



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-735-8688 • nvcogct.gov

MINUTES – December 19, 2025

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments and Central Naugatuck Valley MPO

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702

This meeting may be viewed in its entirety on the NVCOG YouTube channel: [CNVMPO-NVCOG Meeting - December](#)

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; Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, Bristol; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager, Cheshire; Jennifer Mahr, First Selectwoman, Middlebury; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Tim O’Neil, First Selectman, Southbury; Paul Zulpa, First Selectman, Woodbury.

Remote: Frank Tyszka, Mayor, Ansonia; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Kristyn Rosa, Alternate, Oxford; David Sekorski, Mayor, Plymouth; Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott.

GUESTS: James Nardozi, Waterbury Development Corporation; Jennifer Brady, Federal Highway Administration; Meg Haffner, The Kennedy Collective; Representative Seth Bronko; Representative Arnold Jensen; Paul Bunevich, Watertown Public Works.

NVCOG Staff: Executive Director Rick Dunne, Drew Baklik, Trish Bauer, Desira Blanchard, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Demetre Coles, Richard Crowther, Rich Donovan, Thomas Dougherty, Kevin Ellis, Shahadat Hossein, Molly Johnson, Anthony Lagana, Timothy Nolan, Eytayo Olaleye, Christine O’Neill, Inez Ortiz, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joanna Rogalski, Craig Stevenson, Michael Szpryngel, Danny Thomas, Faith Thurmond, Savannah-Nicole Villalba.

Public Comment

None.

CNVMPO Meeting

Introduction to Federal Transportation Planning – Rich Donovan

Rich Donovan explained Federal Transportation Planning, which is the work we do as an MPO, the work we do as a COG, and the difference between the two. He discussed how federal planning dollars

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:01 am, Jan 12, 2026

fund our programming and the work that we do. He explained the metropolitan transportation plans that help guide the long-range vision for the region. The transportation improvement program (TIP) lists out the active projects and offers the control that the CNVMPO can exercise over how federal money is spent in the region. He reviewed the federal planning process our team does to ensure we are compliant with federal guidelines while working toward a well-coordinated set of goals. He detailed the MAP Forum, a voluntary association of MPOs and COGs from the four-state region around New York City.

2025-2028 TIP Amendments – Project 0170-3795 – Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations – Phase 1A (design/build) – Various locations (includes Waterbury)

Rich Donovan explained that this TIP Amendment is related to the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program and CT DOT’s implementation of that program along I-84, I-95, I-395 and Route 7. The local match is provided mostly by private entities.

Bob Chatfield MOVED to adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2026-04 – TIP Amendments – Project 0170-3795 SECONDED by Tim O’Neil. Motion carried unanimously.

NVCOG Meeting

Minutes for Approval

Bob Chatfield MOVED to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2025 CNVMPO-NVCOG meeting; SECONDED by Mark Lauretti. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report for the period ending 10-31-2025

Michael Szpryngel reported that as of October 31st, we are 33 percent or four months through the fiscal year. There have been no unexpected funding cuts, and there are a handful of grant applications still pending for upcoming fiscal years. NOAA has not yet released FFY Year 2 funds in the amount of \$10.7 million. Funds for Regional Services Grant of \$400,000 for Housing and Regional Waste Authority and/or Stormwater are expected to be received in February 2026.

He went on to explain the sources of funding for Operating Revenue and budgeted categories of Operating Expenses.

Bob Chatfield MOVED to approve the Financial Report for the period ending 10-30-2025; SECONDED by Paul Zulpa. Motion carried unanimously.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met earlier this month with the Auditors, King, King & Associates. They plan to meet again in January to go over the audit report. NVCOG will potentially release an RFQ for FY27 audit services.

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Director's Report

The CEOs Holiday gathering has been postponed to Friday, January 16th, due to the risk of Waterbury still being under a mandatory boil water advisory.

Rick reminded the CEOs that appointment spreadsheets have been sent out. They should update these and return them to pbruder@nvcogct.gov.

Orientation meetings have been scheduled for six municipalities.

The NOAA grant mentioned in the Finance report is the Kinneytown Dam removal grant. We have a contract; but funding hasn't been obligated for FY 2025. We expect them to release the funds and obligate the full amount.

At the Executive Committee meeting a Nominating Committee was appointed. It consists of Tom Dunn as Chair, and members Paul Pernerewski and Frank Tyszka. They will come back with a report and Election of Officers will be held in January. If any CEO is interested in filling a vacancy, please send us an email or contact Mayor Dunn directly.

