



*House Bill No. 6706*

*Public Act No. 13-247*

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM  
ENDING JUNE 30, 2015 CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Sec. 249. Section 16a-4c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) On or before January 1, 2014, and at least every twenty years thereafter, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, within available appropriations, and in consultation with regional planning organizations, as defined in section 4-124i, as amended by this act, the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, the Commissioner of Transportation and the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to planning and development, shall conduct an analysis of the boundaries of logical planning regions designated or redesignated under section 16a-4a, as amended by this act. As part of such analysis, the secretary shall evaluate opportunities for coordinated planning and the regional delivery of state and local services. Such analysis shall include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of (1) economic regions, including regional economic development districts established pursuant to chapter 588ff; (2) comprehensive economic development strategies developed by such regional economic development districts; (3) labor market areas and workforce investment regions; (4) natural boundaries, including watersheds, coastlines, ecosystems and habitats; (5) relationships between urban, suburban and rural areas, including central cities and areas outside of the state; (6) census and other demographic information, including areas in the state designated by the United States Census Bureau as urbanized areas and urbanized clusters; (7) political boundaries, including municipal boundaries and congressional, senate and assembly districts; (8) transportation corridors, connectivity and boundaries, including the boundaries of metropolitan planning agencies; (9) current federal, state and municipal service delivery regions, including, but not limited to, regions established to provide emergency, health, transportation or human services; and (10) the current capacity of each regional planning organization to deliver diverse state and local services and to comply with the requirements of any relevant federal transportation authorizing acts. Such analysis shall also establish a minimum size for logical planning areas that takes into consideration the number of municipalities, total population, total square mileage and whether [the] a proposed planning region will have the capacity to successfully deliver [necessary regional services] sophisticated planning activities and regional services. Such

analysis shall consider designating rural regions in areas of the state that do not have urbanized areas. The secretary may enter into such contractual agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection. On or before October 1, 2013, said secretary shall submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters concerning planning and development. Such report shall provide the status of the analysis required pursuant to this subsection.

(b) Any two or more contiguous planning regions that contain a total of fourteen or more municipalities and voluntarily consolidate to form a single [regional council of governments or regional council of elected officials] planning region shall be exempt from redesignation pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, provided the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management formally redesignates such planning regions prior to January 1, 2014. The secretary may, in his or her discretion, waive the requirement that such redesignated planning region contain a total of fourteen or more municipalities.

(c) (1) The secretary shall, not later than January 1, 2014, notify the chief executive officer of each municipality located in a planning region in which the boundaries are proposed for redesignation. If the legislative body of the municipality objects to such proposed redesignation, the chief executive officer of the municipality may, not later than thirty days after the date of receipt of the notice of redesignation, petition the secretary to attend a meeting of such legislative body. The petition shall specify the location, date and time of the meeting. The meeting shall be held not later than sixty days after the date of the petition. The secretary shall make a reasonable attempt to appear at the meeting, or at a meeting on another date within the sixty-day period. If the secretary is unable to attend a meeting within the sixty-day period, the secretary and the chief executive officer of the municipality shall jointly schedule a date and time for the meeting, provided such meeting shall be held not later than two hundred ten days after the date of the notice to the chief executive officer. At such meeting, the legislative body of the municipality shall inform the secretary of the objections to the proposed redesignation of the planning area boundaries. The secretary shall consider fully the oral and written objections of the legislative body and may redesignate the boundaries. Not later than sixty days after the date of the meeting, the secretary shall notify the chief executive officer of the determination concerning the proposed redesignation. The notice of determination shall include the reasons for such determination. As used in this subsection, "municipality" means a town, city or consolidated town and borough; "legislative body" means the board of selectmen, town council, city council, board of alderman, board of directors, board of representatives or board of the warden and burgesses of a municipality; and "secretary" means the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or the designee of the secretary.

(2) Any revision to the boundaries of a planning area, based on the analysis completed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or due to a modification by the secretary in accordance with this subsection, shall be effective on January 1, 2015.

Sec. 250. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) On or before January 1, 2015, each regional planning agency created pursuant to sections 8-31a to 8-37a, inclusive, of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, and each regional council of elected officials created pursuant to sections 4-124c to 4-124h, inclusive, of the general statutes, shall be restructured to form a

regional council of governments as provided in section 4-124j of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

(b) A regional council of governments may accept or participate in any grant, donation or program available to any political subdivision of the state and may also accept or participate in any grant, donation or program made available to counties by any other governmental or private entity. Notwithstanding the provisions of any special or public act, any political subdivision of the state may enter into an agreement with a regional council of governments to perform jointly or to provide, alone or in cooperation with any other entity, any service, activity or undertaking that the political subdivision is authorized by law to perform. A regional council of governments established pursuant to this section may administer and provide regional services to municipalities and may delegate such authority to subregional groups of such municipalities. Regional services provided to member municipalities shall be determined by each regional council of governments and may include, without limitation, the following services: (1) Engineering; (2) inspectional and planning; (3) economic development; (4) public safety; (5) emergency management; (6) animal control; (7) land use management; (8) tourism promotion; (9) social; (10) health; (11) education; (12) data management; (13) regional sewerage; (14) housing; (15) computerized mapping; (16) household hazardous waste collection; (17) recycling; (18) public facility siting; (19) coordination of master planning; (20) vocational training and development; (21) solid waste disposal; (22) fire protection; (23) regional resource protection; (24) regional impact studies; and (25) transportation.

(c) On January 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, each regional planning agency, regional council of elected officials and regional council of governments, shall submit a report to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to municipalities. Such report shall include the following: (1) A description of any regional program, project or initiative provided or planned by such regional council of governments; (2) a description of any expenditure, including the source of funding, spent on each such regional program, project or initiative and a cost-benefit analysis for such expenditure; (3) a list of existing services provided by a municipality or by the state that, in the opinion of the regional council of governments, could be transferred to such regional council of governments and any efficiency associated with such transfer; (4) a discussion and review of the performance of any regional program, project or initiative, including any recommendations for legislative action; and (5) specific annual goals and objectives and quantifiable outcome measures for each program, project or initiative administered or provided by such regional council of governments.

Sec. 251. Section 4-66k of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

(a) There is established an account to be known as the "regional [performance] planning incentive account" which shall be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. The account shall contain any moneys required by law to be deposited in the account. Moneys in the account shall be expended by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with subsection (b) of this section for the purposes of [(1)] first providing funding to regional planning organizations in accordance with the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section and then to providing grants under the regional performance incentive program established pursuant to section 4-124s, as amended by this act. [and (2) providing funding to

the Voluntary Regional Consolidation Bonus Pool established pursuant to subsection (b) of section 4-124q. ]

(b) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be distributed to each regional planning organization, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars. Any regional council of governments that is comprised of any two or more regional planning organizations that voluntarily consolidate on or before December 31, 2013, shall receive an additional payment in an amount equal to the amount the regional planning organizations would have received if such regional planning organizations had not voluntarily consolidated.

