

Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 1:00 PM
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Name	Representing
David Bindelglass, First Selectman, Remote	Easton
William Gerber, First Selectman, Remote	Fairfield
Terry Rooney, First Selectman	Monroe
Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Remote	Stratford
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman	Trumbull
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director	MetroCOG
Nicolas Dostal, Regional Planner	MetroCOG
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director	MetroCOG
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG
John Harkins	RSLK
Mike Smith	RSLK

Minutes

I. Call to Order:

Chairwoman Tesoro called the meeting to order at 10:27am. A roll call was performed, and it was determined that there was a quorum of the MetroCOG Board of Directors.

II. Public Participation:

Chairwoman Tesoro asked if any members of the public were present and wished to participate. No members of the public asked to participate.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. April 24, 2025
- b. May, 7, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes was made by First Selectman Rooney and seconded by First Selectman Bindelglass. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Legislative Update

Mr. Harkins provided the board with a brief legislative update regarding the state budget approval and potential cuts. He encouraged the board to keep him aware of any important bills.

Mr. Smith provided an update on the housing and education bills.

Mr. Fulda noted that the COGs were coordinating the housing bill and were working on assisting municipalities to ensure they are in compliance.

First Selectman Tesoro noted that the bill was difficult to follow and requested that Mr. Harkins provide a summary.

First Selectman Gerber requested a spreadsheet on fair share unit requirements.

Mr. Fulda noted that the bill does not require units to be built but is permitting planning and zoning to allow them to be built.

There was a brief discussion regarding the June 25th PURA public hearing.

Mr. Fulda was drafting template language for public officials and residents to use at the hearing.

V. Action Items

- a. FY26 Health Insurance Coverage

A motion was made by First Selectman Bindelglass and seconded by First Selectman Rooney to approve the health insurance coverage for FY2026.

Mr. Fulda explained that there was a 10% increase in the premium and recommended staying with the current plan.

First Selectman Rooney concurred that that was a decent increase.

The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program – 2025 Project Solicitation

A motion to approve the LOTCIP project solicitation was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Rooney.

Mr. Fulda briefly explained the projects.

The motion carried unanimously.

- c. S&P Global/Transearch – Freight/Commodity Data for Transportation Planning
A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Rooney.
Mr. Fulda requested approval by the board to be part of a statewide purchase for a user-friendly freight/commodity data application.
Mayor Hoydick inquired about what freight data meant and included.
Mr. Fulda explained that the application includes data on trucking and the scale of commodity movement the region and the state. CTDOT purchased the data in 2019 but has not updated it since.
As a member of CCM, Mayor Hoydick supports the resolution, but requested that the COG work with CCM to persuade CTDOT to provide relief for solid waste transportation costs.
Mr. Fulda responded that MetroCOG could use the data to inform discussions.
The motion carried unanimously.
- d. FY2025 EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Supplemental Grant
A motion to approve the RLF supplemental grant was made by First Selectman Rooney and seconded by Mayor Hoydick.
Mr. Fulda announced that MetroCOG was awarded one million in RLF supplemental funds to assist with cleanup and environmental remediation.
There was a brief discussion on a grant requested in Monroe.
The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion Items

- a. Financials – Draft Annual Budget
Ms. Kelleher explained that the budget was similar to the previous budget with no additional grants added, but funding that was not expended in FY25 was moved to FY26. She also noted that the line item under legal included \$70,000 for PURA costs.
Mr. Fulda added that MetroCOG requested reimbursement of the fees, so if approved the budget would be amended.
- b. Office Lease Renewal
Mr. Fulda provided an update on the lease renewal. MetroCOG was waiting to hear back from the landlord regarding office expansion and improvements.
- c. Regional POCD
Ms. Sloan announced that the POCD focus groups went well. The next steps include a planning advisory committee and public outreach.
Mr. Fulda added that the COG would attend events that the towns were already hosting.

Mr. Fulda provided an Aquarion Water Authority update noting that MetroCOG filed to intervene, along with other municipalities. The contract with the consultant has not been finalized but should be executed in the next week.
Mr. Carleton noted that OCC put out an extensive list of interrogatories.
Mr. Fulda added that the interrogatories were in line with MetroCOG's.

VII. Other Business

- a. Next Meeting Dates:
 - i. June 26, 2025
 - ii. July 31, 2025

Mr. Fulda commented that there will be a June meeting to approve the budget, but the July meeting will likely be cancelled.

VIII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Bindelglass. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26.

David Bindelglass, MetroCOG Secretary