

# Public Participation Plan

MetroCOG Programs in Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford & Trumbull

GBVMPO Programs in Ansonia, Bridgeport, Derby Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Seymour, Shelton, Stratford & Trumbull

Endorsed March 30th, 2023



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**METROCOG**  
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

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*The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) in cooperation with the Region's stakeholders, developed the Public Participation Plan..*

*MetroCOG staff are entirely responsible for the design and format of this report, using a style guide developed through SRMC (Susan Rubinsky Marketing Consulting). The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed in this publication are those of MetroCOG and do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the federal and state agencies through which MetroCOG is funded.*



*MetroCOG staff and consultants presenting a study to the public.*

## Purpose of this Plan

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) is committed to a continuous public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, and full public access to MetroCOG and the Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (GBVMPO) activities at all key stages in the decision making process. Public involvement ensures that transportation decisions consider public needs and preferences, and that the public has ample opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process. By involving the public early and actively seeking out the involvement of communities most affected by particular decisions, plans or projects, we ensure that the concerns and issues of people with a stake in these decisions are identified

and addressed. Early and ongoing public involvement also brings diverse viewpoints into the decision making process, which supports better-informed decisions and mutual understanding and trust between MetroCOG and the public we serve.

Public interest varies depending on the product and the intensity of the issues. By recognizing differences in public interests and providing relevant opportunities to participate, MetroCOG supports a proactive and meaningful public involvement process.

MetroCOG is committed to actively involving all affected parties in an open, cooperative, and collaborative process that provides meaningful opportunities, via electronic and traditional methods, to influence trans-

portation decisions. Consistent with 23 CFR § 450.316, the Public Participation Plan (PPP) was developed in consultation with all interested parties and describes MetroCOG's procedures, strategies, and outcomes for:

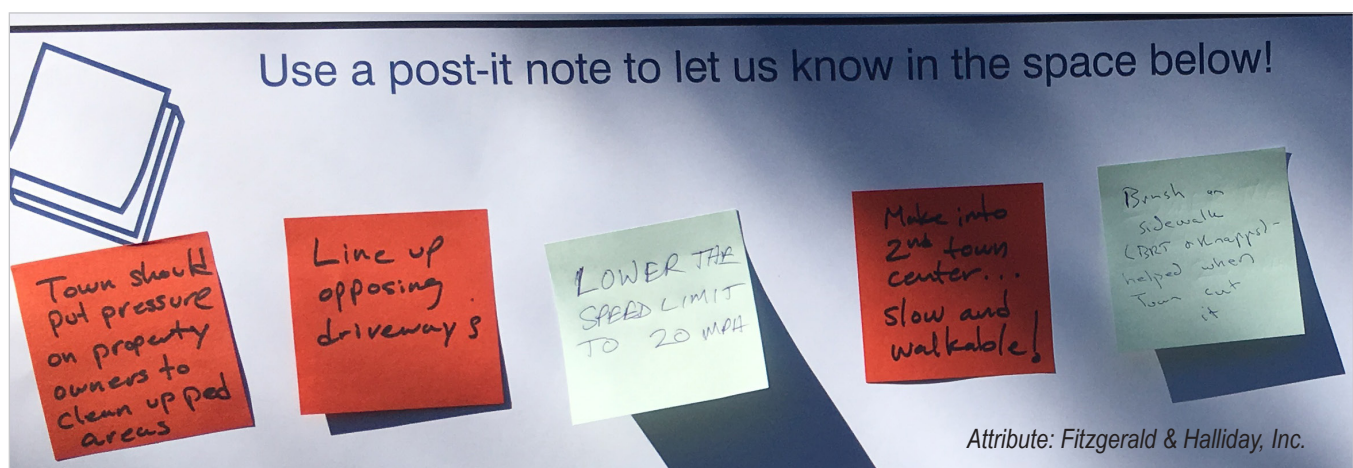
- Adequate public notice of activities and time for review and comment, including a reasonable opportunity to comment on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP);
- Timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes;
- Visualization techniques to describe MTPs and TIPs;
- Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means, such as the internet;
- Holding public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times;
- Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the MTP and the TIP;
- Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services;
- Additional opportunities for public com-

ment, if the MTP or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts;

- Coordinating with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes, including consultation with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the MPA that are affected by transportation (including agencies with responsibilities for State and local planned growth, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, airport operations, or freight movements); and
- Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.