(c) Beginning in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, and annually thereafter, funds from the regional planning incentive account shall be distributed to each regional council of governments formed pursuant to section 4-124j, as amended by this act, in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars plus fifty cents per capita, using population information from the most recent federal decennial census. Any regional council of governments that is comprised of any two or more regional planning organizations, as defined in section 4-124i, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2013, that voluntarily consolidated on or before December 31, 2013, shall receive a payment in the amount of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars for each such regional planning organization that voluntarily consolidated on or before said date.

Sec. 258. Section 4-124i of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

As used in sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, as amended by this act:

(1) "Planning region" means a planning region of the state as defined or redefined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his designee under the provisions of section 16a-4a, as amended by this act;

[(2) "Regional council of elected officials" means any regional council of elected officials organized under the provisions of this chapter;

(3) "Regional planning agency" means any regional planning agency organized under the provisions of chapter 127; ]

[(4)] (2) "Chief elected official" means the highest ranking elected governmental official of any town, city or borough within the state;

[(5)] (3) "Elected official" means any selectman, mayor, alderman, or member of a common council or other similar legislative body of any town or city, or warden or burgess of any borough;

[(6)] (4) "Council" means a regional council of governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, as amended by this act;

[(7)] (5) "Member" means any town, city or borough within a planning region of the state having become a member of a regional council of governments in accordance with [said] sections [; ] 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, as amended by this act.

[(8) "Regional planning organization" means a regional council of governments organized under the provisions of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, a regional council of elected officials organized under the provisions of sections 4-124c to 4-124h, inclusive, or a regional planning agency organized under the provisions of chapter 127. ]

Sec. 259. Section 4-124j of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

Within any planning region of the state a regional council of governments may be created by the adoption of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, by ordinance of the legislative bodies of not less than sixty per cent of all towns, cities and boroughs within such planning region entitled to membership on such council as hereinafter provided. [Where any regional council of elected officials, or a regional planning agency, exist within a planning region, a regional council of governments may be created either as hereinabove provided, or by the adoption of said sections by resolution of any such regional council or councils of elected officials and any such regional planning agency, and the ratification of any such resolution by ordinance of the legislative bodies of not less than sixty per cent of all such towns, cities and boroughs. ] All towns, cities and boroughs within a planning region shall be entitled to membership on such council, including any city or borough with boundaries not coterminous with the boundaries of the town in which it is located. Any nonmember town, city or borough entitled to membership may join the council by the adoption of said sections by ordinance of its legislative body. Any member town, city or borough may withdraw from the council by adoption of an appropriate ordinance of its legislative body to become effective on the date of such adoption; provided, however, that any such withdrawing member shall be obligated to pay its pro rata share of expenses of operation and pro rata share of funds committed by the council to active programs as of such date of withdrawal.

Sec. 260. (*Effective July 1, 2013*) The Commissioner of Transportation shall, within available appropriations, prepare a report on the redesignation of metropolitan planning organizations, as defined in 23 USC 134. Such report shall include, without limitation: (1) A suggested process for redesignation; (2) assistance that would be provided by the Department of Transportation; and (3) the structures and resources that would be necessary to meet federal transportation requirements related to planning, capital programming, project selection, asset management and performance measurement pursuant to the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act. Not later than July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall submit such report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to municipalities and transportation.

Sec. 261. Section 4-124l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2015*):

[(a)] Upon the adoption of sections 4-124i to 4-124p, inclusive, as amended by this act, or upon the ratification of a resolution adopting said sections, as provided in section 4-124j, by any

town, city or borough entitled to membership on a regional council of governments, the clerk of such town, city or borough shall immediately prepare and file with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his or her designee a certified copy of the adopting or ratifying ordinance, and, upon receipt of such certified ordinances from not less than sixty per cent of all such towns, cities and boroughs within a planning region, said secretary or his or her designee shall certify to such towns, cities and boroughs and all other eligible towns, cities and boroughs within the planning region, that a regional council of governments has been duly established within such planning region. Any subsequent ordinances adopting the provisions of said sections, or effecting the withdrawal from the council of a member shall be similarly filed. [Except as hereinafter provided in this section, upon the establishment of a regional council of governments within a planning region in accordance with said sections, no regional council of elected officials nor regional planning agency shall be subsequently established within such planning region. ]

[(b) If at the time of the adoption or ratification of the provisions of said sections by the requisite sixty per cent majority of all eligible towns, cities and boroughs within a planning region there exists within such planning region a regional council of elected officials, or regional planning agency, or both, the existence and activities of any such regional council of elected officials or regional planning agency shall continue uninterrupted for the duration of a transitional period commencing with the certification of the establishment of the council by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, or his designee pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The chief elected officials of each town, city or borough subsequently adopting said sections, or in the absence of a chief elected official, an elected official appointed by the legislative body of any such member, shall constitute a transitional executive committee of the regional council of governments during such transitional period. Any such transitional executive committee acting under this subsection shall have the following authority and responsibilities: (1) To draft and propose bylaws for adoption by the council; (2) to select and propose for election by the council, candidates for offices of the council which may include any one or more members of the transitional committee; (3) to propose staffing arrangements, for adoption by the council; (4) to prepare and propose, for adoption by the council, a program of planning and implementation activities, which shall provide for the assumption of such active programs of any such existing regional council of elected officials or regional planning agency, as such executive committee may deem appropriate and a budget for a period not to exceed one year following such transitional period; (5) to propose, for adoption by the council, the date upon which such transitional period shall terminate, which date shall not be later than one year from the date of certification by the secretary of the office of policy and management, or his designee of the establishment of the council.

(c) Upon the expiration of the transitional period provided for under subsection (b) of this section, the regional council of governments shall succeed to and be responsible for all of the rights, privileges and obligations, whether statutory or contractual, of any regional council of elected officials, or regional planning agency, or both, within the planning region, and no regional council of elected officials nor regional planning agency shall be subsequently created within such planning region, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

(d) If at any time after the establishment within a planning region of a regional council of governments the members of the council shall constitute less than forty per cent of all eligible towns, cities and boroughs within such planning region, the council shall thereafter be deemed

a regional council of elected officials without the rights and duties of a regional planning agency for as long as and until the membership of the council shall again constitute not less than sixty per cent of all such eligible cities, towns and boroughs within the planning region. Whenever the members of the council shall constitute less than forty per cent of all such eligible towns, cities and boroughs within the planning region, a regional council of elected officials and a regional planning agency may be established within such region under the general statutes, as amended. ]

LEGAL NOTICE TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE WESTPORT NEWS ON FRIDAY,  
MARCH 9, 2012

At the meeting of the Representative Town Meeting held Tuesday March 6, 2012, the following ordinance was adopted as follows:

RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the First Selectman, the ordinance adopting Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 4-124i through 4-124p as amended, providing for the formation of a regional council of governments; authorizing the town to join such council when duly established; designating the First Selectman as the representative of the Town of Westport on such council; and authorizing the Representative Town Meeting to designate an alternate representative from its members for a two-year term or until the next election of the RTM is hereby approved. (Second reading, full text is as follows.)

