



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

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

MINUTES – October 17, 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; **Gerard Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls;** Jeffrey Caggiano, Mayor, Bristol; Andrew Martelli, Assistant Town Manager, Cheshire; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Joseph Kilduff, Mayor, Plymouth; Jeff Manville, First Selectman, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Paul Pernerewski, Mayor, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott.

Remote: Sheila O’Malley, Alternate, Ansonia; Steve Sordi, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Joseph DiMartino, Mayor, Derby; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, City of Shelton; Barbara Perkinson, First Selectwoman, Woodbury.

Guests: Barbara Kalosky, Northeast Transportation; Daniel Davis (Eversource); Ellen Graham (Sen. Blumenthal); Keyri Ambrocio (Sen. Blumenthal); James Nardozi (WDC); Meg Haffner (Kennedy Collective); Taijah Anderson (Gov. Lamont).

NVCOG Staff: Executive Director Rick Dunne, Trish Bauer, Desira Blanchard, Patricia Bruder, Aaron Budris, Demetre Coles, Heidi Coronel, Richard Crowther, Rich Donovan, Thomas Dougherty, Kevin Ellis, Lana Harrison, Molly Johnson, Anthony Lagana, Mark Nielsen, Timothy Nolan, Eyitayo Olaleye, Christine O’Neill, Inez Ortiz, Kate Pipa, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joanna Rogalski, Craig Stevenson, Nicole Sullivan, Michael Szpryngel, Danny Thomas, Faith Thurmond, Savannah-Nicole Villalba.

Speaker: Lori Martin, Executive Director, Haven’s Harvest

Lori Martin presented to the Board on Haven’s Harvest, a food donation/recovery program based in New Haven. She discussed bringing food recovery into regional planning so that food doesn’t go to waste. The presentation may be viewed on the NVCOG YouTube Channel at [CNVMPO-NVCOG Meeting - October](#). The presentation runs approximately from 9:38 through 24:01.

New Staff Introductions

The Board welcomed new Senior Community Planner Lana Harrison and Data Scientist Tim Nolan.

Public Comment

None.

CNVMPO Meeting

2025-2028 TIP Amendments – Project 0107-0181

Rich Donovan explained, there is one requested amendment to the 2025-28 TIP for today, for project 0107-0181. This amendment covers the preliminary and final design for the permanent structure that will replace the temporary bridge

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 10:50 am, Nov 17, 2025

on Route 34 crossing 8 Mile Brook in Oxford. It has been in place since last August, due to the flooding. A future entry into the next TIP will cover the construction phase for the permanent bridge.

Ed Mone MOVED to adopt CNVMPO Resolution 2026-01 – TIP Amendments – Project 0107-0181; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

2027-2030 TIP Schedule Update

Rich explained that the Transportation Improvement Program, or TIP, is a fiscally constrained four-year listing of any project that is to receive federal assistance in our region.

We typically update this document every three years so there's a year of time in between in case any issues arise during the adoption process or approval by Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration. This schedule will hopefully reduce the total number of amendments as more projects can be accurately represented in the TIP document itself.

Rich reviewed the TIP narrative, project listing, and public engagement phases timeline for the CNVMPO. He explained that the four lower Valley towns that are part of the Greater Bridgeport and Valley MPO will follow a similar timeline.

We will ask the CNVMPO to adopt the TIP document in March, and the new document will become the formal TIP for the region on October 1, 2026; but we do have until October 1st, 2027, or the start of Federal Fiscal Year 2028, in case there is a delay in that process.

