrued Pension		50,509.93	
Total Current Liabilities			995,814.27

Total Liabilities			995,814.27

Capital

Fund Balance Designated		120,000.00	
Fund Balance-Restricted		2,453,504.93	
Net Income		264,786.78	
Total Capital			2,838,291.71
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$		3,834,105.98

WestCOG LOTCIP Program
07/18/2024 Adjustment

Municipality	Project	Amount	Cap (Maximum LOTCIP funds)	Status	Expiration Date *
Available funding (FY2014-2025), net of estimated administrative costs		\$132,634,500			
Bethel	Sidewalks, Phase 2	(\$2,000,000)		2. Application pending	8/20/2026 ^①
	Total COG-Endorsed Funds (including requested adjustments)	(\$163,217,438)			
	Remaining Balance	(\$30,582,938)			
	Endorsed/Allocated	123.1%			

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

TAG: Recommended approval 07/09/2024

COG: Considered 07/18/2024

^① Increase by \$100,000 from \$1,900,000

Net change in COG-endorsed funds (1 project)

\$100,000 Increase

**2024/07/18 #001 CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE
WESTERN CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS TO PERFORM THE
FOLLOWING PROJECT:**

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 18, 2024 in Ridgefield, Connecticut, a quorum being present:

Whereas, WestCOG receives funding from the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) in the form of a Regional Services Grant (RSG) for the provision of regional services, particularly those that result in cost savings to the municipalities and local taxpayers;

Whereas in state fiscal years 2024 and 2025 each WestCOG received an RSG of the amount \$998,828.36, and WestCOG anticipates RSG allocations in state fiscal years 2026 and 2027 equal in value to those received in state fiscal years 2024 and 2025, based on the same formula;

Whereas any use of RSG funds must be consistent with the respective annual WestCOG RSG Spending Plan, as adopted by WestCOG and approved by OPM, with such Plan state fiscal year 2025 having already been adopted by WestCOG and endorsed OPM.

Whereas WestCOG has not yet adopted RSG Spending Plans for state fiscal years 2026 and 2027, and approval by OPM of said Plans is not expected until summer 2025 and summer 2026;

Whereas OPM has added new conditions limiting the carryover of unexpended RSG funds regardless of reason into subsequent fiscal years, beginning with the RSG for state fiscal year 2025, creating an impetus to avoid delay;

Whereas, local governments are encouraged to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act through the preparation of Transition Plans that identify a list of covered barriers, methods to remove these barriers, cost estimates, and a schedule for the completion of work; and

Whereas, WestCOG has proposed and coordinated with its members on a regional project to produce local Transition Plans, leveraging economies of scale and providing municipalities with expertise to satisfy the requirements of Title II of the ADA;

Whereas WestCOG has initiated and expects to conclude, prior to the next WestCOG meeting, a competitive and open process to identify a qualified consultant to carry out this project over a period of two years in duration, which may fall in three fiscal years,

Whereas the estimated total cost of the project is approximately \$[redacted], creating an annual cost of \$[redacted];

Now be it resolved, that that WestCOG Chairman Rudolph Marconi, Vice Chairman Dan Carter, or Executive Director Francis Pickering are hereby authorized to negotiate and execute all appropriate and necessary agreements to perform the project described above for an amount not to exceed \$[redacted], with the stipulation that any agreements pursuant to this section be functionally phased by funding year and provide WestCOG the right to terminate, for any cause, including failure to receive the expected future RSG Spending Plan approval or RSG funding, with thirty days' notice, and to apply for grants or other funding to defray the cost of the project.

This resolution is in full force and effect as of July 18th, 2024.

Julia Pemberton, Secretary
Western Connecticut Council of Governments
July 18th 2024

[Affix seal here]



Western Connecticut

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

DATE: July 10, 2024

HVMPO FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Background: The FFY2021-2024 Housatonic Valley TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 15, 2020. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 26, 2021.

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

Amendments #2024-0718

0416-XXX: HART-Operating Assistance FY24

The CTDOT requested amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP:

This STIP action will revise the federal funds provided to Housatonic Area Regional Transit for FY 24 operating assistance.

Region	FA Code	Proj#	AQ Cd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$ (000)	Fed\$ (000)	Sta\$ (000)	Loc\$ (000)
2	5307O	0416-XXXX	X6	HART	DANBURY	HART - OPERATING ASSISTANCE FY 24	OTH	2024	1,524	762	0	762

0416-XXX: HART-Admin Capital/Misc Support FY 24

The CTDOT requested amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP:

This project will provide necessary FY24 FTA Section 5307 funding for Housatonic Area Regional Transit District's purchase of miscellaneous support equipment and administrative capital costs. This includes but is not limited to the purchase of a coin counter, a steam cleaner, office furniture, replacement of 4 Graco pumps in lube room, and to retrofit fleet with additional security cameras.

Region	FA Code	Proj#	AQ Cd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$ (000)	Fed\$ (000)	Sta\$ (000)	Loc\$ (000)
2	5307C	0416-XXXX	X6	HART	DANBURY	HART - ADMIN CAPITAL/MISC SUPPORT FY 24	OTH	2024	130	104	26	0

0416-XXX: HART-Facility- Replace Underground Storage Tanks (UST) FY 24

The CTDOT requested amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP:

This project will provide necessary FY24 FTA Section 5307 funding for Housatonic Area Regional Transit District's removal and replacement of two 10,000 gallon fuel tanks; one for diesel and one for gasoline. The current tanks are aging and need to be replaced by 2027.