Regional Council of Governments

**Adoption of state law; Authority to join**

The Town of Westport hereby adopts Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 4-124i through 4-124p, as amended, providing for the formation of a regional council of governments, and does hereby join such regional council of governments when and as such council is duly established in accordance with said statutes, upon the adoption of said statutes by not less than sixty percent of all municipalities within the Southwestern Connecticut planning region as defined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management or designee, and upon certification by the Secretary or designee that a regional council of governments has been duly established.

**Designated Representative**

The First Selectman shall represent the Town on the regional council of governments. In addition, the Representative Town Meeting shall appoint one of its members as an alternate representative to the regional council of governments, which alternate shall serve a term of two (2) years or until the next election of members of the Representative Town Meeting.

Sunset Clause

This ordinance shall expire on November 19, 2013 unless a regional council of governments is duly established in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sections 4-124i through 4-124p.

Patricia H. Strauss  
Town Clerk

# **Council of Governments - Overview and Key Characteristics**

Prepared by: SWRPA Staff  
November 2013

## **Statutory Background - COG Requirement**

- On or before January 1, 2015, each regional planning agency must become a Council of Governments to continue to receive state funds;
- At least 60% of municipalities within a planning region must approve such ordinance for a COG to be recognized by the State of Connecticut;
- Local legislative bodies must approve a municipal ordinance to vote and receive funding.

# Representation

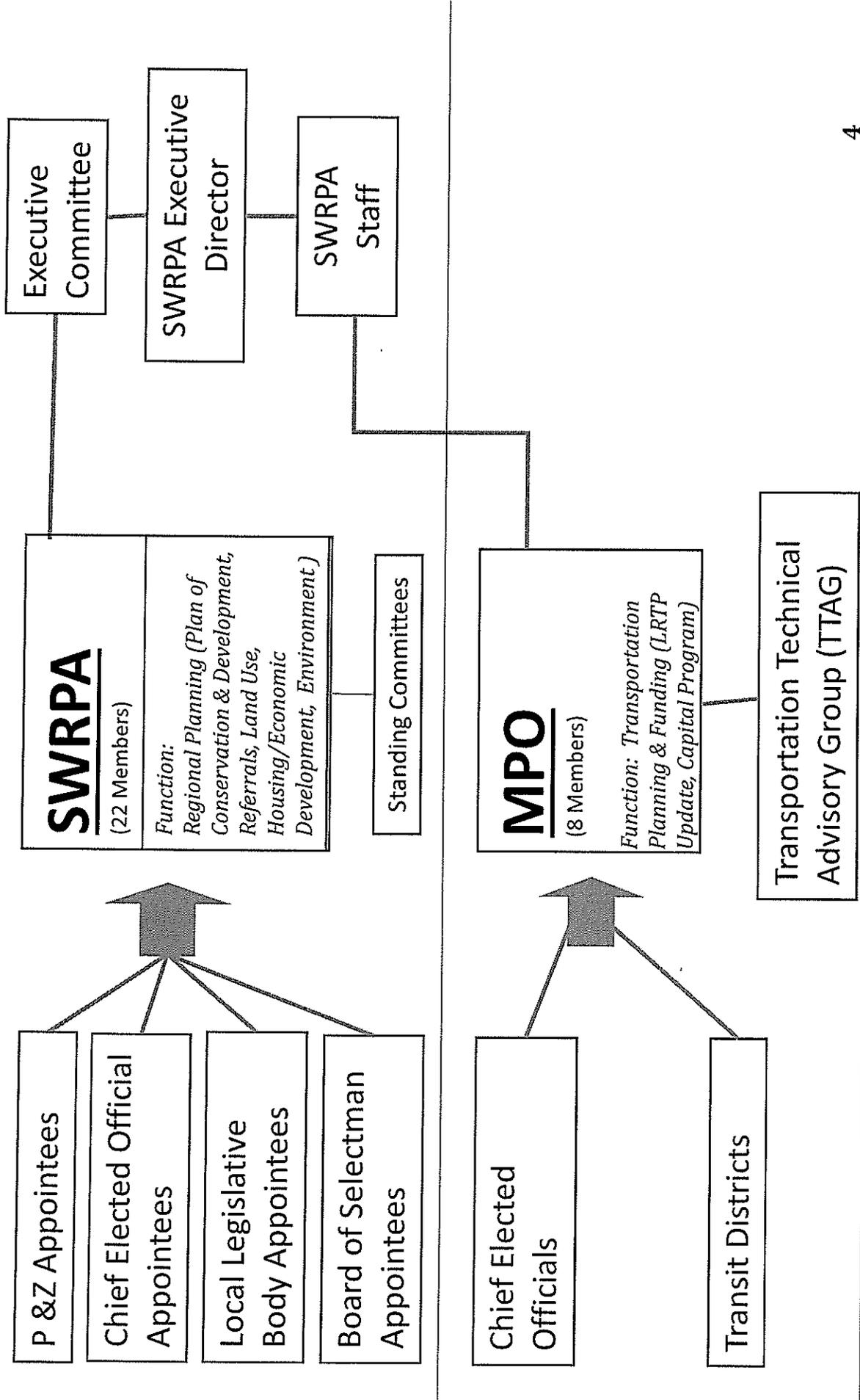
## Council of Governments

- Comprised of municipal Chief Elected Officials serving as representatives – 1 vote per representative;
- Regional planning commission (RPC) carries out planning duties and responsibilities in cooperation with the municipal Chief Elected Officials;
- Opportunities for volunteer participation on a variety of regional issues.