NVCOG Meeting

NVCOG Administrative Items

Minutes for Approval

Ed Mone MOVED to approve the 09-19-2025 Regular Meeting Minutes; SECONDED by George Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

Financial Report for the period ending 08-31-2025

Michael Szpryngel reported on the finance report for the period ending August 31, 2025. Currently, we're at 13 percent budget to actual, a little lower than target as we budgeted for the full staffing plan beginning July 1 but just began hiring the new positions. Our net position is \$227,000. Unrestricted General Fund is over \$1 million. There is \$3.7 million in Deferred, and we're running below target on our G & A expenses. There have been no unexpected funding cuts. Two grants are still pending from the OPM/RPIA account, and some fee for service contracts. We are still waiting for NOAA FFY Year 2 funds to be released, about \$10.7 million, which is technically the 3rd year in the actual project budget.

Tom Dunn MOVED to approve the Financial Report for the period ending 08-31-2025; SECONDED by Ed St. John. Motion carried unanimously.

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Director's Report

Federal Funding/Shutdown

Rick explained that the federal shutdown doesn't hurt NVCOG directly in terms of our programmatic work. Most of the funding received from the federal government that we rely on in our regular budget is in place. The problem with the shutdown is that we don't have direct access to the funds for project-based things and we must go through a process to request a release of funds from federal agencies. If there's no one at the federal agency to release the funds, then that's a problem.

As Michael referred to earlier, we have a federal grant of \$15 million from NOAA for Kinneytown Dam. NOAA is part of the Commerce Department, and those dollars never got released in year three. Our FFY 25 request was not released by the time the government shut down, and that federal fiscal year has ended. In FFY 23, we had about \$2 million come in for the project. In FFY 24, we had about \$2.3 million come in. We had a request pending for \$2.1 million for FFY 25, and then in FFY 26 the balance of the funds would have come in. We're working on getting the \$2.1 million from FFY 25 released, as well as the balance of \$8.6 million to the full project.

We have had a great deal of support from the delegation on this, but we're trying to work within the administration and bring in various parties that would be helpful to us. We may have to accelerate some of the expenditures of state funds that we have, depending on how long the shutdown goes on.

Kinneytown Dam Update

The Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank (CT BLB) took possession of all the assets of Kinneytown Hydro Project Inc. last Friday. We have acquired all the assets of the federally regulated project for a dollar. The CT BLB controls the site and will operate under the MOA between the CT BLB and NVCOG. The land bank holds the liability, is responsible for the filings, and is responsible for managing it. NVCOG staff provides the capacity to do that work and is the fiduciary managing most of the grants, at least the federal grants, at this point.

We have over \$6 million in DECD Brownfields funding for this project. EPA is already \$1.5 million into the investigation of the site out of their pocket. We have another \$3.5 million of Congressionally directed spending that the delegation had lined up for the sanitary sewer work that has to go first in Seymour before the dam can be removed.

So that, together with the \$25 million that the state has allocated in bonding for this project, we'll start to draw that down, do the sanitary work, continue with the design work on the dam removal, and then tap most of the funds when the dam actually has to come down. Our schedule hasn't changed, we're still saying 2027 to have it come down.

CGA Special Session

The Governor has not called a special session for the housing bill yet. I have no idea whether it's going to happen, but I wanted to update you as it affects our planning, our budget, and our policy setting.

On the housing plan, we continue to develop policy positions for this region and will discuss it more at the executive board meeting next week. It's a continuation of our commitment to a regional approach to try to get both affordable housing and market rate housing built, focusing around our transit infrastructure.

In the bill that got vetoed there was money for COGs to do three things:

- 1) Run the Regional Waste Authority
- 2) Do floodplain management work
- 3) Do additional housing planning capacity.

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We moved forward with setting up these positions in Community Planning. We have staff assigned to solid waste and recycling but not staff that can permanently run a new organization. We're hopeful that whether it's a special session or it's taken up in the short session next year, that funding item will remain.

Executive Committee Session

Rick noted that the Executive Committee will meet next week to discuss the meeting and holiday schedules for 2026, a procurement process or extension process coming up for the Audit Committee, and the Legislative special session if there is one. Rick's performance review is also on the agenda.