### Title VI & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

MetroCOG's public participation plan is aligned with our Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan, which ensures that the level and quality of MetroCOG's planning services are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner and that the opportunity for full and fair participation is offered to the community. Through the LEP Plan, MetroCOG has examined the need for services and materials for





persons for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English.

While it is a matter of principle that MetroCOG is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the receipt of any of MetroCOG's services on the basis of race, color or national origin, the contents of this program have been prepared in accordance with Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

MetroCOG's policies regarding Title VI and Limited English Proficiency are detailed in the Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency Plan.

## About Us

### Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG)

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, or MetroCOG is the Council of Governments for the six municipalities of the Greater Bridgeport Region: Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull. MetroCOG works closely with federal, state, and local agencies to facilitate a regional approach to transportation, conservation, economic development, natural hazard mitigation

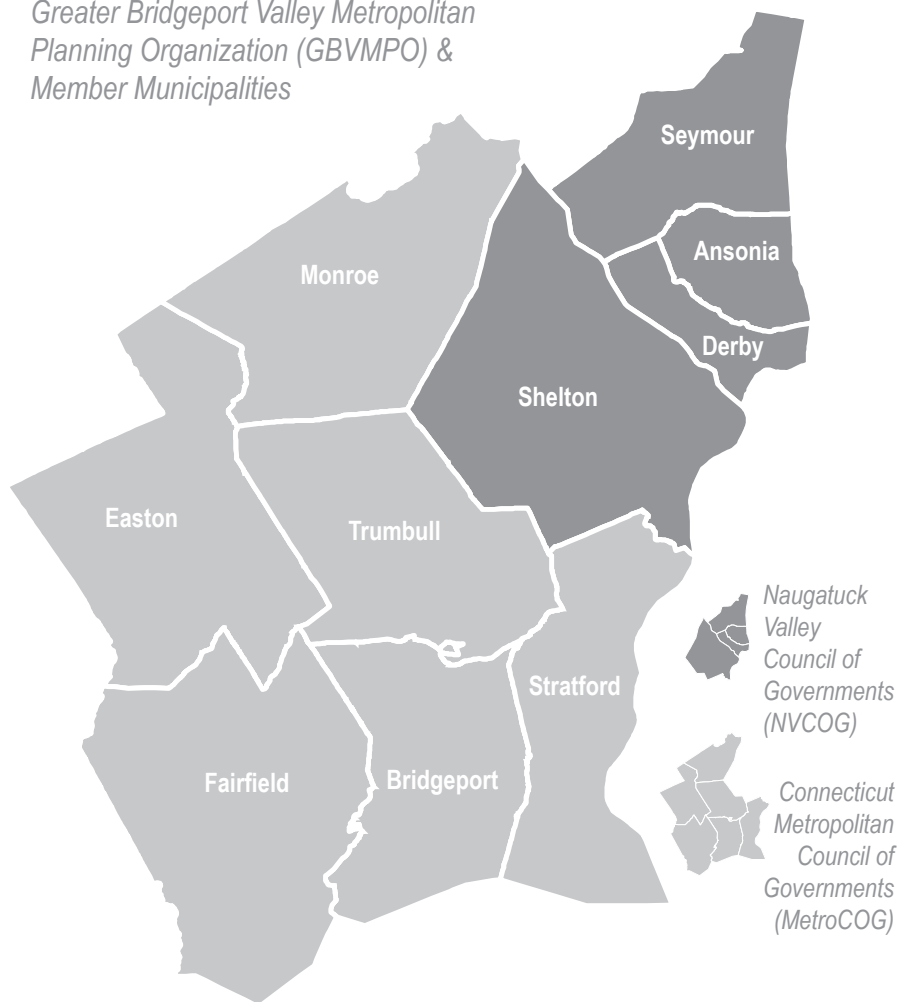
and land use planning, as well as municipal shared services.

