

Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Thursday, September 26, 2024, 10:00 am
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Name	Representing
Joseph Ganim, Mayor, (Proxy, Ken Flatto), Remote David Bindelglass, First Selectman, Remote William Gerber, First Selectman, Remote Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Terry Rooney, First Selectman, Remote	Bridgeport Easton Fairfield Stratford Monroe
Jennifer Pachacha Elizabeth Esposito, Community & Government Relations Ani CHaghatzbanian Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director Matthew Fulda, Executive Director Meghan Sloan, Planning Director Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director Nicolas Dostal, Regional Planner Devin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner, Remote Wendy Rego, Remote Rachel Collard, Remote Meg Haffner	CTDOT Avangrid Avangrid MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG MetroCOG CEN CEN Kennedy Center

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairwoman Mayor Hoydick at 10:18 am.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. June 27th, 2024

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

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Presentation

a. CEN Connect Project – Wendy Rego

Ms. Rego provided a brief presentation explaining the benefits of connecting communities to the free fiber network and provided a list of eligible towns and libraries.

Ms. Collard continued to explain the benefits, member costs and expected build time.

Mr. Fulda inquired when the funds would be exhausted.

Ms. Rego explained that CEN would stop accepting orders at the beginning of 2026 to provide enough time for the buildout.

V. Action Items:

a. Resolution: USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Program

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Flatto and seconded by First Selectman Rooney.

Mr. Fulda explained the purpose of the grant, the expectations and eligibility.

There was a brief discussion on what projects were eligible.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Other Business

a. Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Mr. Fulda explained the draft update was submitted to FEMA well ahead of the deadline and was approved with no comments.

Mr. Rooney thanked the COG for its assistance.

b. MetroCOG Regional Plan of Conservation & Development

Mr. Fulda explained that every COG has to complete a POCD and the last one done in 2015 was well done so MetroCOG would be using that as its base for the updated plan.

c. Meeting with Attorney General Tong: Recreational Cannabis

Mr. Fulda commented that there was interest in setting up a regionwide meeting to

discuss recreation cannabis and recouping costs from illegal sales.
Mr. Flatto was interested and offered to provide space for the meeting.

d. Aquarion Sale

Mr. Carleton explained that the Regional Water Authority is interested in purchasing Aquarion.

There was a brief discussion regarding legislative solutions.

Mayor Hoydick suggested inviting incoming and outgoing legislators to the Annual Meeting in December.

e. CTDOT Active Transportation Microgrant

Mr. Dostal noted that the 3rd round of funding would be available for non-infrastructure bike projects.

Mayor Hoydick commented that the local bike groups loved this.

Mr. Fulda added that in response to the 2023 legislative bill requiring any food industry who created 20,000 pounds of waste would need to separate food waste from solid waste beginning January 1. K-12 will be required to divert their waste beginning in January 2026. Mr. Fulda would like to get ahead of this initiative and look at it from a regional perspective.

f. Next Meeting Dates:

i. October 31, 2024

ii. November 21, 2024

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by First Selectman Bindelglass and seconded by Mr. Flatto. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

First Selectman Bindelglass, MetroCOG Secretary