



**NAUGATUCK VALLEY
COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS**

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SUMMARY MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

10 a.m., Friday, April 17, 2026

(Immediately following the meeting of the CNVMPO)

This meeting may be viewed on the NVCOG YouTube channel.

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. by Chair Pete Hess. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and the roll was called.

CNVMPO CEOs (v=virtual): N. Warren “Pete” Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; Gerard Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Raymond Butkus, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, Bristol; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager, Cheshire; Joseph DiMartino, Mayor, Derby (v); George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; David Sekorski, Mayor, Plymouth; Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour (v); Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; Rich Sileo, First Selectman, Thomaston; Paul Pernerewski, Mayor, Waterbury; Mark Raimo, Town Manager, Watertown (v); Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Paul Zulpa, First Selectman, Woodbury.

GUESTS: CT DOT Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto; Mike Salter (CT DOT); Carlo Leone (CT DOT); Dr. Christian Kakowski and Dr. Wes Kyle (Trinity Health) (v); Ellen Graham (Blumenthal)(v); Farian Rabbani (Murphy); James Nardozi (WDC)(v); Matthew Abbott (CT DOT); Meg Haffner (Kennedy Collective) (v).

NVCOG Staff: Executive Director Rick Dunne, Drew Baklik, Trish Bauer, Desira Blanchard, Patricia Bruder, Heidi Coronel, Richard Crowther, Rich Donovan, Thomas Dougherty, Kevin Ellis, Shahadat Hossein, Molly Johnson, Anthony Lagana, Tim Nolan, Tayo Olaleye, Christine O’Neill, Inez Ortiz, Kate Pipa, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joanna Rogalski, Craig Stevenson, Nicole Sullivan, Michael Szpryngel, Daniel Thomas, Faith Thurmond.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF 3-20-2026 MEETING MINUTES

Tom Dunn MOVED to approve the minutes of the 3-20-2026 NVCOG meeting; SECONDED by Annmarie Drugonis. Motion carried unanimously.

SPEAKER: A CONVERSATION WITH CT DOT COMMISSIONER GARRETT EUCALITTO

[CNVMPO-NVCOG April Meeting](#) Commissioner Eucalitto's presentation runs approximately from position 32:32 through 50:58.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 02-28-2026

Michael Szpryngel reviewed the finance report for the period ending 2-28-2026. He noted that the report indicates a surplus because we're still working on hiring and achieving full staffing. Moving expenses are set aside and will be expended over the next several months. While there are no unexpected funding cuts, we received notification from NOAA that they will not be releasing \$10.7 million of a \$15 million grant we were awarded for the Kinneytown Dam Project.

Gerard Smith MOVED to accept the financial report for the period ending 02-28-2026; SECONDED by Paul Pernerewski. Motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rick Dunne reported on legislative changes, and the cancellation of the remaining NOAA grant funding of \$10.7 out of \$15 million. There is funding available from other sources to keep the project going through about July; we're not taking money out of these grants for our own work. We anticipate that \$25 million in bonding will be authorized in July meeting and then issued for this project. We will probably go back to the General Assembly for a larger bond authorization in the future. We are not stopping.

The majority leader's housing bill maintains the existing 8-30g moratorium status during the process, but does not institute a statewide moratorium until the regional plans were written.

One Exchange

Rick reported on the status of the current tenancy at 49 Leavenworth Street, which we are now occupying with no lease. The building may be sold soon, and we may be asked to vacate the premises. He explained to the board that, if necessary, we will go to remote work until the space at One Exchange is ready for occupancy. He thanked Staff for their continued work on readying the agency for the move.

Brownfields Active Projects Update

Ricardo Rodriguez reported the list of current NVCOG Brownfield projects was included in the agenda packet. He mentioned 777 South Main Street, Lot 19, Waterbury where active remediation is currently taking place with the removal of impacted soil.

The Revolving Loan Fund Committee met last week, and the Borough of Naugatuck was awarded funding for three projects: Parcel A, 6 Rubber Avenue; 0 Elm Street, Parcel Y; and 0 Elm Street, Parcel Z. Once the settlement agreements are executed the remediation process can begin.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

FTA Capital Program Certifications and Assurances

Rich Donovan explained that NVCOG serves as the FTA Capital recipient for the four Lower Naugatuck Valley towns. In coordination with the Valley Transit District, we are responsible for their capital program. Each year the FTA puts out of list of items to certify, and we complete our certifications and assurances. We are fully in compliance with the program and ask that the Board adopt Resolution 2026-09, endorsing these recommendations.

Tom Dunn MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution #2026-09 – 2026 FTA Certifications & Assurances; SECONDED by Gerard Smith Motion carried unanimously.

LOTICIP Cost Change – Intersection improvements at Plymouth Tory Crossing

Kevin Ellis reported, this project will realign the existing roadway to create a four-way stop-controlled intersection at the junction of Matthews Street, Judd Road, and East Plymouth Road – commonly known as Tory Crossing. The project was estimated at \$1.3 million in 2017; the updated cost is \$3.6 million.

