



MINUTES – June 20, 2025

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and Central Naugatuck Valley MPO
49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702

Commencement of Meeting (Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chair Pete Hess. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and the roll was called.

NVCOG CEOs/Reps:

In person: N. Warren “Pete” Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; Michael Krenesky, Alternate, Beacon Falls; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Bob Chatfield, Joe Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth; Mayor, Prospect; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Ed Mone, Mayor, Thomaston; Dave Lepore, Proxy, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott.

Remote: David Cassetti, Mayor, Ansonia; Raymond Rogozinski, Alternate, Bristol; Joseph DiMartino, Mayor, Derby; Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour; Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury.

Guests: Watertown TTAC Members Paul Bunevich and Gerald Lukowski; Ellen Graham (Sen. Blumenthal), virtual; Jennine Lupo (Rep. Hayes), virtual.

NVCOG Staff: Executive Director Rick Dunne, Drew Baklik, Trish Bauer, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Demetre Coles, Richard Crowther, Rich Donovan, Kevin Ellis, Anthony Lagano, Rachel Leone, Mark Nielsen, Eytayo Olaleye, Christine O’Neill, Inez Ortiz, Aishlinn Parrinello, Kate Pipa, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joanna Rogalski, Craig Stevenson, Nicole Sullivan, Danny Thomas, Faith Thurmond, Matthew Ucci, Savannah-Nicole Villalba.

Public Comment

None.

ADD-ON

Ed Mone MOVED to add to the agenda as item VIII-5: Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Application – Waterbury SS4A Application Items; SECONDED by Bob Chatfield. Motion carried unanimously.

CNVMPO Meeting

As there were no agenda items to consider for the CNVMPO, Bob Chatfield MOVED to TABLE; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:16 am, Sep 15, 2025

NVCOG Meeting

NVCOG Administrative Items

Approval of 05-16-2025 CNVMPO/NVCOG meeting minutes

Bob Chatfield MOVED to approve the 05-16-2025 CNVMPO-NVCOG Minutes; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report for the period ending 04-30-2025

Rick Dunne reported that the agency's net position is just about even, and a balanced budget with a slight surplus is anticipated. We're at 83 percent of the budget 10 months through and 77 percent budget to actual. No cuts are anticipated. Additional funding was approved recently and some contracts with the federal government have come through. Interest income is over budget due to our changeover to ION Bank.

Ed Mone MOVED to approve the Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2025; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Approval of FY26 Budget and Organizational Chart

Pete Hess explained that the Executive Committee reviewed this budget and organizational chart at length. The team did a great job on this. Rick added that the agency is filling some vacancies and expanding staffing pending approval of the State budget.

Bob Chatfield MOVED to adopt the recommendation of the Executive Committee for the FY2026 Budget and Organizational Chart; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

Lease Agreement Update – One Exchange Place

Rick reported that the City of Waterbury is working through their process; the Board of Aldermen meets Monday and may vote on the lease.

Legislative Wrap-up

Rick spoke about PA 25-49, HB 502 – the Housing bill.

Drew discussed PA 25-6, the sunseting of the Transfer Act which will move to a release-based cleanup program; PA 25-80 which will allow municipalities to adopt an Ordinance

prohibiting street takeovers and lays out some potential penalties and fines and the ability to take the vehicles; PA 25-33, formerly SB9. Sections 18 and 19 deal with the transfer of development rights.

Rich Donovan discussed the CONDOT bill (25-65) which provides a long-awaited fix to the Department's ability to do rights-of-way acquisitions on behalf of municipalities.

Drew will send the report from the Office of Legislative Research, when released, out to the CEOs and TTAC Members.

RSG Notice of Grant Award

This grant represents the majority of the money NVCOG receives from the State on an annual basis. The workplan must be submitted by June 30th. We ask that the Board adopt the resolution allowing us to submit that workplan.

Ed Mone MOVED to ADOPT NVCOG Resolution 2025-20 – Regional Services Grant Award; SECONDED by George Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of New Staff Members/ New Staff Titles

Rick recognized and introduced the following staff:

Aishlinn Parrinello – Sustainable CT Fellow. Aishlinn is from Cheshire and is a rising Junior at Wesleyan studying psychology and environmental studies.