There will be discussion about appointees to the Strategic Advisory Board of the NVC EDD. Funding did come through for that from the federal government. We want to make this an important factor for all of the municipalities in regional Economic Development and do a better job of lining up opportunities for funding when you all have projects that can be satisfied by that. We'll also talk about formally appointing an executive committee and operating committee.

Brownfields Programs

Brownfields Projects Updates

Ricardo Rodriguez reported that we received over five assessment applications for our recent Brownfield funding solicitation and will be scheduling an RBP and a Land Bank meeting to select new assessment projects. Aside from that, all active assessment and RLF projects are moving along swiftly. We're waiting to hear from DECD on three pending applications.

Two active projects, 113 and 125 Canal Street in Shelton, and 281 Canal Street in Shelton have made tremendous progress within the last month.

We anticipate DECD opening the next funded round in January or February of 2026. As a quick reminder to the board, it's a minimum of \$100,000 with a maximum of \$200,000 per assessment. Cleanup is a minimum of \$200,000 with a maximum of \$6 million. We also have EPA funding available. There is no minimum for these, but a maximum of \$1 million for the loans. And as a reminder, 0 percent for 24 to 36 months.

EPA has reached out to NVCOG to assist the City of Torrington in their most recent devastating fire. We had 10 LEPs onsite and anticipate having their bids within the next 2 weeks. The goal is to collect data on the piles and rubble, soil, groundwater, and get that to EPA.

Rick added that we are trying to schedule an RLF Committee meeting for the same day, about 45 minutes prior to the Executive Committee meeting next Wednesday.

Annual Regional Brownfield Partnership (RBP) Meeting Update

Inez Ortiz reported that the Annual Meeting of the RBP will be held from 2 to 5 pm December 11th at the Clocktown Brewing Company in Thomaston. This will be a great opportunity to learn what the RBP has accomplished this year and to network with other brownfield enthusiasts across the state. Registration is required and invitations will be sent directly to all member municipalities. We encourage you to share the invitation with your municipal staff, public and private stakeholders, who may be interested in learning more about the services we have to offer.

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Municipal Affairs

Emergency Management Update and NVC EDD Update

Rick explained that Drew is attending the NADO Conference. He included his Emergency Management Update as an attachment to the meeting packet.

Rick gave the Economic Development update during the Director's Report. He added that there are still four towns delinquent with their MOAs and Resolutions for the Homeland Security Grant Program for reimbursement. Drew will reach out one last time when he returns.

Craig Steven introduced himself and explained that NVCOG has been working with Jim Nardozi, President of the Waterbury Development Corporation, on our economic development district (NVC EDD). Jim has scheduled meetings with many of the NVCOG CEOs, and we've come to the municipalities to visit. He asked the CEOs to complete a survey letting us know how we can make economic development meaningful and better provide economic development support services for the communities.

Mapping, Data & Technology

MDT Lunch & Learn

Richard Crowther reported that the Mapping, Data & Technology Team is holding a Lunch & Learn at noon on November 20th. New staff will be introduced, and we'll review the services, such as trail and stormwater mapping, help with preparing maps for grant applications, and products like the new regional map viewer. The consultant working on the Parcel and CAMA Data Improvement grant will speak, as well as the State of Connecticut's Geographic Information Officer Alfredo Herrera.

Invitations will be e-mailed next week to GIS staff, planners, assessors, grant writers, public works staff, and parks and recreation staff with information on how to register. CEOs are welcome to attend as well.

Community Planning

NVRPOCD Update

NVCOG is underway with phase two of the regional plan process. In this phase we will be reviewing the regional and municipal action principles that have been approved by the Steering Committee. Invitations will be going out for the first municipal meeting, which will be held on December 16th in Cheshire. The first focus group is going to focus on the first action principle, sustainable housing development that includes a variety of options to meet the needs of the region.