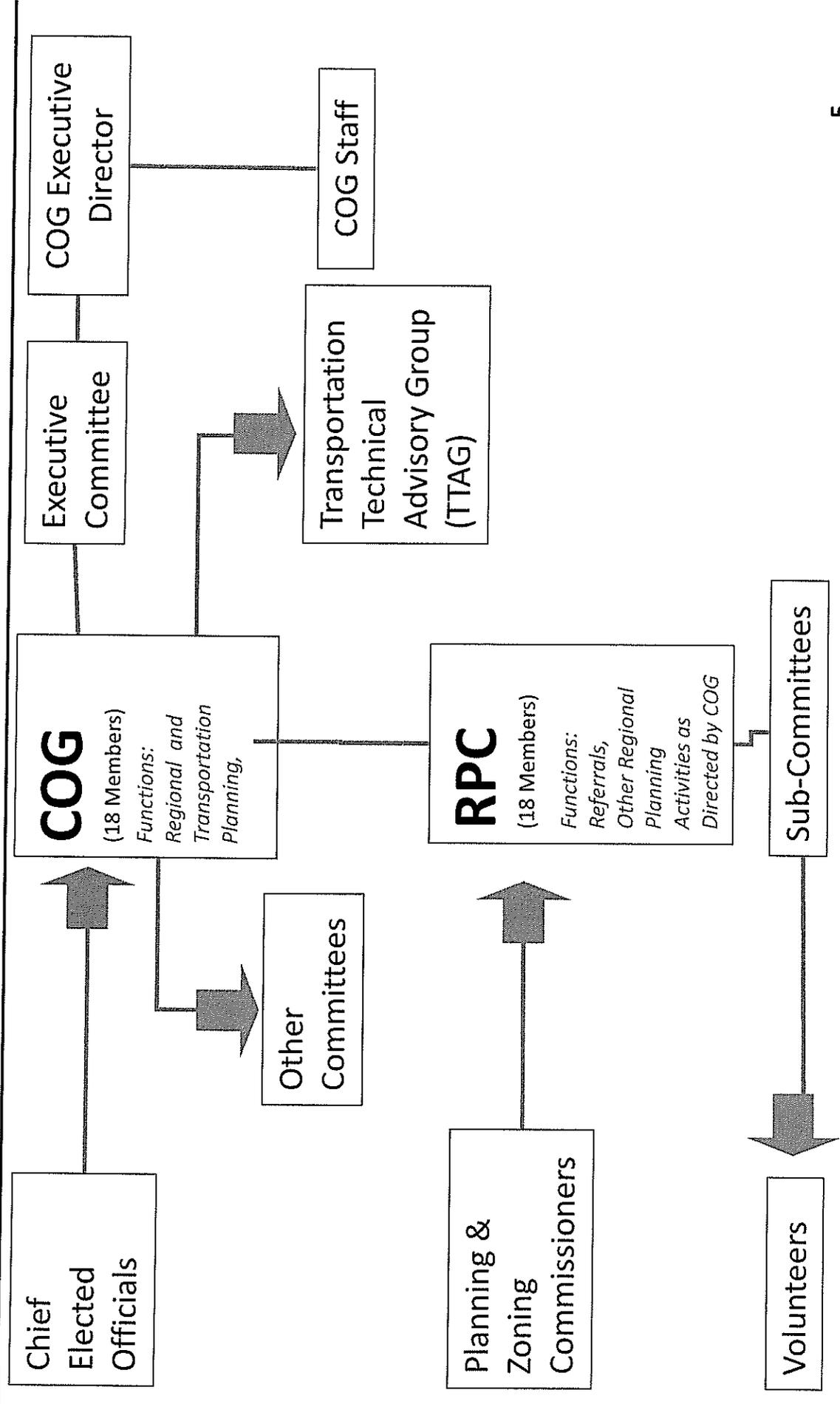
## Regional Planning Commission

- One RPC representative per COG municipality with one vote each;
- State statute requires that an RPC representative be a member of and appointed by their municipal planning commission, with the concurrence of the local municipality's appointing authority.

# Current Organizational Structure - SWRPA



# Proposed Organizational Structure – Western CT COG



## Top COG FAQs

**Will the COG be a taxing authority?**

No...

Connecticut state statutes currently do not provide a COG any authority to levy taxes;

## Top COG FAQs

**Will there be a way for current SWRPA representatives to participate?**

Yes...

The Regional Planning Commission may create any sub-committee it deems appropriate; volunteer members may be appointed by the RPC to such committees.

## Top COG FAQs

**Will local planning and zoning commissions have a diminished role in the COG?**

No...

Since RPC membership is to be comprised only of P&Z commission members, there are no seats at the table for appointees from other legislative bodies.

## Top COG FAQs

### Will the COG appoint members to the RPC?

No... state statute requires that:

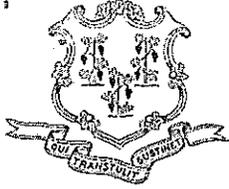
- The RPC will be comprised of local P&Z members.
- Local P&Z commissions appoint its members to the RPC.
- The local appointing authority must provide concurrence for RPC appointments.

## Top COG FAQs

### Will a proposed COG impact “Home Rule”?

No...

- The COG does not and will not have any authority over local decision making processes.
- On a regional basis, a COG has the same referral responsibilities as a regional planning organization such as SWRPA.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

December 6, 2013

Mr. Robert Byrnes  
Acting Chairman, South Western Regional Planning Agency  
Stamford Government Center  
888 Washington Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Stamford, CT 06901

Re: Request to re-designate planning regions

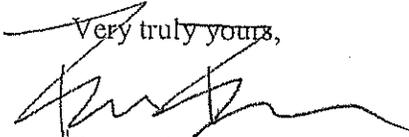
Dear Acting Chairman Byrnes:

I am in receipt of the request to re-designate the Housatonic Valley and South Western planning regions into a single, planning region, to be known as the Western Connecticut Planning Region. I have read your accompanying documentation and am pleased to note that this request has the support of the towns in the newly proposed region.

You should know that this office believes that the optimal region serving Western Connecticut should also include the current Greater Bridgeport planning region as well because of the strong ties between the Western Connecticut and Greater Bridgeport planning regions in matters affecting transportation, the environment, housing patterns, commuting patterns and the local perceptions of social and historical and cultural ties. As you know, the Office of Policy and Management is required to evaluate all of these factors while conducting the statewide study called for in Section 16a-4c of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Pursuant to my authority as set forth in Section 16a-4a (4) of the Connecticut General Statutes, I have re-designated the Housatonic Valley and South Western Planning Regions into one new planning region to be known as the Western Connecticut Planning Region. I hope that municipalities of this new region would consider a further voluntary merger with all of the towns currently located in the Greater Bridgeport Region. Please consider this letter to constitute formal notice of my decision and good luck to you and the other members of the region in your current and future endeavors.

Very truly yours,



Benjamin Barnes

Secretary, Office of Policy and Management

Cc: Matthew Knickerbocker, Chairman, Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials  
Jonathan Chew, Executive Director, Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials  
Floyd Lapp, Executive Director, South Western Regional Planning Agency



Benjamin Barnes, Secretary  
Intergovernmental Policy Division  
CT Office of Policy and Management  
450 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106-1308

September 27, 2013

Dear Secretary Barnes:

The Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO) and the South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA) hereby petition the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (CTOPM) to redesignate the Housatonic Valley Region and the South Western Region into a single consolidated planning region.

The new region will include Stamford, Greenwich, Darien, New Canaan, Wilton, Weston, Westport, Norwalk, Bethel, Ridgefield, Newtown, Redding, Danbury, Brookfield, New Fairfield, Sherman, New Milford and Bridgewater for a total of 18 municipalities encompassing one sixth of Connecticut's population.

We have determined that the municipalities of the South Western Region and the Housatonic Valley Region have a common character which creates a compatible regional merger. Residents of both regions live, work and relax in each other's area. Because we are demographically similar, our land use, housing, transportation, and approaches to municipal management are in alignment.

The proposed consolidated region has a history of cooperation on regional planning matters such as promoting upgrades to the infrastructure of the Danbury Branch rail line, supporting the design and implementation of the Route 7 Land Use Study, collaborating on a 38 mile multi-purpose trail from Danbury to Norwalk, and sharing the Route 7 bus service cooperatively run by the Norwalk Transit District and the Housatonic Area Regional Transit District.