Community Planning Intern Rachel Leone has returned this year for the summer. She is from Wolcott and is a sophomore at BU studying environmental policy.

NVCOG Community Planner Matthew Ucci. He has his BA in urban and community studies. He started as an Intern, and we hired him as a planner.

Congratulations to Christine O'Neill, who has become a certified AICP by the American Planning Association's American Institute of Certified Planners.

Community Planner-Housing Demetre Coles. He's from Waterbury and has his BA in political science, his MPA, and MS in geography. He has worked in the community for a long time.

Transportation Planner Anthony Lagana is from Southington. He has his MPA and a graduate certificate in GIS, and BA in Urban Studies and History (double major). He was a Land Use intern in Thomaston.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

NVRPOCD Stakeholder Engagement Update

Savannah-Nicole Villalba provided an update on the progress of the Naugatuck Valley Regional Plan of Conservation and Development's Stakeholder Engagement. Thirty-seven interviews were conducted in 14 participating municipalities by Community Planner Molly Johnson.

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She encouraged the five municipalities that haven't yet participated to do so to assure that they're represented in what is being drafted.

SN then reviewed the key takeaways and overall priorities identified in nine categories and 59 sub-categories. Molly transcribed notes from those discussions and, along with Matt Ucci, reviewed the interview notes. We also received feedback on how member municipalities understand NVCOG's work and how we collaborate, and gained insight on how member municipalities see their roles in the NVCOG region.

We'll use the information from the interviews and surveys to inform the main sections of the RPOCD and will provide another update at the next Board meeting. Matt Ucci then provided details on the survey which can be viewed on the NVCOG website.

Community Planning Newsletter

Savannah-Nicole encouraged everyone to read this month's Community Planning Newsletter. It contains a Sustainability Spotlight on the Purchase of Development Rights and Transfer of Development Rights. Additional content includes an interview with Matthew Ucci, NVCOG's new Community Planner, as well as CAMA, NVRPOCD and Referrals updates.

Referrals Update

Emely Ricci reviewed the quarterly referral report and the 2024 Land Use Referrals Summary report. These reports were sent to the CEOs and Land Use Staff and may be viewed on the NVCOG website.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

FTA Capital Program Certifications and Assurances

Rick explained that each year NVCOG, as the recipient of the capital funds for the Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized area transit services, has to adopt the Capital Program Certifications and Assurances. Part of the process is the submittal of the checklist and adoption of the resolution certifying that we participate in and are in compliance with the Federal Transportation Program.

Joe Kilduff MOVED to ADOPT NVCOG Resolution 2025-18 – FTA Certifications and Assurances; SECONDED by Ed Mone. Motion carried unanimously.

LOTICIP Cost Change – NV0080: Waterbury West Main Street Traffic Signals

Kevin Ellis explained that the change is due to additional work being done in the RAISE design process to add two additional traffic signals, and the cost of inflation. The cost is \$2.2 million, up from \$1.8 million, and was endorsed by TTAC at its last meeting.

Ed Mone MOVED to ADOPT NVCOG Resolution 2025-21 – LOTICIP Cost Changes – Waterbury West Main Street Traffic Signals; SECONDED by Dave Lepore. Motion carried unanimously.

TOD Update

Nicole Sullivan reported that as of this time, five of seven municipalities along the Waterbury Branch Line have opted to join the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority (CMDA), with more municipalities able to join region wide. NVCOG is managing the ongoing process between municipalities and CMDA, and as NVCOG continues to grow its TOD in the region.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Update

Rich Donovan reported as part of being a direct FTA and FHWA recipient we are required to develop and maintain a DBE goal and program. Changes have been made to update the plan, which is managed by Desira Blanchard. A public meeting is scheduled for next week, and she has been conducting stakeholder interviews over the last several weeks. We are requesting authorization for Rick to sign and submit the updated DBE program to FTA.