Councils of Governments (COGs) are defined in Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 50 § 4-124i through § 4-124u. Each municipality (or member) in the Greater Bridgeport Region is represented by their Chief Elected Official, which makes up MetroCOG's Policy Board.

As a Council of Governments, MetroCOG is responsible for drafting, maintaining and periodically updating the Regional

Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The Regional POCD makes recommendations for "land use, housing, principal highways and freeways, bridges, airports, parks, playgrounds, recreational areas, schools, public institutions, public utilities, agriculture and such other matters as will be beneficial to the area." (Connecticut General Statutes Chapter 127 § 8-35a). MetroCOG utilizes the plan in reviewing land use changes that may affect member municipalities (CGS Chapter 124 § 8-3b). Other regional programs that MetroCOG

### *Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) & Member Municipalities*



**MPOs are responsible for performing six core functions:**

1. Establish a setting for effective decision-making.
2. Identify and evaluate transportation improvement options.
3. Prepare and maintain a Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).
4. Develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
5. Identify performance measure targets and monitor whether implemented projects are achieving targets
6. Involve the general public and other affected constituencies.

provides a forum for communication, coordination and collaboration include:

- Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Brownfields Assessment, Cleanup and Redevelopment

**Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO)**

MetroCOG serves as the host agency for the Greater Bridgeport Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO), which includes MetroCOG's six members as well as Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton. GBVMPO oversees the regional transportation planning process and capital improvement program for this ten-town region. The membership of the GBVMPO consists of the Chief Elected Officials of the ten municipalities and the chairpersons of the region's two transit districts: Greater Bridgeport Transit and the Valley Transit District.

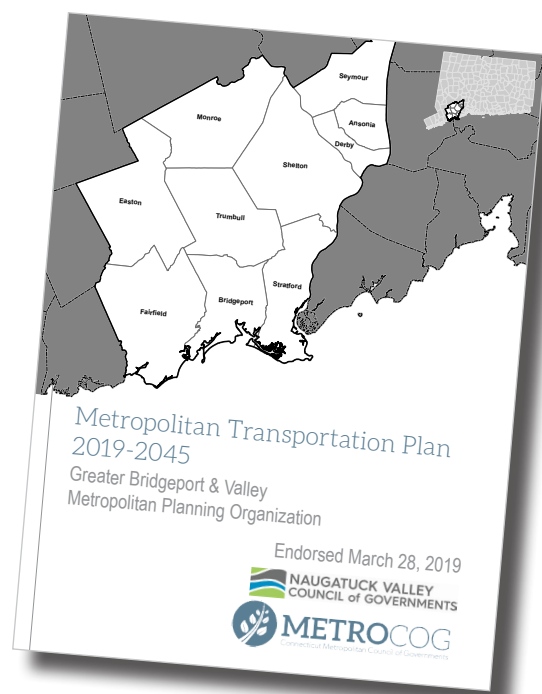
The MPO is federally authorized (23 United State Code § 134) and designated by the Governor to conduct transportation planning and policy-making and to endorse the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the portion of the Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area covered by the MPO. The MPO ensures that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3-C) planning process. MPOs also cooperate with State and public transportation operators to set spending levels for Federal funds that are meant for transportation projects.