Tom Dunn MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution #2026-10 – LOTICIP Cost Change for Intersection Improvements at Plymouth Tory Crossing; SECONDED by Paul Pernerewski. Motion carried unanimously.

New LOTICIP Project – N. Main St. Rehabilitation and Complete Streets Improvements, Beacon Falls

Kevin Ellis reported that this project is to improve safety, accessibility, and mobility for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles in downtown Beacon Falls. The project includes improvements along approximately 3,800 feet of North and South Main Streets, from Bethany Road (CT Route 42) to Church Street. The cost estimate is \$13.1 million.

George Temple MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution #2026-11 – North Main St. Beacon Falls Rehabilitation and Complete Streets Improvements; SECONDED by Rich Sileo. Motion carried unanimously.

Rich Donovan explained the importance of LOTICIP over-programming. Members should continue bringing projects to maintain the pipeline and support legislative funding requests through demonstrated demand. The next Board meeting will include a LOTICIP financial plan update.

Approval of NVCOG On-Call Engineering List

Kate Pipa reported that there were 23 responses to the Request for Qualifications. The committee reviewed the submissions and compared scores. The 15 top scoring firms were selected for this year's list, also endorsed by TTAC. Rick Dunne explained that we also have an on-call list for environmental engineers.

Kate will share the RFQ and scoring rubric with the Board members.

Paul Pernerewski MOVED to approve the NVCOG On-Call Engineering List through April 2029 with an option to extend by one year, up to two times; SECONDED by Paul Zulpa. Motion carried unanimously.

SS4A Application Submittal - PULSE Program in Partnership with Trinity Health

Rich Donovan introduced Drs. Kakowski and Kyle from Trinity Health, who explained the importance of having a physician-led response team carrying whole blood to the scenes of serious crashes. The concept builds on NVCOG's Vision Zero Action Plan. The Safe Streets 4 All grant request is for \$3 million with a \$600,000 in-kind match from Trinity Health New England.

Raymond Butkus explained that he met Drs. Kakowski and Kyle and viewed their presentation. Tom Dunn did as well. The data is so strong and compelling to support lifesaving in the region.

Paul Zulpa MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution #2026-12 SS4A Application Submittal – PULSE Program; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

2026 Drive Less Naugatuck Valley Challenge

Nicole Sullivan reminded the Board that this program starts on April 22nd, Earth Day. She will be following up with them in an email.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

NVRPOCD Focus Group Updates

Emely Ricci reported that NVCOG has hosted a number of events within the community and held internal meetings with NVCOG Staff. Two of five focus group meetings were held. She thanked the towns of Cheshire and Thomaston for hosting. The next focus group will meet on April 28th in Southbury. If there is anyone that hasn't received invites, or if there is someone you recommend that should be on our list, we will be happy to send those out.

NVRPOCD Photo Contest

Emely Ricci reported, the Community Planning Division is hosting a regional photo contest in collaboration with the Regional Plan. This contest seeks out photos that capture the region's unique sense of community, places and experience. We have seven categories for photos: architecture, art and culture, community and place of belonging, environment, community engagement, public events and transportation. This contest is open to the public. Photos will be illustrated in the report when it's done.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Emergency Management

Drew Baklik reported that the State Emergency Management Symposium is sold out. Attendees are asked to visit Oxford's newly formed K-9 Search and Rescue Team, which will be featured all day at the symposium.

School safety and security grants will be opening up within the next couple of weeks. You will be notified by your DEMHS Coordinator. It is a very competitive program. Connect with your superintendents or your school security folks and be sure to file applications timely. Contact Drew for assistance.

Region 5, which is very active in emergency management, is looking for more participation from CEOs. If you haven't had a chance to be oriented by Chris Bernier, he will come out and show you the ropes. Any Region 5 CEO interested in getting involved there should let Drew know.

Naugatuck Valley Corridor Economic Development District

Drew Baklik reported that the committee is working on the draft CEDS; it is about 85 percent done. He will have a draft ready in early May. There will be a 30-day public comment period, and we will be looking for Board approval either May 15 or June 12. After the CEDS development and adoption will come the implementation of projects and getting them funded. Rick asked the CEOs to please pay attention to this and put their key people on it. EDA funding continues. The goal is to present a draft to the Strategic Advisory Board late this month, or in early May. After a 30-day public comment period, we will send the report to this Board for adoption and submit it to Federal EDA uh by the June 30th deadline.

MAPPING, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Section 7-100I Parcel and CAMA Annual Collection

Richard Crowther reminded the Board that their towns' data is due to NVCOG each May and we review it and forward it to the State. He will follow up with the towns by email next week.

Urban and Community Forestry Peer Learning Exchange

Richard Crowther reminded the Board that NVCOG is co-hosting this event at the LEAD Center on Bank Street from 9 am to 1 pm May 6th. Municipal staff, community groups, committees/commissions are invited to attend.