Bristol Public Works Director Ray Rogozinski asked if NVCOG could provide a training seminar at a future date on DBE and meeting CHRO compliance for local contractors. Rick added that TTAC could be the appropriate forum for this.

Ed Mone MOVED to authorize NVCOG Executive Director Rick Dunne to sign and submit the updated DBE program to FTA; SECONDED by George Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

SS4A Application

Rich Donovan reported that the Safe Streets for All Grant Program has been ongoing since 2022. We want to apply for an implementation grant with the City of Waterbury. NVCOG would use a combination of SS4A funds with the non-federal match provided by the City to implement elements of the Thomaston Avenue Roadway Safety Audit such as new sidewalks, streetside amenities such as landscaping and street trees and narrowing of the total roadway. Any project that is currently identified in regional transportation safety plan using planning funds from Safe Streets is eligible for implementation by either the COG or the individual municipality.

Rick commended Staff for conducting these roadway safety audits with our member municipalities.

Dave Lepore MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2025-22, authorizing submission of an application to the 2025 funding round of the SS4A program; SECONDED by Bob Chatfield.

Bob Chatfield asked if there will be anything available in the future to deal with the rest of Thomaston Avenue.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:17 am, Sep 15, 2025

Rich replied that by implementing this piece on the southern portion, we hope to continue the work in coordination with the New Mix Project team as they work on early implementation projects in the City to help mitigate some of the problems that project may create.

Motion carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Brownfields

Ricardo Rodriguez reported NVCOG was recently awarded \$2.9 million from DECD for the complete remediation of 125 Canal Street in Shelton. This project started about a year ago with RLF funding. 113 Canal Street is ready for the removal of contaminated soil. We listed both sites as one project in the application.

The next DECD funding round will be opening in late summer. If municipalities have any assessment or cleanup projects they're considering, they should reach out to Ricardo asap. Assessment funding through DECD is a maximum of \$200,000 and cleanup funding has recently increased to \$6 million.

EPA recently awarded NVCOG \$2 million in Supplemental RLF funding. This will be available October 1st. We anticipate having approximately \$1.2 million available in subgrants and \$2-3 million available in loans.

All current projects are moving forward with no problems. NVCOG is assisting the City of Derby and is reviewing a remediation action plan for 2 Factory Street. In addition, NVCOG assisted at 90 Main Street and Main Street south in Derby in drafting RFPs for LEPs at O'Sullivan's Island.

Kinneytown Dam Update

Aaron reported that data collection is underway. Contractors have completed the aerial survey with helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. They've begun the ground truthing of that data from downtown Seymour south to the confluence with the Housatonic.

EPA will be in the field this summer for their Phase II Assessment work. Geotechnical investigation is underway in the canal between Kinneytown Dam and Coe Pond. There's a barge doing borings to see if we can relocate the sewer line into the canal during or after the dam removal.

NVCOG received \$25 million for Kinneytown Dam in the State bond package. That funding will allow us to move ahead with the sewer project. It will provide the non-federal match for the Congressionally directed spending funds we received and are looking to receive more of. Additionally, it will provide the CT Brownfield Land Bank with the level of comfort they need to acquire the property. We are moving forward now with property acquisition.

Thanks to Ricardo, we received another \$4 million from the DECD Brownfields Program to assist with the sediment management and remediation work. We requested a little over

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\$10 million in two requests to our Congressional delegation. Those are moving forward later this week.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Aaron reported that the region's Hazard Mitigation Plan that was published in 2021 needs to be updated every five years to retain eligibility for hazard mitigation funding through FEMA. In February this Board authorized staff to apply for hazard mitigation assistance funding through FEMA. We intended to apply for the Building, Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC). All 19 municipalities at that time submitted letters committing to participating and committed to the required matched funding. On the eve of submitting that application, the program was terminated.

We've been working with DEHMS to identify other funding sources to be able to do this planning process. We've been invited to apply for a separate FEMA opportunity called the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. DEHMS confirmed that there are funds, and we are eligible for them. That program has identical requirements to the canceled BRIC Program; it's the same match.