In addition we have jointly protected the water supply watersheds that we share, have requested federal funding for an Army Corp of Engineer's "Reconnaissance Study" of rivers in the expanded region, and have held conversations regarding establishing a regional dispatch.

Further, strong joint regional collaboration efforts were established in challenging the FAA rerouting plan for landing patterns, which would have substantially increased the noise levels in both regions.

These examples are a foundation for a strong unified region and an effective council of governments.

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Chapter 249 §16a-4c(b), this merger is being pursued voluntarily prior to January 1, 2014. It is our understanding that this action exempts our regions from CTOPM redesignation described in CGS Chapter 249 §16a-4c(a).

SWRPA/MPO is aware that the Greater Bridgeport Region passed a resolution petitioning OPM to merge with SWRPA. That action by Greater Bridgeport was unilateral and is not supported by SWRPA.

This transmittal provides the following documents that support consolidation of the regions:

- HVCEO Resolution dated September 19, 2013
- SWRPA Resolution dated September 9, 2013
- SWRMPO Resolution dated August 29, 2013
- SWRMPO Resolution dated September 26, 2013
- Maps of current and proposed regional boundaries

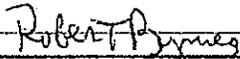
We look forward to your approval of the requested redesignation. Please confirm receipt of this communication, and provide information on the next steps and timetable for redesignation to become recognized formally by the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Matthew Knickerbocker, Chairman, Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials  
on behalf of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield,  
New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman



Robert Bymes, Chairman, South Western Regional Planning Agency  
on behalf of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford,  
Weston, Westport and Wilton (Acting Chairman)

cc:

- David LeVasseur, Undersecretary, Intergovernmental Policy, OPM
- HVCEO Chief Elected Officials
- SWRPA Board Members
- SWRMPO Chief Elected Officials
- Jonathan Chew, Executive Director, Housatonic Valley GEO
- Floyd Lepp, Executive Director, South Western RPA

**9/19/2013 MINUTES EXCERPT****HVCEO ENDORSEMENT OF  
MERGER APPLICATION WITH  
SWRPA IS ITEM 5 BELOW****REGIONAL BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The five Committee members, Matt Knickerbocker, Curtis Read, Mark Boughton, Susan Chapman and Ridgefield Rudy Marconi, then gave their report. It included the following recommendations:

**1. SELECTION OF REGION FOR MERGER NEGOTIATIONS**

Of the adjacent regions having common interests with the Housatonic Valley Region, based upon the HVCEO research report dated 1/17/2013 and entitled "Boundary Review for the Greater Danbury Region" the Committee's conclusion is that the South West Region has the most interregional ties.

**2. AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTH WEST REGION**

At the 8/15 HVCEO meeting four municipal chief executives from the South West Region proposed creation of a joint committee from each region to plan a merger. We recommend that this invitation be accepted on 9/19, with the current committee empowered to conduct the negotiations.

**3. OBTAIN BENEFIT OF PROACTIVE MERGER**

If HVCEO self-selects a merger partner prior to 12/31/2013, it avoids a potentially adverse state order to merge in another direction. This is an incentive provision in the regional reorganization statute.

Use of this early decision provision to avoid a state order requires a minimum of 14 municipalities within a new, larger region. The proposed merger of HVCEO with SWRPA yields 18 municipalities and would include a substantial one sixth of Connecticut's population.

The statute also offers bonus operating funds if the early decision self-selection provision is utilized. We should seek to qualify for those funds.

**4. NOTIFY OPM OF NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO 10/1**

While the statutory authorization to self-select a merger partner extends until 12/31, on 10/1 OPM releases a draft of its merger plan. It would be advantageous to see the proposed 18 town region incorporated into that draft CT OPM plan, rather than find ourselves possibly opposed to a less acceptable draft state plan.

**5. AUTHORIZE JOINT APPLICATION TO OPM**

That the Council authorize a joint application with SWRPA to OPM for formal HVCEO - SWRPA planning boundary consolidation.

There was considerable discussion of the Committee's recommendations. It was agreed that while SWRPA is a desirable merger partner, the Danbury Area will still need to have its separate communications and, for some variables such as DEMHS Region 5 emergency management, subregional planning.

There was additional discussion, with members agreeing with Chairman Knickerbocker's overview that the merger with SWRPA is "the least painful way of doing something we didn't want to do to begin with."

Then on a motion made by Rudy Marconi and seconded by Pat Murphy, members endorsed the committee's five recommendations.



Stamford Government Center  
888 Washington Boulevard, 3rd Floor  
Stamford, Connecticut 06901  
203 316 5190 PHONE  
203 316 4995 FAX  
www.swrpa.org

Resolution of the  
South Western Regional Planning Agency

Supporting the Merger of South Western Region with Housatonic Valley Region

Stamford, Connecticut

I, Phyllis Pugliesi, Secretary of the South Western Regional Planning Agency, (the "Agency"), certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Agency at its meeting on September 9, 2013 in Stamford, Connecticut, a quorum being present:

RESOLVED, that the South Western Regional Planning Agency hereby supports, in conjunction with the South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, the desirability of a merger with the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials.

This resolution remains in full force and effect as of September 9, 2013.

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Dated at Stamford, Connecticut on this Ninth Day of September 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis Pugliesi  
Secretary

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**SOUTH WESTERN REGION  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

DARIEN • GREENWICH • NEW CANAAN • NORWALK • STAMFORD • WESTON • WESTPORT • WILTON  
888 WASHINGTON BOULEVARD • STAMFORD, CT 06901 • (203) 316-5190 • FAX (203) 316-4995

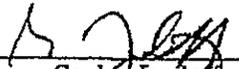
**Resolution#2013-012 South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Support  
for Consolidation of South Western Region with Housatonic Valley  
Region – August 29, 2013**

**Be it resolved that the South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby:**

**Strongly urges the South Western Regional Planning Agency board to consider a merger with the  
Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials.**

**This resolution is effective August 29, 2013.**

**Date: August 29, 2013**

  
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Gordon Joseloff  
Chairman

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**SOUTH WESTERN REGION**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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**Resolution#2013-016 Support for the Voluntary Consolidation of the South Western Region with the Housatonic Valley Region and Redesignation of the Planning Region by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management – September 26, 2013**

**WHEREAS,**

South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO) is composed of the chief elected officials of the municipalities of Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport and Wilton, along with representatives from the region's transit districts, and operates under 23 U.S.C. § 134 (2013).

**WHEREAS,**

SWRMPO has examined the statutes governing redesignation of planning regions by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management contained at Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-4c(b) (2013) and has determined that a voluntary consolidation of the South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region is desirable;

**WHEREAS,**

This voluntary consolidation will exempt the South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region from redesignation by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management according to the procedure set forth at Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16a-4c(a) (2013);

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**WHEREAS,**

The South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region are contiguous and together contain a total of eighteen municipalities;

**WHEREAS,**

The South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region share many common interests and characteristics encompassing land use, housing, environment, economic development and transportation;

**WHEREAS,**

The proposed consolidated region has a history of cooperation on regional planning matters such as: transportation and land use, i.e., upgrading the infrastructure of the Danbury rail branch line, 7Link bus service between Norwalk and Danbury co-operated by the Norwalk Transit District and Housatonic Area Transit, and, design/implementation of the Route 7 Land Use Study. Several municipalities spanning both regions have had conversations regarding establishing a Regional Dispatch. Further, strong joint regional collaboration efforts were established in challenging the FAA re-routing landing patterns, which would have substantially increased the noise levels in both regions. These examples support a foundation for a strong unified region and future council of governments.