The agency relocation is still on track for an early spring move to 21 West Main Street – One Exchange Place. The City of Waterbury will be our landlord. We have budgeted a deficit in the current budget fund balance to cover some of the moving expenses.

Legislative – we haven't received any requests from the CEOs. Let us know if there is anything specific you would like us to address in the upcoming session. We expect to work, as a region, on any fixes/repairs to the Housing Bill. We should have a full document and analysis of the bill by the end of January and intend to hold working sessions for city officials and commissioners around the state on how to implement it. Mark Lauretti wants 8-30g to be addressed. Rick explained that he would like to see it as an agenda item, and feels that while this is in process, 8-30g should be suspended. Pete Hess would like the Board to take a firm position on 8-30g. Rick will place it on the next Executive Committee agenda.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Introduction to Transportation Planning at NVCOG

Rich Donovan introduced the NVCOG Transportation Planning Team, consisting of:

- Rich Donovan, Transportation Planning Director
- Joanna Rogalski, Senior Transportation Planner
 - Transit, public transportation, Dial-a-Ride, paratransit
 - Federal compliance – Metropolitan Transportation Plan
 - Transportation Data – collection, analysis and interpretation

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- Kate Pipa, Senior Transportation Planner
 - Roadway safety, comprehensive planning and general engineering & support
 - Team members:
 - Kevin Ellis, Senior Engineer
 - Shahadat Hossain, Engineer
- Eytayo Olaleye, Transportation Planner, Research and Data Analyst
- Anthony Lagana, Transportation Planner
 - Data and spatial analysis, transit planning, collaborating with community planning
 - RPOCD
- Nicole Sullivan, TOD (Transit Oriented Development) Planner

The Transportation Team offers roadway safety studies, transit planning and TOD, data collection and reporting, technical assistance, and coordination with Federal and State partners.

Rich commended Desira Blanchard and the Communications Team for designing the new NVision Zero logo. He explained NVision Zero.

Funding Programs Update

BUILD grant applications are due February 24, 2026.

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Plan (LOTICIP)

This is a State bonded program. Dollars go to CT DOT and are split between 9 regions. The COGs administer the program. NVCOG is unique in that it maintains an open solicitation and does not cap project costs. Allocation is \$10.8 million. Guidelines are created by TTAC and adopted by this board. The towns pay for design. Rick described the financial aspects of LOTICIP.

NVision Zero Hub Site & Dashboard

NVCOG is nearing completion on its Vision Zero action plan. The public facing information may be found on the NVision Zero Hub Site and Dashboard found on the NVCOG website. [Transportation Safety Program – NVision Zero - NVCOG CT - Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments](#)

State Local Bridge Program Lunch & Learn

A Lunch & Learn will be held January 21st on the State Local Bridge Program. TTAC meets every other month. This will take place on the off month of the TTAC meeting.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Local Environmental Grant Support Update – Aaron Budris

NVCOG can work with municipal staff on concept and narrative development, mapping, demographic and environmental data, comprehensive application reviews and guidance, support letters, and regional project development.

Climate Resilience Fund Round II Regional Application – Christine O’Neill

This grant will advance culvert and drainage upgrades to 100 percent in nine municipalities that experience chronic flooding issues, making them shovel-ready for future funding.

Mark Lauretti MOVED to Adopt Resolution 2026-04 – Climate Resilience Fund Round II Regional Application; SECONDED by Bob Chatfield. Motion carried unanimously.

Household Hazardous Waste Contract Extension – Thomas Dougherty

The current contract is with MXI and has two options for continuance built into it.

Bob Chatfield MOVED to direct NVCOG’s Executive Director to exercise the contract’s options for 2026 and 2027 at the costs set in the original, base contract; SECONDED by Mark Lauretti. Motion carried unanimously.

Brownfields Program Update

Ricardo Rodrigues thanked all those who attended the 2025 Brownfields Regional Partnership (RBP) annual meeting. More than 70 attended.

RBP Municipal Services include:

- Technical assistance – initial site investigation, reviewing environmental site reports, and project management support.
- State and federal grant funding support – assistance in writing, reviewing and applying for grants on behalf of municipalities and other stakeholders.
- Expertise and support on how to navigate the environmental assessment, remediation and cleanup process.

The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) provides cleanup funding. Subgrants up to \$500,000 eligible for municipalities and non-profit organizations, and Loans up to \$1 million are eligible for municipalities, non-profit organizations, and private parties at 0% interest for 24-36 months.