Savannah-Nicole thanked First Selectman Mone, First Selectman Manville, First Selectman Smith, and Town Manager Martelli for allowing the RPOCD Steering Committee to hold meetings in their communities. We are looking for one more partner in the Lower Valley to host a meeting one afternoon. We anticipate 50 to 100 people. If you have a space or think that could happen, please reach out to SN.

There are still some members who do not have representatives that are participating in this process. We strongly encourage you to nominate someone to serve on the Steering Committee. If you have any questions, please give SN a call. She will be following up with those less-participating communities via email.

Comprehensive Planning Update

Savannah-Nicole reported that the Town of Thomaston voted to adopt their Plan of Conservation and Development on September 10th, and it became effective on October 1st. NVCOG staff had the honor and the privilege to facilitate this planning process for the Town. She shared the results of the poll given to the Steering Committee at the end of the

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process. NVCOG gained valuable feedback about how our staff did and found that participants strongly agreed that our staff are trusted as subject matter experts and have high proficiency in effectively communicating technical concepts. The committee, the community, and the youth were adequately involved in the planning process, and our staff treated the committee and the community with respect.

NVCOG is capable and prepared to facilitate each municipality's Plan of Conservation and Development or next affordable housing plan. If your municipality is getting close to its adoption date and you want to discuss this, please reach out to SN or Rick.

First Selectman Mone thanked NVCOG for taking the comprehensive approach that they did in its planning process. He explained that they filled a major need in getting this project done with a very collaborative and community-minded perspective. He urged all small towns who lack the kind of staff that a small town like Thomaston does to take advantage of what the Council of Governments offers in this area.

9/23/2025 Housing Coffee Hour Update

Demetre Coles reported that on September 23rd, NVCOG hosted a webinar in partnership with the Department of Housing and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association about the best practices for municipalities updating their CGS Section 8-30g affordable housing appeals list. The event was registered to provide certification maintenance credits for AICP planners. The coffee hour was attended by town clerks, assessors, building officials, and land use staff within and outside the NVCOG region. The webinar recording may be found on NVCOG's Education and Resource page. He reminded the CEOs that their municipalities' affordable housing appeals list is due this month.

Transportation Planning

LOTICIP Project Cost Update

Kevin Ellis reported on a LOTICIP Project cost increase for Shrub Road in Bristol. Cost increases are presented for approval when the construction costs go 20% or higher than the previously approved cost. The last approved cost was when this project was first put into the LOTICIP program a couple of years ago. This is the installation of sidewalks along Shrub Road between Route 69 to Jerome Avenue, and south along Jerome Avenue as well. The cost increases are due to inflation. The new project cost is approximately \$3.1 million, which has been reviewed and endorsed by TTAC.

Ed Mone MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2026-02 – Bristol Shrub Road Sidewalk Improvements; SECONDED by Tom Dunn. Motion carried unanimously.

Safety Action Plan Updates

Richard Donovan explained, the Safety Action Plan is the result of the Safe Streets and Roads for All award, granted in the 2023 award cycle. This plan is designed to use the available data and our interactions with your police forces, public works directors, and town and city engineers to make a data-driven report with a number of selected project options to move forward. Staff have been working to have a full draft of our Action Plan published by the end of December.

Anthony Lagana reported about some of the crash data analysis work that has been completed already, identifying the crash hotspots here in the region. Nicole Sullivan discussed the work NVCOG has done meeting with the towns and cities. Kate Pipa explained the Federal Highway Administration's proven safety countermeasures - the process we use to determine what the solutions are when we identify the problems.

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Rich explained that on the crash data analysis piece, any data that we develop, or look at, or use for planning purposes in this way is protected under Section 409 of Title 23, and so there's a lot more information about that if anybody has any questions. It is all non-admissible in court proceedings if it is developed for planning purposes.

