

**Special Meeting**  
**Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments**  
**Monday September 26th, 2019 at 10:00 am**  
**MetroCOG Conference Room Bridgeport, Connecticut**

Name	Representing
Joseph Ganim, Mayor (Ken Flatto, Proxy)	Bridgeport
Adam Dunsby, First Selectman, Secretary	Easton
Michael Tetreau, First Selectman, Chairman	Fairfield
Ken Kellogg, First Selectman	Monroe
Laura Hoydick, Mayor	Stratford
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman	Trumbull
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director	MetroCOG
Colleen Kelleher, Deputy Finance Director	MetroCOG
Wilhelmina Krahn, Regional Planner	MetroCOG
Meg Haffner	Kennedy Center
Eileen Lopez-Cordone	UI

## Minutes

### I. Call to Order (MetroCOG Officer)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, First Selectman Tetreau, at 10:13am.

### II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

### III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### a. July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Dunsby.

#### b. September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019

A motion to approve the September minutes was made by First Selectman Tesoro and seconded by Mayor Hoydick.

The motions carried unanimously.

### IV. Presentation

#### a. Commissioner David Lehman, DECD

Commissioner Lehman provided a presentation on observations and changes to economic development and business recruitment in Connecticut and the need to improve communication with the business community. This would be accomplished through more one on one conversations with the chambers of commerce and community engagement.

Commissioner Lehman suggested invited Peter Denious from CERC to present to the MetroCOG Board.

Commissioner Lehman noted that certain businesses would not succeed in Connecticut and DECD was being more considerate of where they targeted its resources.

Commissioner Lehman explained he planned on improving Economic Development by focusing on specific businesses, offering incentives like grants and forgivable loans, stronger focus on cities and regulatory reform.

Mayor Hoydick commended the transparent, holistic process.

Commissioner Lehman noted that with the regulatory review board, any one group as a veto and businesses complying with current regulations don't want change.

Mr. Flatto commented that the Bridgeport Train Station was not on the State DOT plan.

Commissioner Lehman responded that a lot of time was being spent on transportation and there is a need for a 5-10-year transportation plan. Marketing Fairfield County transportation and opportunity zones is essential. There is a need for smarter long-term economic development.

First Selectman Dunsby requested toolkits that include current incentives that would allow elected officials to be better economic ambassadors to manufactures and local businesses.

Mayor Hoydick noted that the larger cities have staff that would be updated regarding incentives and opportunities, but a toolkit would be helpful to smaller municipalities.

Commissioner Lehman responded that he would do a better job of arming all municipalities.

First Selectman Tesoro echoed the need form more information as ambassadors and commented that transportation was affecting people and businesses moving to Connecticut.

First Selectman Tetreau noted that 25% of jobs and 47% of the income tax came from Fairfield County and property values drop as they reach 1 hour outside of New York City. Transportation is prohibiting people from moving to Connecticut.

There was a brief discussion regarding new college graduates and a comprehensive workforce assessment.

First Selectman Tetreau suggested involving developers more in the planning.

Commissioner Lehman was surprised by that comment and suggested that the real concern for developers was subsidizing something that didn't need subsidizing.

First Selectman Kellogg noted that regulatory reform would eliminate regulations not adding value. There is currently a lack of regulatory efficiency and an issue waiting for permits, resulting in the message that the state is difficult to work in.

Mr. Fulda commented that there is an issue with the amount of state employees

**Commented [LC1]:** Can someone confirm the accuracy of this statement?

**Commented [PC2R1]:** Commissioner said that the state "shouldn't subsidize everything".

and there are instances where a third party can be brought in. Mr. Fulda cited an example where it took one year to approve the change in a stop light.

Commissioner Lehman recommended elevating issues directly to him and wants to be able to get things done together.

First Selectman Kellogg noted that municipalities can't go anywhere, but the private sector can.

The presentation concluded at 11:15

**V. Other Business**

a. Executive Director Update on MetroCOG Activities

i. Financials

Mr. Fulda provided a brief update to the board on the COGs financials.

ii. Hazard Mitigation Plan update

Mr. Fulda commented that there were several plan adoptions coming up.

Mr. Fulda noted that he would provide an update with the census with the respective delegation.

b. Next Meeting Dates

i. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Several CEO's commented on a possible conflict with the October meeting.

ii. November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 (immediately after MPO meeting)

**VI. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Kellogg. The meeting adjourned at 11:23am.

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First Selectman Adam Dunsby  
MetroCOG Secretary