**WHEREAS,**

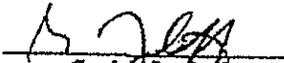
The SWRMPO supports the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management consolidation of the South Western Region and the Housatonic Valley Region into a single consolidated region prior to January 1, 2014;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTH WESTERN REGION MPO THAT:**

The SWRMPO supports the voluntary consolidation of the South Western Region and Housatonic Valley Region and recommends that the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management formally redesignate the consolidated planning region prior to January 1, 2014.

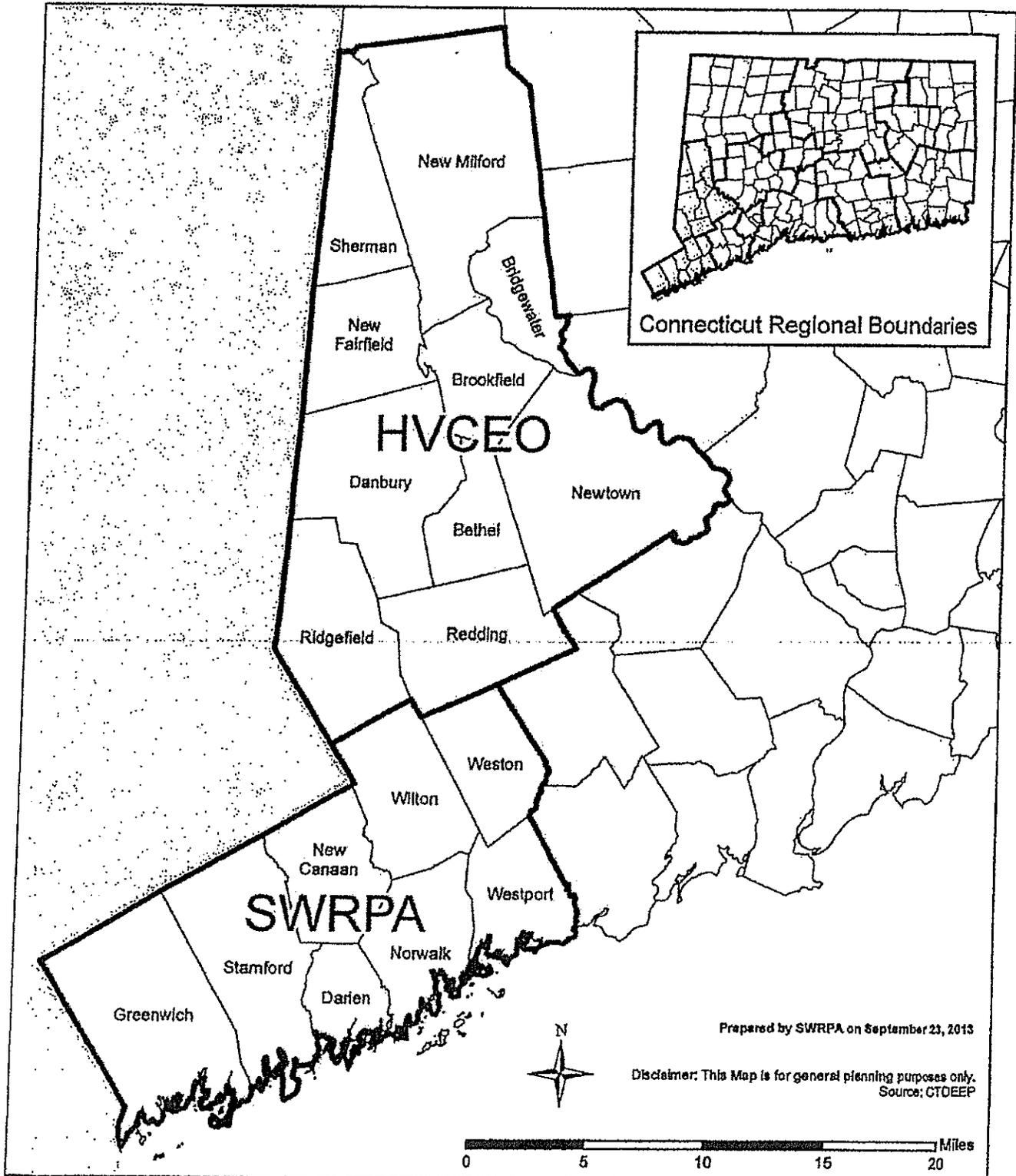
This resolution is effective September 26, 2013.

Date: September 26, 2013.