The resolution that was voted on in February for BRIC will cover the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and allow us to submit. We will need an updated commitment form from all the municipalities. We're finalizing that and will be sending a request in the next week looking for a quick turnaround on a new commitment letter. We are asking for \$300,000 for a \$400,000 project; there's a 25% local match that comes out to \$5,263 per municipality and are breaking that up over two fiscal years.

Waste Updates

Christine O'Neill reported that at the direction of the Waste Committee, NVCOG has applied for a \$65,000 grant from CT DEEP for a Regional Backyard Composting Initiative. The funds will be used to significantly offset the cost of 1,000 backyard composting bins for distribution to residents of the region, which could divert 250 tons of organic waste each year. Residents would order online at a cost of approximately 70% off and choose one of two pickup locations in the region. We are asking that the Board endorse Resolution 2025-19 so we can include it in the application, demonstrating the Board's support for the project.

Ed Mone MOVED to ADOPT NVCOG Resolution 2025-19 – SMMR2 Grant Application; SECONDED by Joe Kilduff. Motion carried unanimously.

Regional Waste Authority Study

NVCOG and Tetra Tech have been working with the communities to investigate the feasibility of forming a regional waste authority to address some of our waste management challenges. The study should be ready for review in July and will be shared with the Committee for their feedback. We strongly encourage the CEOs to carefully review the report to ensure the data is complete and accurate.

Mad River Watershed Based Plan Update – Christine O’Neill

NVCOG received a grant from CT DEEP to develop a watershed-based plan for the Mad River. The watershed spans most of Wolcott and portions of Bristol and Waterbury. The consultant has been selected, and we are working on the contracting process. We plan to begin our Steering Committee meetings next month.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Emergency Management Update

Drew Baklik reported that DEHMS has asked that we share two FEMA grants being offered until July 3rd. One is the Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) Grant, and the other is the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant). Contact Chris Babcock Christopher.babcock@fema.dhs.gov (202) 710-3748. Fire departments are the eligible entity; have your Fire Chiefs contact Drew.

Naugatuck Valley Corridor Economic Development District (NVC EDD) Update

NVCOG assisted Shelton Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) with closing out the active five-year CEDS plan and filed an annual report last week. Going forward, we are starting a new process with this CEDS. Drew needs a staff appointee to the NVC EDD Strategic Advisory Board from each municipality and is asking the Board to authorize the formation of that advisory board.

Rick noted that we have to comply with 13CFR that dictates the makeup of these Economic Development boards. We plan to do something differently – we want to make it a real tool for every town. We can do a lot with that.

Ed Mone MOVE to create the NVC EDD Strategic Advisory Board; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

ROUNDTABLE

Rick noted that there is a meeting scheduled for July – the intention is to cancel it – and there is no meeting in August. If a meeting is needed to act on MPO business, we will hold a brief remote meeting. Subcommittees will continue to meet as scheduled.

The next full Board meeting is scheduled for September 19th.

Mike Krenesky asked for an update on the ADA upgrades at train stations in Seymour and Beacon Falls. Rich Donovan explained that all six stations are advancing. Naugatuck and Derby/Shelton are being done as separate projects. The Department intends to bring on a construction manager in the next several months with early construction work beginning in the spring of 2026. Naugatuck commences construction on July 3rd.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:17 am, Sep 15, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:20 a.m., Bob Chatfield MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Mark Laretti. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk

Attachments:

- NVCOG Resolution 2025-19 – SMM Composting Grant
- NVCOG Resolution 2025-20 – RSG Grant FY 2026
- NVCOG Resolution 2025-21 – LOTCIP W. Main Signal Waterbury
- NVCOG Resolution 2025-22 – Safe Streets and Roads for All

RECEIVED

By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 9:17 am, Sep 15, 2025



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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RESOLUTION 2025-19

**REGIONAL BACKYARD COMPOSTING INITIATIVE
CT DEEP SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) is actively seeking ways to reduce municipal solid waste (MSW), divert materials for beneficial reuse, and save taxpayer money associated with hauling and disposal of MSW;