**Key Products of the Transportation Planning Process**

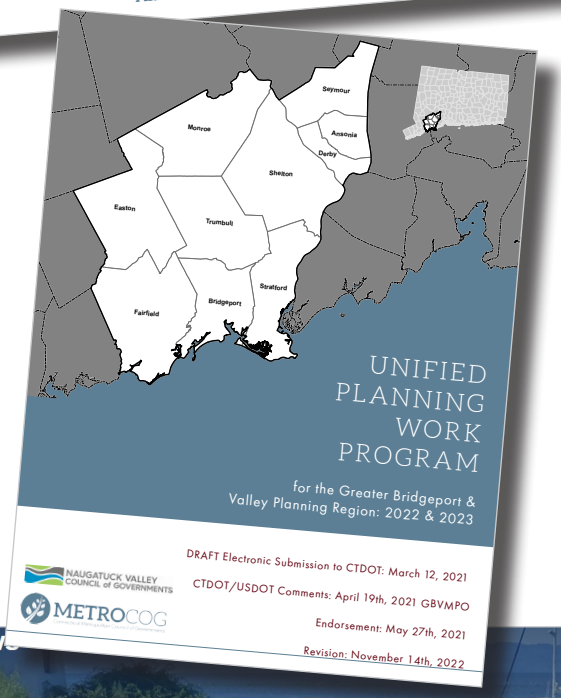
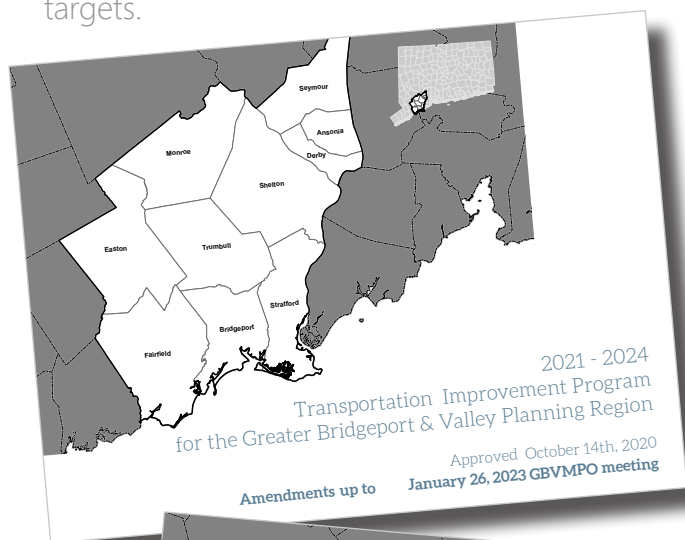
In addition to the Public Participation Plan, the following documents guide the transportation planning process, which the MPOs is responsible for maintaining and updating.

**Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP):**

A 30-year vision for transportation system investments. The MTP includes long-range and short-range strategies to support an intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods. Through public and stakeholder engagement,



the MTP identifies improvements to roadways, transit, non-motorized transportation, and connections between modes to enhance the performance of the entire transportation system. The MTP also evaluates performance measures and targets and whether the transportation system is meeting the adopted targets.



**Annual Listing of Obligated Projects, 2022**  
Dec 20, 2022

Obligation "locks in" the funding for projects and leads the way to implementation.

An Annual Listing of Obligated Projects is required by federal regulations after the conclusion of a fiscal year to report on progress in implementing the TIP. Although the TIP indicates planned funding for improvement projects and confers eligibility for federal funding, obligation effectively "locks in" the funding for projects and leads the way to implementation.

Obligated Project Listings:

MetroCOG 2022  
Valley 2022

**Recent Posts**

CTDOT's final versions of the Public Transit Asset Management Plans for 2022-2025 are now available

Annual Listing of Obligated Projects, 2022

NVCOG Takes Public Comment on Plans for Rail and Bus Improvements

## Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

A fiscally constrained document that identifies transportation projects and strategies that will be pursued over the next four years. The TIP is the immediate program of investments that will go toward achieving the performance targets documented in the MTP. All projects receiving Federal funding must be in the TIP.

