

Regular MetroCOG Board Meeting
Monday, June 26, 2025 at 10:00 AM
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Name	Representing
Joseph Ganim, Mayor, (Proxy, Ken Flatto) Remote	Bridgeport
David Bindelglass, First Selectman, Remote	Easton
William Gerber, First Selectman, Remote	Fairfield
Laura Hoydick, Mayor, Remote, Remote	Stratford
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman	Trumbull
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director, Remote	MetroCOG
Nicolas Dostal, Regional Planner	MetroCOG
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director	MetroCOG
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG

Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chairman, First Selectman Tesoro, at 10:05am.

Mr. Fulda performed the roll call.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. May 29, 2025

A motion to approve the May minutes was made by Mr. Flatto and seconded by Mayor Hoydick. The motion carried with four yes votes and one abstention from Bridgeport.

b. June 16, 2025

A motion to approve the May minutes, was made by First Selectman Bindelglass and seconded by First Selectman Gerber. The motion carried with four yes votes and one abstention from Bridgeport.

IV. Executive Session – Personnel

A motion was made by Mayor Hoydick to enter an executive session including MetroCOG Board Members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Flatto, the executive session began at 10:11.

V. Action Items

a. FY26 Annual Budget

A motion to approve the annual budget was made by First Selectman Gerber and seconded by Mr. Flatto.

Mr. Fulda explained that the budget was the same as presented at the May meeting and included a deficit of \$70,000 to cover legal expenses, but MetroCOG will do its best to make up the deficit where possible. Mr. Fulda announced additional grant funding from DECD BAR and \$1 million in Brownfield remediation funds.

Mr. Fulda explained that a memo regarding lobbying was emailed, and given the PURA expense it was his recommendation not to continue to pay for lobbying expenses.

Mr. Flatto commented that he did not want to set a precedent to start with a deficit and recommended encumbering it in the fund balance line.

Mayor Hoydick expressed her desire to not throw out the concept of contracting a lobbying group and felt strongly the MetroCOG region's voice needed to be heard in Hartford.

There was a brief discussion regarding the effectiveness of the current lobbyist and the understanding that there was not currently a return on investment. Considering the upcoming bills in the possible special session, it would be worth going through another competitive process.

There was a discussion where funds could be used to cover lobbying costs and it was decided that \$15,000 could be moved from contingency to lobbying.

Mr. Flatto made a motion to reduce contingency by \$15,000 and increase lobbying by \$15,000. Mr. Flatto also proposed to remove the \$70,000 PURA fees and move it to an expected expense. The motion passed unanimously.

The budget as amended was approved unanimously.

b. Regional Services Grant (RSG) FY26 Spending Plan

A motion to approve the RSG Spending Plan was made by First Selectman Bindelglass and seconded by Mayor Hoydick.

Mr. Fulda explained that the RSG grant was the same amount as the previous year and covered planning work.

The motion carried unanimously.

c. EPA Brownfield Assessment – 488 Tunxis Hill Rd Fairfield

A motion to approve the EPA resolution was made by First Selectman Gerber and seconded by Mayor Hoydick.

Mr. Fulda explained that the funds would be used for a limited phase II assessment for a Fairfield town-owned facility.

First Selectman Gerber provided a background for Operation Hope and explained that after raising funds for the new building they could not afford the environmental assessment.

Mr. Fulda noted that assessment grants are 100% covered by the grant and were of no cost to the property owner.

Mr. Flatto inquired how much of the \$500,000 would be used.

Mr. Fulda responded that once it was approved, there was a list of LEPs that would be contacted for estimates and they could talk after that.

The motion carried unanimously.

d. UCONN Urban Farming Grant

A motion to approve the UCONN grant was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by Mr. Flatto.

Mr. Fulda explained that the resolution authorized him to contract with UCONN and would cover MetroCOG personnel costs for GIS and outreach.

The motion carried unanimously.

e. Executive Director Annual Bonus

A motion to approve the annual bonus for the Executive Director was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Gerber.

First Selectman Tesoro moved to approve the 2.5% bonus at \$3,625 due to all Mr. Fulda's good work over the past year and appreciated the cooperation and collaboration.

Mayor Hoydick acknowledged that Mr. Fulda and his staff did an amazing job and noticed the changing role of the COGs and their proactiveness for municipalities.

First Selectman Gerber concurred and acknowledged that the MetroCOG staff speaks to Mr. Fulda's leadership skills.

First Selectman Bindelglass also agreed.

Mr. Fulda appreciated the kind words and support and expressed his appreciation for

the MetroCOG Staff.
The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Discussion Items

a. Regional POCD

Ms. Sloan explained that the POCD press release would go out the following week and expected outreach to be performed prior to the next board meeting.

First Selectman Bindelglass inquired about which consultant was selected. Mr. Fulda responded that MetroCOG was using Colliers Engineering.

b. Office Lease Renewal/Remodel

Mr. Fulda explained that MetroCOG received the costs for the remodel (through the lease) and would be working with the broker with the cost breakdown. The eventual costs would be added to the lease and spread out over 10 years.

VII. Other Business

a. Next Meeting Dates:

i. July 31, 2025

Mr. Fulda noted that the July meeting is typically cancelled, but there would likely be a GBVMPO Meeting.

ii. August 28, 2025

The Comptroller may present at the August meeting.

Mayor Hoydick noted she would not be available and would like to be present for this meeting.

VIII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by Mr. Flatto. The motion carried unanimously. The MetroCOG Board of Directors adjourned at 11:14am.

David Bindelglass, MetroCOG Secretary