Tree City USA Designation

Danny Thomas encouraged all municipalities to work toward the designation of Tree City USA from the Arbor Day Foundation. Email dthomas@nvcogct.gov for more information. Arbor Day is Friday, April 24th.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant

Thomas Dougherty reported that applications for the FEMA BRIC grant, which provides funding for hazard mitigation implementation, must be submitted through DEMHS via the FEMA GO system no later than July 1, 2026. Applications must be for specific infrastructure projects already with 30%-plus design or toward building code upgrades. DEMHS is holding virtual office hours from 11 am to noon every Monday from April 13th through June 15th.

Composter and Rain Barrel Sale

Christine O'Neill reported that NVCOG is holding its Composter and Rain Barrel Sale. Pre-order at nvcogct.gov/compostersale between now and Thursday, June 11th. Residents order online for pickup on June 13th in Thomaston or Seymour.

Resilient Forestry Practices Grant

Danny Thomas reported that up to \$150,000 for implementing resilient forestry practices on municipally-owned forest land will be available through DEEP's Resilient Forestry Practices Grant. Email dthomas@nvcogct.gov for more information.

ROUNDTABLE

Mayor Hess encouraged the CEOs to join CCM at 9:30 am Monday, April 20th at the Legislative Office Building, Room 1A in Hartford to discuss ECS Funding.

Rick Dunne reminded the members that May 15th is the next Board meeting, and after that will be June 12th, which is the 2nd Friday of June, because the Juneteenth holiday falls on the 3rd Friday. We have scheduled a meeting in July in case it is needed, but we often cancel the July meeting. There is no meeting scheduled in August.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 11:40 a.m., Tom Dunn MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Gerard Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk

Attachments:

NVCOG Resolution 2026-09 – 2026 FTA Certifications & Assurances
NVCOG Resolution 2026-10 – LOTCIP Cost Change Plymouth Tory Crossing
NVCOG Resolution 2026-11 – New LOTCIP Project N Main Street Beacon Falls
NVCOG Resolution 2026-12 – SS4A Application – PULSE Program w/Trinity Health



RESOLUTION 2026-09

FTA ASSISTANCE - CERTIFICATIONS & ASSURANCES FY 2026

WHEREAS, the NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (hereinafter "NVCOG"), has sought assistance from the FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (hereinafter "FTA") pursuant to certain Assistance Agreements; and

WHEREAS, the FTA requires that each Applicant which seeks FTA assistance provides various certifications and assurances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NVCOG makes the certifications and assurances as described in Categories 1 - 7, 10 - 14, 16, 17 and 20 of the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Certifications and Assurances for FTA Assistance Programs (hereinafter the "FTA Certifications and Assurances") and agrees that it has complied as of this date and that it will continue to comply with all the applicable requirements of Categories 1 - 7, 10 - 14, 16, 17 and 20.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NVCOG shall comply with all applicable federal laws, regulations, requirements and guidance applicable to the FTA programs for which the Applicant has sought assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director is duly authorized to make and execute the foregoing FTA Certifications and Assurances, and the Affirmation of Applicant contained therein.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut on April 17, 2026

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed: _____

N. W. "Pete" Hess, Chair

NVCOG RESOLUTION 2026-10

LOTICIP

**ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT THE
JUNCTION OF MATTHEWS STREET, JUDD ROAD, AND EAST PLYMOUTH ROAD
TOWN OF PLYMOUTH**

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 installation of sidewalks along Shrub Road in Bristol, 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 20260417-TORY CROSSING.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on April 17, 2026, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on April 17, 2026

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 
N. Warren "Pete" Hess, Chair

RESOLUTION 2026-11

LOTICIP

**ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR NORTH MAIN STREET REHABILITATION AND
COMPLETE STREETS IMPROVEMENTS
BEACON FALLS**

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on April 17, 2026, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the NVCOG approves the allocation of \$15.2 million in Program funds attributable to the Naugatuck Valley planning region to construct the North Main Street Complete Streets project as described and modified in Memorandum 20260417-NORTH MAIN STREET COMPLETE STREETS.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on April 17, 2026

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 
N. Warren "Pete" Hess, Chair

NVCOG RESOLUTION 2026-12

**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 \$993,488,194 in grant funding through the *Safe Streets for All Program*; and,

WHEREAS, the NVCOG has completed a regional Vision Zero Action Plan that identifies a series of regional actions designed to address the region's priority roadway safety projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments has been in working in coordination with Trinity Health and St. Mary's Hospital on the Prehospital Urgent Life Support & Expertise (PULSE) project, designed to equip regional emergency medical responders with equipment and whole blood during emergency response; establishing a regional Emergency Physician Response Team to bring advanced trauma care directly to the scene; and,

WHEREAS, similar projects across the country have demonstrated significant results in reducing fatalities in post-crash care; and,

WHEREAS, Trinity Health has committed to providing up to \$600,000 in non-federal match for requested federal funds; and,

WHEREAS, a number of EMS organizations around the region have expressed interest and excitement at participating in the program;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments authorizes NVCOG staff to submit an application and all support materials to the 2026 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,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments endorses the Prehospital Urgent Life Support & Expertise project as a regional priority and in accordance with all regional, local, and statewide transportation goals.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on April 17, 2026, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on April 17, 2026

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 

N. Warren "Pete" Hess
Chair