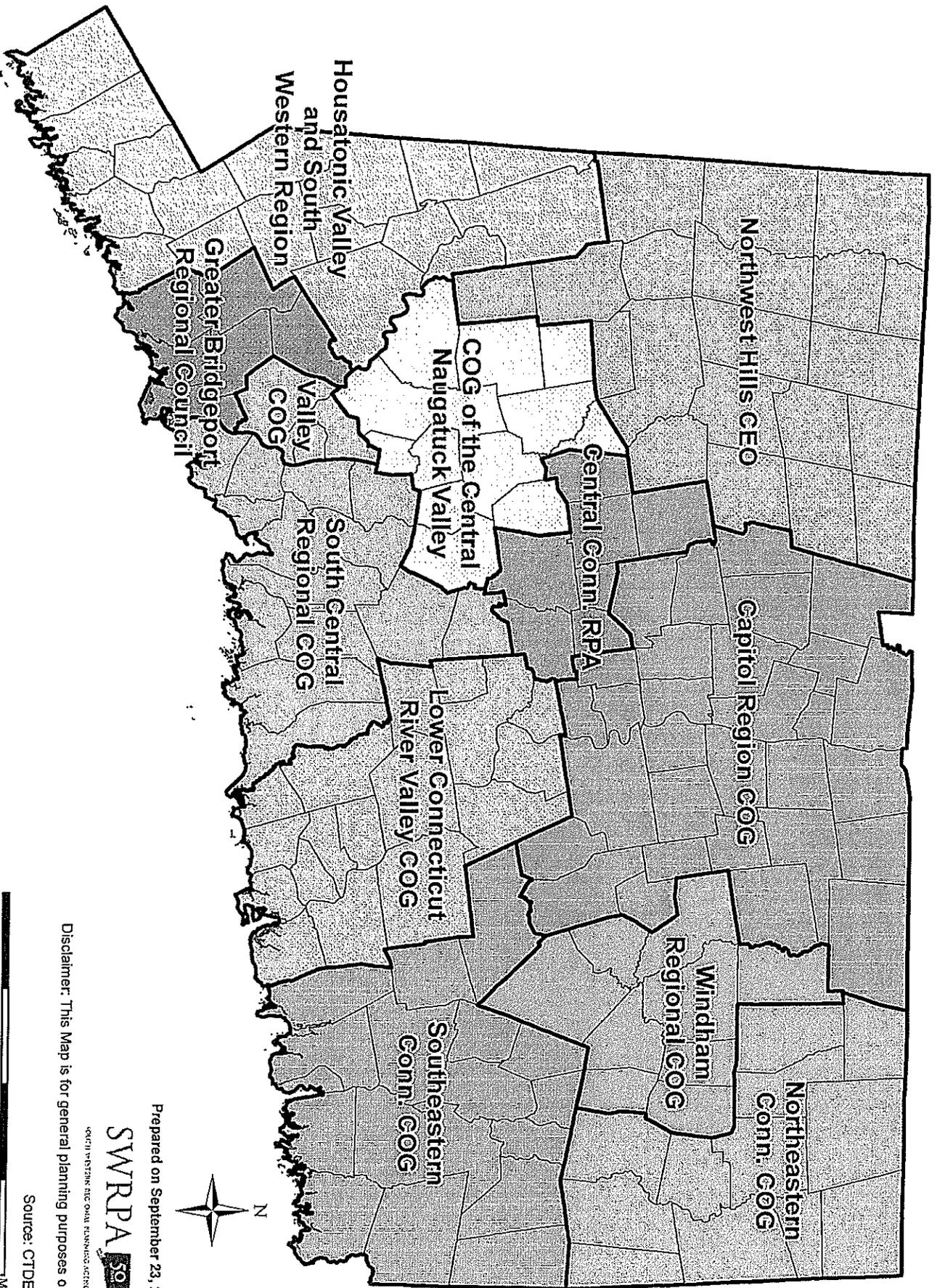
  
Gordon Joseloff  
Chairman

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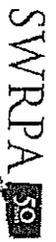
# Existing SWRPA & HVCEO Regions and Municipalities September 2013



# Statewide RPO's: Proposed Merger of SWRPA & HVCEO



Prepared on September 23, 2013



REGIONAL PLANNING AND DATA TECHNOLOGY AGENCY

Disclaimer: This Map is for general planning purposes only.

Source: CTDEEP



June 28, 2013

## SWRPA FUNDING – TRANSPORTATION & REGIONAL PLANNING

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### BACKGROUND AND FUNDING GOALS

- Since 1962, SWRPA has served as both a regional planning and transportation planning organization. Although transportation planning funds have either remained constant or increased, regional planning funds have decreased during this period. These trends are illustrated in **Figure 1**
- Our major funding challenge is to grow regional planning revenue while acknowledging that currently between 80-85% of our funding streams are for transportation planning. This effort has met with mixed results as described below:

### SELECTED MIXED RESULTS WITH REGIONAL PLANNING FUNDING

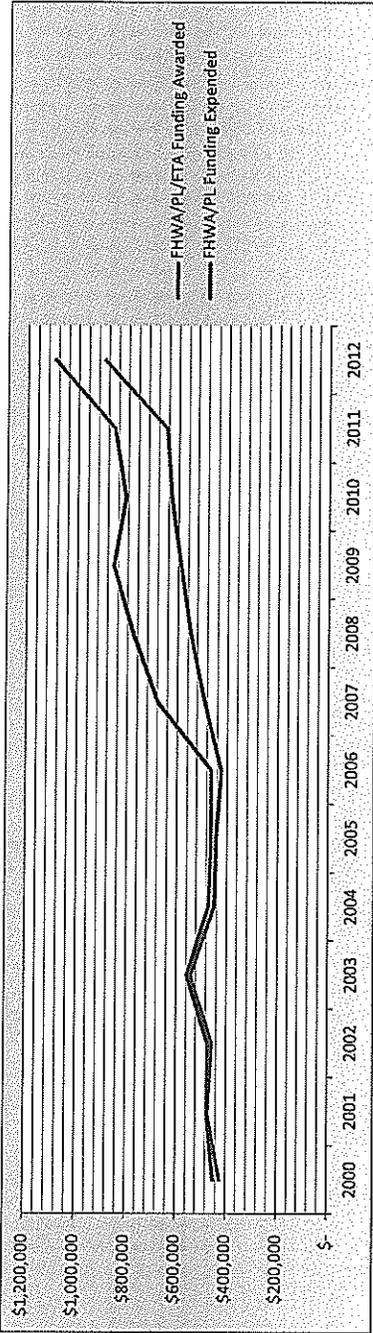
- With the Comprehensive Economic Development program, which also included participation by the Greater Bridgeport Region, we tried to grow funding from USEDA for economic development, only to learn that with limited funds they only were able to triage. SWRPA region economies were too vibrant to become eligible for funding, thereby leaving only the City of Bridgeport as an option.
- With DEEP we did gain funding for watershed planning but these grants will not be continued:
  - In light of this situation, we filed an application for a Regional Incentive Performance Grant (RPI) to receive funds for implementation of the watershed plans and we are currently awaiting the results;
  - We were successful in securing funds for the update of the Predisaster Mitigation Plan in 2010 and were recently awarded another application for new funding for the 2015 update.
- The Sustainable Communities Initiative Grant (SCI) was applied for with a large NY/CT Consortium and was funded for three years. Unfortunately, after February 2014 will not be renewed.
  - At my request Mayor Pavia agreed to let us manage their place-based project along East Main Street in Stamford, but this will conclude in September; however, funding for implementation is non-existent.
- The Regional Performance Incentive Grant (RPI) for aerial photography and improved GIS data services is our best example of how SWRPA, as a regional planning agency, can save money for municipalities through an inter-municipal approach that capitalizes on economies of scale. We need more of these opportunities.
- DEEP Flood Hazard Mitigation Study is awaiting FEMA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' funding and participation.
- Local dues have been held constant since 2009 to reflect the tough economic times and to respect the financial challenges also faced by our member municipalities. For the two budget years before 2009 during better economic times, we recommended a 5%, then a 10% dues increase, and these were approved unanimously.

### REGIONAL PLANNING FUNDING TRENDS FY2009-2013 – THE PAST TEN YEARS

- **Figure 2** shows the trends in regional planning funding for the past ten years.