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DECD announced their new funding awards yesterday. NVCOG received \$200,000 awarded for the Pin Shop project, and the CT Brownfield Land Bank was awarded \$200,000 for the Batchelder site in Newtown.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Emergency Management Update

School Security and Nonprofit Security Grant Programs will be opening up in early Spring. We will forward information as it becomes available.

LEOPs are due by 1/1/2027. The Region 5 contact replacing John Field is Chris Bernier - Christopher.bernier@ct.gov.

NVC EDD Update

The US Economic Development Administration (EDA) is offering the FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program. There is \$1.45 billion available nationwide from EDA. The grant is 80% federal, with 20% local match.

ROUNDTABLE

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:27 a.m., Bob Chatfield MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Mark Lauretti. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held Friday, January 16, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk

Attachments: CNVMPO Resolution 2026-04 – TIP Amendment – Project 0170-3795
NVCOG Resolution 2026-04 – Climate Resilience Fund Round II Regional Application





**CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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RESOLUTION 2026-04

AMENDMENT

**FFY 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
CENTRAL NAUGATUCK VALLEY MPO**

WHEREAS, the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO is authorized by the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)* and related US Department of Transportation regulations to prepare, endorse, and periodically amend a short-range Transportation Improvement Program for the 15-town MPO within the Waterbury Urbanized Area and is required to maintain a fiscally constrained program of priority projects; and

WHEREAS, the CNVMPO endorsed the *FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the Central Naugatuck Valley Planning Region (TIP)* at its April 19, 2024, meeting; and the US Department of Transportation (Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration) have approved the *State FFY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*; and

WHEREAS, the projects within the TIP are being changed by the project sponsors in the way demonstrated on the attached sheets; and

WHEREAS, the proposed projects have been reviewed for compliance with air quality conformity, and either are exempted under federal legislation or have been found in compliance; and

WHEREAS, the public notification and review of these amendments was consistent with and followed the procedures set forth in the MPO's public involvement guidelines, the proposed changes were posted for public review and comment to the EcoInteractive Portal for the CNVMPO prior to consideration, and the proposed amendments are consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Central Naugatuck Valley planning region;

BE IT RESOLVED that Central Naugatuck Valley MPO approves the amendments of projects 0170-3795 as demonstrated in the attached sheets of the FFY 2025-2028 TIP.

This resolution shall become effective as of December 19, 2025.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on December 19, 2025, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.

N. Warren "Pete" Hess, Chair

December 19, 2025
Date

DENVERVILLE • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESTER • MIDDLEBURY • NEWSTOWN • OXFORD • PLYMOUTH
INDERSIEP • SOUTHBRIDG • THORNTON • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WINDLETT • WINDLETT

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**RESOLUTION 2026-04
CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUND
NVCOG APPLICATION: REGIONAL FLOOD RESILIENCE PHASE II**

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) received a Climate Resilience Fund (CRF) grant from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) in 2024.

WHEREAS, the CRF grant aimed to address nine flood-prone culvert and/or drainage sites in Ansonia, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, Thomaston, Waterbury, and Wolcott that had been identified in the 2021-2026 Naugatuck Valley Multijurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

WHEREAS, NVCOG hired consultant engineering firm Luchs to develop 30% design drawings, detailed design reports, and grant-writing resources specific to each of the nine projects.

WHEREAS, CT DEEP recently announced a second round of the Climate Resilience Fund.

WHEREAS, NVCOG is working with Ansonia, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton, Thomaston, Waterbury, and Wolcott to submit another CRF application that will advance all nine original projects.

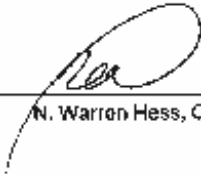
WHEREAS, the application aims to fund the development of 100% design drawings, secure all necessary permits, and prepare construction bid documents for each project.

BE IT RESOLVED, NVCOG staff will submit an application titled "Regional Flood Resilience: Phase II" requesting an amount not to exceed \$1,600,000 for the above-described activities to the second round of CT DEEP's Climate Resilience Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Rick Dunne, Executive Director of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, is duly authorized to sign any and all documentation related to applying for and accepting the award associated with the above-described CRF application.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on December 19, 2025, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut on December 19, 2025.
Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed, 
N. Warren Hess, Chair

ANSONIA • BRANDFORD • DEERFIELD • EASTON • CHESHIRE • DORRY • MIDDLEBURY • NAUGATUCK • OXFORD • RYLANDTON
ROSFORD • SEYMOUR • SHELTON • SOUTHBRIDGE • THOMASTON • WATERBURY • WATERBURY • WOLCOTT • WOODBURY

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