## The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):

Covering a one- to two-year period, the UPWP lists the transportation studies and tasks that MPO staff and members perform to support the metropolitan transportation planning process. The UPWP identifies the funding source for each project, the schedule of activities, and responsible agencies for each task or study. Elements typically include data and analysis tasks, public outreach activities, preparation of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, supporting studies and products resulting from MTP and TIP activities, all federally funded studies, and relevant state and local planning activities conducted without federal funds.

## Annual listing of obligated projects:

No later than 90 calendar days following the end of the program year, the State, public transportation operators, and the GBVMPO cooperatively develops a listing of projects, including investments in pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, for which federal transportation funds were obligated in the preceding program year.

Minimum requirements for noticing and public comment are detailed in the next section. MetroCOG regularly utilizes additional methods of notifying the public detailed in the next section as well.

## Who are the Public?

The public includes any individual or group who resides, is employed, has an interest, or does business in an area potentially affected

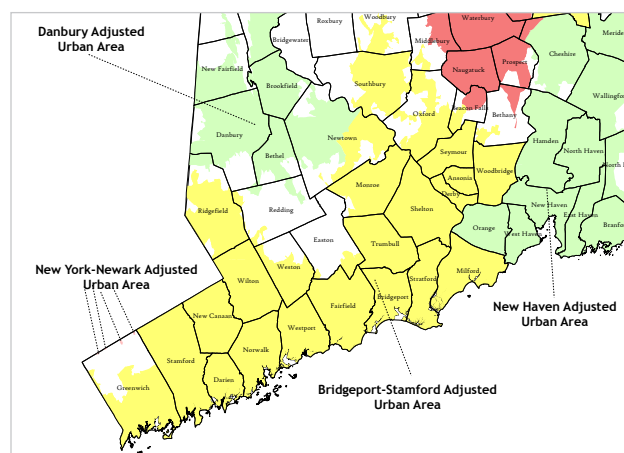
23 USC 134 § 450.316(a), defines the public as:

- Individuals
- Affected public agencies
- Public providers of transportation and paratransit services
- Representatives of public transportation employees
- Public ports
- Freight shippers and providers of freight transportation services
- Private providers of transportation (including intercity bus operators, employer-based commuting programs, such as carpool program, vanpool program, transit benefit program, parking cash-out program, shuttle program, or telework program)
- Representatives of users of public transportation
- Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
- Representatives of the disabled, and
- Other interested parties

by a transportation decision. To ensure that transportation decisions deliver equitable benefits to a variety of stakeholders, extra efforts may be needed to engage persons traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low-income populations or minority populations, the disabled and the elderly.

## Other Responsibilities

In addition to the activities above, the



*The Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area (CTDOT).*

GBVMPO has responsibilities related to Air Quality conformity and as a Transportation Management Area.

## Air Quality

MetroCOG and GBVMPO are located in the Connecticut portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island eight-hour ozone moderate Nonattainment Area (2008) and the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Attainment/Maintenance Area (2006). Due to this designation, GBVMPO's transportation planning process has additional requirements. The MTP, TIP, and federally-funded transportation projects must conform to Connecticut's air quality plan, known as the State Implementation Plan (SIP). In Connecticut, CTDOT is responsible for conducting the Air Quality Conformity analysis and determining if transportation plans and projects are consistent with the SIP. The MPO reviews the analysis and makes the information available for public review and comment.

## Transportation Management Area

Over 900,000 people live in the Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area (American Community Survey, 2016). UZAs with populations exceeding 200,000 typically have more complex transportation systems and associated challenges than smaller regions. These large UZAs have additional planning responsibilities and are designated as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs).





*MetroCOG's meeting room at 1000 Lafayette Boulevard in Bridgeport.*

# Regular Business & Day to Day Operations at MetroCOG

## Office & Staff

MetroCOG's offices are located at 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925 in Bridgeport, CT (the ninth floor of the RBS building). Staff are available during regular work hours (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm) and may also be reached by phone or email. In addition to a parking garage behind the building, the office is located within walking distance of bus, rail and ferry service. Building facilities are ADA accessible.