WHEREAS, NVCOG has held region-wide composter and rain barrel sales 2021-2024 and distributed approximately 300 composting units total, as a strategy to remove organic waste from the MSW stream;

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) has announced a second round of Sustainable Materials Management grants (SMMR2) with the goal of municipalities and regions “developing and implementing a wide variety of waste diversion and/or reduction programs and initiatives”;


WHEREAS, NVCOG has drafted a grant application for a “Regional Backyard Composting Initiative,” which requests \$65,000 to steeply offset the cost of backyard composting units and accessories for residents at a one-time sale, resulting in long-term diversion of organic waste throughout the region;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments authorizes and empowers its Executive Director, Rick Dunne, to apply for the CT DEEP SMMR2 grant program with the “Regional Backyard Composting Initiative” application, as described to the NVCOG Board, and to sign and execute all documents associated with said grant.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on June 20, 2025, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on June 20, 2025

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 
Ed Mone, Secretary

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FRASER • STAMFORD • SHELTON • SOUTHBRIDGE • THOMASTON • WATERBURY • WATERSTOWN • WELLSVILLE • WOODBURY

NVCOG RESOLUTION 2025-20

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE/RESOLUTION

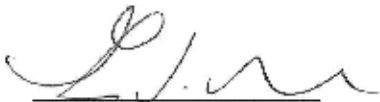
I, Ed Mone, Secretary of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, an organization (the "Organization") existing under the laws of the State of Connecticut, certify that the following are true and complete resolutions which were adopted at a duly called and held meeting of the governing body of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on June 20, 2025, and that such resolutions have not been amended or modified and continue to be in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that the Organization execute and deliver to the State of Connecticut a Notice of Grant Award (the "Agreement") for the 2026 Regional Services Grant.

RESOLVED, that Rick Dunne as Executive Director of the Organization, is directed to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Organization and to do all things necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.

I further certify that Rick Dunne now holds the office of Executive Director and that he has held that office since January 3, 2015.

I am signing this certificate on June 20, 2025.



Edmond V. Mone, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2025-21

**LOTICIP
ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR WEST MAIN STREET SIGNAL UPGRADES
WATERBURY**

WHEREAS, The NVCOG is responsible for selecting and distributing funds to member municipalities under the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program ("Program"); and

WHEREAS, Program guidelines stipulate that changes beyond the construction allocation require review and approval by the Council of Governments; and


WHEREAS, the current cost for the West Main Street Signal Upgrades in Waterbury, Connecticut, funded under the Program, has increased beyond the construction allocation;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments approves the revised construction cost estimate as enumerated and described in Memorandum 20250610- West Main Street Traffic Signals.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on June 20, 2025, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on June 20, 2025

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 
Edmond V. Mone, Secretary

RESOLUTION 2025-22

**SUPPORT OF THE NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SUBMITTING AN IMPLEMENTATION APPLICATION FOR THE
SAFE STREETS AND ROADS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the USDOT has published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for \$982,260,494 in grant funding through the *Safe Streets for All Program*; and,

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments has been in working in coordination with the City of Waterbury on the completion of and publication of the Thomaston Avenue Roadway Safety Audit, which recommends implementation elements eligible under the program guidance; and

WHEREAS, the NVCOG maintains a Regional Transportation Safety Plan that, in conjunction with the Thomaston Avenue RSA report, complies with the USDOT requirements for a safety action plan; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the Thomaston Avenue Roadway Safety Audit recommendations advances the region's Vision Zero Goals, aligns with the regional Metropolitan Transportation Plan and municipal Plan of Conservation and Development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waterbury has confirmed interest in the NVCOG submitting an implementation grant to build improvements to Thomaston Avenue between the CT Department of Labor and the project intersection with the ongoing West Main Street project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Waterbury has committed to providing up to \$1,026,000 in non-federal share to match any awarded federal funds;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments authorizes NVCOG staff to submit an application and all support materials to the 2025 funding round of the Safe Streets and Roads For All Competitive Funding Program; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Executive Director is authorized to sign any documents or agreements related to the application or acceptance of awarded funds associated with this application; and,

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