

Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting  
Wednesday January 29, 2026 at 10:00 AM  
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments  
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Name

Representing

Joseph Ganim, Mayor, (Proxy, Ken Flatto, Remote)  
Dan Lent, First Selectman, Remote  
Christine Vitale, First Selectman, Remote  
Terry Rooney, First Selectman  
David Chess, Mayor  
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman

Bridgeport  
Easton  
Fairfield  
Monroe  
Stratford  
Trumbull

Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director  
Nick Dostal, Regional Planner  
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director  
Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director  
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director  
Simone Lesci, Regional Planner  
Noah Miller, Regional Planner

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## Minutes

### I. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, First Selectman Tesoro at 10:21am.

Mr. Fulda performed the roll call.

### II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### III. **Election of Officers**

A motion was made to call for the nomination for a MetroCOG Chairperson. First Selectman Rooney made a motion to nominate First Selectman Tesoro and was seconded by Mayor Chess.

No other nominations. No discussion. Nomination passed unanimously.

A motion was made to call for the nomination for a MetroCOG Vice-Chairperson. First Selectman Tesoro made a motion to nominate First Selectman Rooney and was seconded by Mayor Chess. No other nominations. No discussion. Nomination passed unanimously.

A motion was made to call for the nomination for a MetroCOG Secretary. First Selectman Tesoro nominated First Selectman Vitale and was seconded by Mr. Flatto.

No other nomination. No discussion. Nomination passed unanimously.

First Selectman Lent raised a point of order regarding First Selectman Vitale and her position as secretary if she does not win re-election.

Mr. Fulda provided an explanation for the process.

### IV. **Public Participation**

No public comments.

### V. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

#### **a. November 20, 2025 (Attachment A)**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from November by Selectmen Rooney and was seconded by First Selectman Tesoro. No further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

### VI. **Action Items**

#### **a. LOTCIP – Monroe Intersection Improvement Project (Route 111 and Wheeler Rd) (Attachment B)**

A motion was made to move forward with item a. by First Selectman Rooney and seconded by Mayor Chess.

Mr. Fulda provided an explanation. The LOTCIP project will improve safety and lessen traffic at the intersection of Route 111 and Wheeler Road. First Selectmen Rooney explained that currently the intersection has a line-of-sight issue as well.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **b. WestCOG Water Utility Coordination (Attachment C)**

A motion was made to move forward with item b. by First Selectman Tesoro, seconded by First Selectman Rooney,

Mr. Fulda provided an explanation. Mr. Fulda will be given authority to enter into an agreement with WestCOG to assist MetroCOG in partial reimbursement for legal expenses incurred in the PURA case.

No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. Discussion Items**

### **a. Financials (Attachment D)**

Ms. Kelleher provided an update on financials. Budget letters will be going out for municipal dues. There will be an increase in rent for the MetroCOG office, due to the remodel/expansion. There is a slight deficit due to PURA fees, but cooperation with WestCOG will help with reimbursement.

Mr. Fulda provided additional details on PURA case fees.

No further discussion.

### **b. Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)**

Mr. Fulda and Ms. Sloan provided an update on the status of the Regional POCD. Draft goals and strategies will be presented to focus groups soon. Ms. Sloan congratulated the photo contest winners. Additional details on the POCD will be coming soon through the MetroCOG newsletter.

First Selectmen Lent asked to see a copy of the goals and strategies and emphasized that the Town of Easton is restricted to new development due to the region's water supply and reservoirs.

First Selectmen Lent asked about the certifications/credentials and experience of individuals working on the POCD. Mr. Fulda emphasized that MetroCOG is a professional planning organization that works alongside consultants and municipal staff who also have credentials and experience. Mr. Fulda explained that each phase of the POCD goes through a vetting process and that it is important to engage the community.

First Selectwoman Tesoro thanked MetroCOG and municipal staff/departments for working together.

First Selectmen Rooney spoke about the court of law and court of public opinion, and the importance of both, as well as balancing the two.

### **c. PURA/Aquarion**

Mr. Fulda provided details on the case. PURA denied the initial application for change in control of Aquarion and Eversource appealed the case. The Superior Court in New Britain granted an expedited schedule on the appeal and sent the case back to PURA.

Mr. Fulda met with legislators from the MetroCOG and WestCOG regions and is in collaboration with WestCOG to file an objection to the case.

First Selectmen Lent asked Mr. Fulda for objection documents.

No further discussion.

### **d. Office Remodel**

Mr. Fulda provided an update on the office remodel. An eight-week construction schedule will start the first week of February. Metro COG staff will be working remotely for the duration of the remodel. The next two boards meetings will be online only.

No further discussion.

**e. Housing Bill – Zoning Update**

Mr. Fulda provided an update on HB 8002. CCM and COST hosted a joint forum on the bill. The MetroCOG region does not need to develop a plan until June 1, 2029, pending any changes. MetroCOG will create an advisory group of its member municipalities. Mr. Fulda said that MetroCOG will be issuing an RFP for a land use attorney to help municipalities update their zoning language to meet the requirements in HB 8002 that go into effect July 1, 2026. The requirements include updates to “middle housing” and parking. Towns may choose to participate and MetroCOG will cover attorney fees. First Selectmen Lent asked about the MetroCOG process for the RFP. Mr. Fulda provided a detailed explanation on the competitive selection process. First Selectmen Lent asked about a “mixed-use” for an “institutional place”. Mr. Fulda provided an explanation. First Selectmen Lent asked about the 40-year-deed restriction and how removing such restriction can increase affordable housing. First Selectmen Lent spoke about the importance of a Land Trust Fund and preserving farmland. Mr. Fulda provided an explanation on the 40-year-deed-restriction and also 8-30g applications which was raised by First Selectmen Lent.

**f. Brownfields**

Mr. Carleton provided an update. Mr. Carleton explained that there are any sites that municipalities need to clean up, to make MetroCOG aware since the agency has funding for brownfields work. In addition, there is a new round of funding open. First Selectmen Rooney asked a question regarding how a brownfields site is eligible for funding. Both Mr. Carleton and Mr. Fulda provided an answer. First Selectmen Lent asked about the deadline for the grant, a list of brownfields site for the MetroCOG region, and raised a question regarding a specific brownfield site in Bridgeport. Both Mr. Carleton and Mr. Fulda provide an answer.

**g. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Update**

Mr. Fulda provided an update on CPRG, as well as some background. The federal grant is through USEPA for the 73 most populated urbanized areas. MetroCOG is working with WestCOG to gather the appropriate documentation. First Selectmen Lent emphasized the importance of maintaining forestry. Mr. Fulda explained that the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan contains a forestry section. No further discussion.

**VIII. Other Business**

**a. Next Meeting Dates:**

- i. February 26, 2026
- ii. March 26, 2026

**IX. Adjourn**

First Selectman Chess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. and was seconded by First Selectman Vitale at 11:15 a.m.

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Christine Vitale, MetroCOG Secretary

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