Region	FA Code	Proj#	AQ Cd	Rte/ Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$ (000)	Fed\$ (000)	Sta\$ (000)	Loc\$ (000)
2	5307C	0416-XXXX	X6	HART	DANBURY	HART - FACILITY - REPLACE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (UST) FY 24	ALL	2024	400	320	80	0

SWRMPO FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Background: The FFY2021-2024 South Western Region TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 15, 2020. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 26, 2021.

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

Amendments #2024-0718

0135-0356: SRTS Sidewalk Project

The CTDOT requested amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP:

Construct approximately 21,400 feet of sidewalk on Scofieldtown Road, Stillwater Road, and Coldspring Road to provide safe routes to schools in Stamford. This project was selected for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program as a result of a 2022 hybrid solicitation of the CT Councils of Governments. The Stamford Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) sidewalk project includes the construction of concrete sidewalk, retaining walls, pedestrian ramps, curbing, and drainage inlet adjustments. This project is for RW and CN phases only; PE phase is fully funded by City funds. CTDOT and CLE oversight charges during design to be covered under projects DOT01705032PE (federally eligible activities) and DOT01703442PE (federally ineligible activities).

Region	FA Code	Proj #	AQ Cd	Rte/ Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$ (000)	Fed\$ (000)	Sta\$ (000)	Loc\$ (000)
1	TAPB	0135-0356	X6	VARIOUS	STAMFORD	SRTS SIDEWALK PROJECT	ROW	FYI	250	200	0	50
1	TAPB	0135-0356	X6	VARIOUS	STAMFORD	SRTS SIDEWALK PROJECT	CON	FYI	4,605	3,684	0	921

0056-0327: Pavement Preservation; Mainline & Ramps - AC Conversion

The CTDOT requested amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP:

Increase FY24 conversion from Fed \$5.0M. Total cost increasing from Fed \$13.322M to \$14.48M. FYI conversion being deleted. This will allow for flexibility at the time of authorization and closing transactions for FY24.

Region	FA Code	Proj #	AQ Cd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$ (000)	Fed\$ (000)	Sta\$ (000)	Loc\$ (000)
1	NHPP	0056-0327	X6	CT 15	GREENWICH	PAVEMENT PRESERVATION; MAINLINE & RAMPS - AC CONVERSION	CON	2024	18,100	14,480	3,620	0
1	NHPP	0056-0327	X6	CT 15	GREENWICH	PAVEMENT PRESERVATION; MAINLINE & RAMPS - AC CONVERSION	CON	FYI	-10,403	-8,322	-2,081	0

Transportation Grant Opportunities

USDOT Discretionary Grant Dashboard:

<https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>

Current Grant Opportunities:

National Culvert Removal, Replacement, & Restoration Grant Program

Announcement: 6/25/2024

Deadline: 9/23/2024

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/355106>

Summary: The primary objective of the Culvert AOP Program is to meaningfully improve or restore anadromous fish passage through the replacement, removal, or repair of culverts or weirs, which may include infrastructure to facilitate fish passage around or over the weir and weir improvements.

Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCN) Program

Announcement: 7/3/2024

Deadline: 9/30/2024

Website: <https://www.transportation.gov/reconnecting>

Summary: The RCN Program awards funding on a competitive basis for projects that reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development. Capital construction and community planning projects are eligible activities.

Railroad Crossing Elimination Program

Announcement: 7/10/2024

Deadline: 9/23/2024

Website: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/07/10/2024-15061/notice-of-funding-opportunity-for-the-fy-2023-fy-2024-railroad-crossing-elimination-program>

Summary: This program aims to improve the safety and mobility of highway-rail and pathway-rail grade crossings, enhance rail infrastructure, and reduce the impact of freight movement on underserved communities. There is up to \$1.15 billion in funding available.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities:

Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT)

Announcement: Expected August 2024

Deadline: TBD

Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/protect/discretionary/>

Summary: The vision of the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program is to fund projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail.

TO: WestCOG Council Representatives
FROM: Todd Fontanella
DATE: July 11, 2024
RE: Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Grant Program

The [RCN Grant Program](#) awards funding on a competitive basis for projects that reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating highways or other transportation facilities that create barriers to community connectivity, including to mobility, access, or economic development.

The [2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) was released on Wednesday, July 3, 2024. The Program will include two grant types that involve the following activities:

- 1) Capital Construction. USDOT may award funding for eligible construction activities to remove, retrofit, or mitigate an existing eligible facility or replace an existing eligible facility with a new facility that reconnects communities. The minimum capital construction grant award is \$5 million. USDOT anticipates that Capital Construction Grants may range from \$5 million to \$100 million. If a project is partially funded, project components executed through the RCP award must demonstrate independent utility, and
- 2) Community Planning. USDOT may award funding for eligible public engagement, feasibility studies/other planning activities. Maximum RCP Program Planning Grant awards are \$2 million.

USDOT will evaluate applications for the programs using consistent merit criteria and other considerations. The merit criteria include:

- Equity and Justice40 Initiative
- Access
- Facility Suitability
- Community Engagement/Stewardship, Management, and Partnerships
- Equitable Development
- Climate Change Mitigation and/or Adaptation and Resilience
- Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity
- Planning integration

Additional considerations include cost effectiveness, demonstrated project readiness (including technical assessment, financial completeness, and environmental review), permitting risk, and geographic diversity among recipients – including a balance between the needs of urban and rural projects.

Please note that applications will be due by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, September 30, 2024.

Contact me at tfontanella@westcog.org or (475) 323-2076 if you have any questions. Thanks!