**FIGURE 1 - SWRPA - Twelve-Year History of Federal Highway Planning Grant and State Grant-in-Aid Awards**

Fiscal Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
FHWA/PL/FTA Funding Awarded	\$ 451,417	\$ 477,888	\$ 476,080	\$ 560,255	\$ 475,669	\$ 465,649	\$ 467,145	\$ 680,742	\$ 779,222	\$ 859,463	\$ 812,548	\$ 858,497	\$ 1,096,531
FHWA/PL Funding Expended	\$ 427,823	\$ 477,888	\$ 460,062	\$ 545,577	\$ 453,737	\$ 446,928	\$ 427,052	\$ 492,475	\$ 550,406	\$ 591,007	\$ 629,974	\$ 649,730	\$ 897,554
Unexpended Revenue	\$ 23,594	\$ -	\$ 16,018	\$ 14,678	\$ 21,932	\$ 18,721	\$ 40,093	\$ 188,267	\$ 228,816	\$ 268,456	\$ 182,574	\$ 208,767	\$ 198,977



Fiscal Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
State Grant-in Aid Awarded (Regional Planning Funding)	\$ 41,108	\$ 41,571	\$ 42,711	\$ 42,520	\$ 42,200	\$ 42,019	\$ 41,778	\$ 41,910	\$ 64,699	\$ 62,138	\$ 10,066	\$ 6,044	\$ 13,394

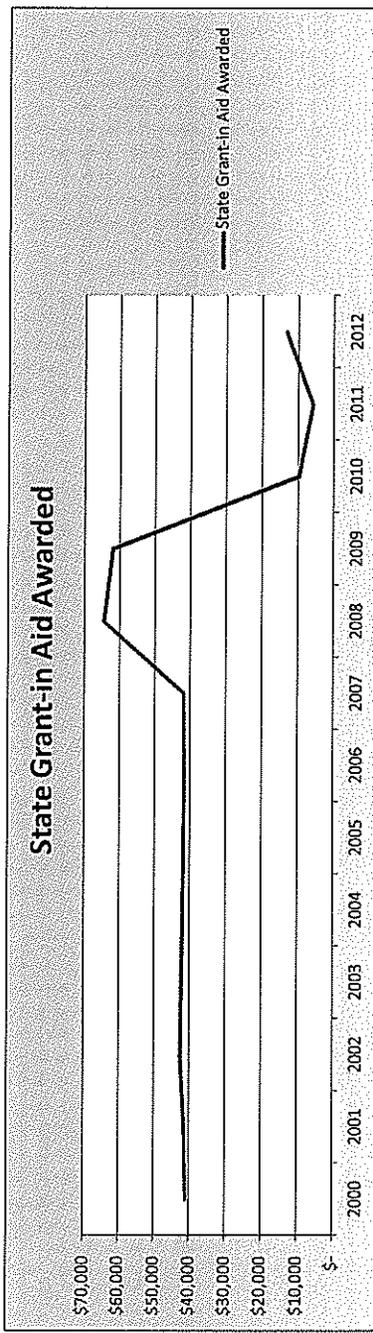


Figure 2 - South Western Regional Planning Agency - History of Regional Planning Revenue Sources by Fiscal Year: 2006 to 2014

REGIONAL PLANNING REVENUE FOR SWRPA SINCE 2006 - Amounts reflect support of SWRPA Staff Salaries Only

Fiscal Year	OPM/State Grant-in-Aid (SGIA)	Local Municipal Dues remaining after 10% Transportation Match	Interest Income	SCI	CERT	Hazard Mitigation Update**	Watershed Grants	Workforce Innovation (WIRED)	MISC. GIS WORK	Stamford TOD	RPI/Aerial Photography	Total by Year
2005-2006	\$ 41,778	\$ 56,500	\$ 8,633						\$ 479			\$ 107,390
2006-2007	\$ 41,910	\$ 70,530	\$ 13,906						\$ 919			\$ 127,265
2007-2008	\$ 64,699	\$ 32,982	\$ 17,543									\$ 115,224
2008-2009	\$ 76,138	\$ 59,101	\$ 13,506						\$ 10,171			\$ 158,916
2009-2010	\$ 10,066	\$ 50,970	\$ 11,085			\$ 3,981	\$ 4,134	\$ 2,993	\$ 4,919			\$ 88,148
2010-2011	\$ 6,044	\$ 49,464	\$ 7,793		\$ 345	\$ 21,095	\$ 15,400	\$ 35				\$ 100,176
2011-2012	\$ 13,394	\$ 22,269	\$ 4,264	\$ 31,800	\$ 8,313	\$ 2,347	\$ 13,789	\$ 418				\$ 96,594
2012-2013*	\$ 13,394	\$ 49,000	\$ 2,600	\$ 33,000	\$ 8,000		\$ 3,140		\$ 1,100	\$ 7,000		\$ 117,234
2013-2014*	\$ 13,394	\$ 50,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 25,200	\$ 8,000	\$ 20,850			\$ 15,000	\$ 33,000		\$ 167,244
2014-2015*	unknown	unknown	unknown		\$ 20,850							\$ 20,850
Consultant Amt.							\$ 161,762	\$ 60,007			\$ 2,110,000	

\*\* Revenue sources & potential revenue sources slated for activity during FY2014 & FY2015:

\$55,600 DEMHS Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - an 18-month Predisaster Mitigation Strategy update to reassess the region's risk/vulnerable areas associated with hazards in the region. (Awarded 3/20/13 to 3/20/16; Fed \$41,700 & Grantee match of \$13,900)

\$ Amount unknown

A new OPM Regional Performance Incentive Grant (RPI) grant has been applied for and would be used to implement a regional watershed service to assist the region's municipalities in meeting educational/outreach stormwater sampling requirements as required by the EPA's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System program. It is unknown at this time if this will be awarded to SWRPA.

Prepared by: Patricia Payne (June 26, 2013)

## Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Database

### MPO State Search: Connecticut

[Search Again](#)

Yielded 11 records.

<u>Metropolitan Planning Organization</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Major City</u>	<u>Area (Sq. Miles)</u>	<u>2010 Census Population</u>	<u>Designation Year</u>	<u>MPO Summary Info.</u>
<u>Capital Region COG (CRCOG)</u>	CT	Hartford	760	757,215	1975	
<u>Central Connecticut Regional Planning Agency (CCRPA)</u>	CT	Bristol	166	235,899	1975	
<u>Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA)</u>	CT	Old Saybrook	188	62,222	2003	
<u>Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley (COGCNV)</u>	CT	Waterbury	314	287,898	1975	
<u>Greater Bridgeport Regional Council</u>	CT	Bridgeport	144	317,911	1982	
<u>Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO)</u>	CT	Brookfield	337	224,621	1975	
<u>Midstate Regional Planning Agency (MRPA)</u>	CT	Middletown	257	113,414	1962	
<u>South Central Regional COG (SCRCOG)</u>	CT	North Haven	377	569,816	1974	
<u>South Western Regional Planning Agency</u>	CT	Stamford	216	363,963	1981	
<u>Southeastern Connecticut COG (SCCOG)</u>	CT	Norwich	577	256,139	1974	
<u>Valley COG</u>	CT	Derby	58	88,250	1982	

**Data Source:** This database contains contact information for all MPOs in the United States and Puerto Rico that was obtained directly from the MPOs themselves, either from their web site or from a telephone call to the MPO staff. All demographic information came directly from the 2000 Census. All other data provided in the MPO database are based on certain information, including urbanized areas located within MPO boundaries, total population within the MPO planning area boundary, and total MPO planning area square miles, that was obtained from GIS spatial analysis. For multi-state MPOs (MPOs that cross-state boundaries), the lead state for long-range transportation planning is listed first in the "State" column on the search results page.