Roundabout Lunch & Learn

Kate Pipa announced that NVCOG will hold a Lunch & Learn on Roundabouts at 12 pm Tuesday, November 12th here at NVCOG. The event will start with lunch at 11:30 in person, but there will be an online option available. CT DOT Senior Transportation Engineer Scott Bushy, who leads the State Highway Design Unit, will be our presenter. He'll cover the safety benefits of modern roundabouts, how pedestrians and cyclists use roundabouts, and a review of different types of roundabouts and critical design elements. The group discussed the safety benefits of installing roundabouts, and how they are becoming more accepted.

Transportation Guide to the Naugatuck Valley Region

Tayo Olaleye introduced the 2025 update of the Transportation Guide to the Naugatuck Valley Region. This new guide includes updated utilization rates from commuter lots throughout the region, and updated bus schedules for city transit. It provides visitors and residents of the region information about the various modes and options for commuting within the region. The guide is available on the NVCOG website under Current Projects, Transportation Planning.

Environmental Planning

Funding Opportunities

Christine O'Neill reported that there are five different funding opportunities being offered by CT DEEP. The Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant and Urban Green & Community Garden Grant are both due by November 3rd.

The CT DEEP Recreational Trails Grant has just opened for another round, and those are due on December 18th. All municipalities are eligible to apply. Towns need to provide a 20% match, but that can include in-kind services.

CT DEEP has announced a new round of the Climate Resilience Fund with \$44 million available to support planning project advancement and matching funds for federal grants to build resilience against extreme weather. Applications are due January 15th.

Lastly, the Long Island Sound Ecosystems Grant for projects that fit into two categories – habitat restoration or green stormwater infrastructure - is due December 16th. This funding is ideal for upgrading culverts, installing rain gardens, or helping communities with their MS4 objectives. All NVCOG municipalities are eligible for most project types, but Ansonia, Derby, and Shelton are further eligible due to their proximity to Long Island Sound for some extra projects.

MS4 Training Announcement

Molly Johnson reported that on November 4th, NVCOG, in partnership with the CT T2 Center, is holding an all-day Green Snow Pro municipal training that focuses on sustainable snow management practices and fulfills both an MS4 requirement as well as earned viewpoints toward Sustainable CT. This in-person training will take place from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, November 4th at Flanders Nature Center & Land Trust, 5 Church Hill Road in Woodbury. Registration will close October 28th. The cost is \$100 plus \$8.55 processing fee and includes lunch and course materials. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/green-snow-pro-training-tickets-1820720547169?aff=oddtcreator>

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CEO Roundtable

Mayor Hess wished a happy retirement to those CEOs not running for re-election.

Adjournment

First Selectman Ed Mone MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by First Selectman Ed St. John. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be held Friday, November 21, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk

Attachment: CNVMPO Resolution 2026-01 – 2025-2028 TIP Amendments – Project 0107-0181
NVCOG Resolution 2026-02 – LOTCIP Project Cost – Bristol Shrub Road Sidewalk Improvements

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RESOLUTION 2026-01

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 0107-0181 as demonstrated in the attached sheets of the FFY 2025-2028 TIP.

This resolution shall become effective as of October 17, 2025.

I do hereby certify that the resolution was adopted by the Central Naugatuck Valley MPO at a public meeting held on October 17, 2025, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.



Edmond V. Mone, Secretary

October 17, 2025

Date

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NVCOG RESOLUTION 2026-02

**LOTICIP
ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR SHRUB ROAD
CITY OF BRISTOL**

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 20251017-Installation of Sidewalks Along Shrub Road.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on October 17, 2025, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on October 17, 2025

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 
Edmond V. Mone, Secretary

ARSONA • BARNSTABLE • BETHLEHEM • BRISTOL • CHESTER • DEERFIELD • MIDDLETOWN • NAUGATUCK • OXFORD • PERU •
TICHOCT • SCHENECTADY • BRITTON • SOUTHBRIDGE • THORNTON • WATERBURY • WATERTOWN • WILCOCT • WOODBURY

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