## Email Lists & Newsletters

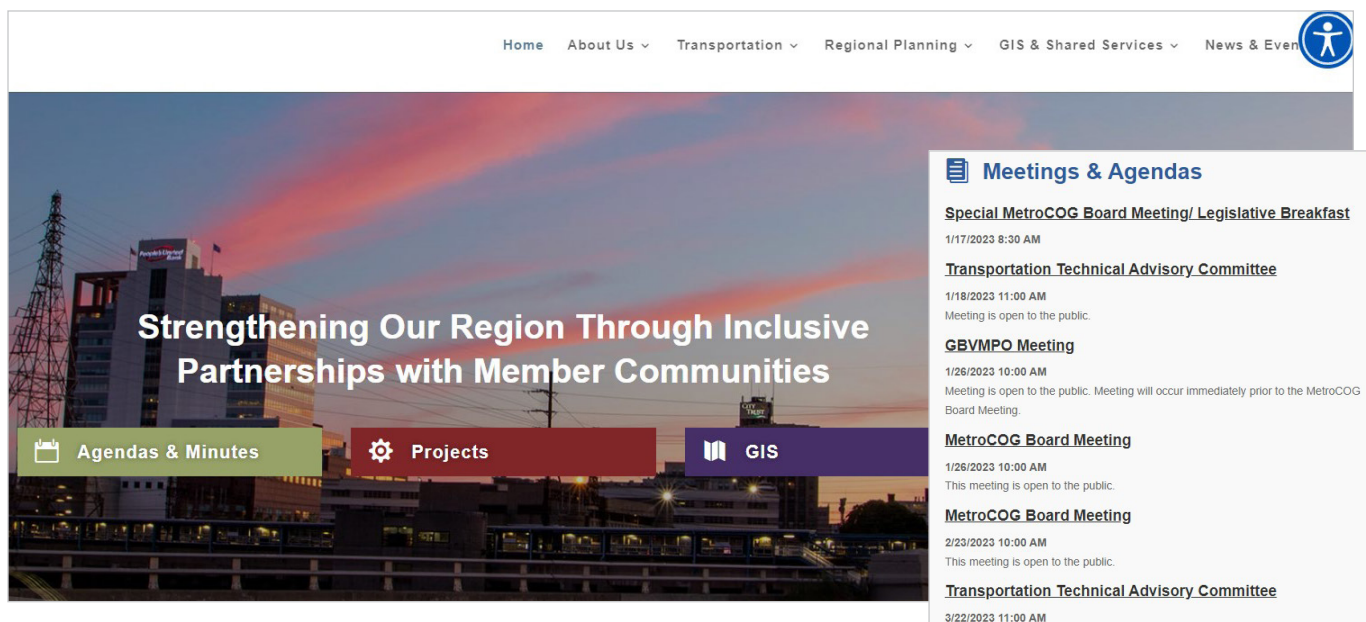
MetroCOG maintains an e-mail list which includes elected officials (mayors, first selectmen, state representatives and councilmen), municipal staff, other providers of transportation services (both public and private), environmental and non-traditional transportation advocacy groups, trade and business organizations, and community/neighborhood action committees are included. Upon written request, members

of the public and other stakeholders may be added to the e-mail list. General announcements, public meetings details, information about regional projects and periodic newsletters are sent to the list's subscribers. This includes:

- MPO meeting notice and agenda
- Council meeting notice agenda
- Public information meetings and hearings.
- Periodic newsletters
- Separate e-mail lists are developed and maintained for specific projects and plans.

## Meetings

Regular Board and MPO meetings are open to the public and held at MetroCOG's offices. Meeting schedules are developed annually. Upon the Board's approval, the date, time and location of regular meetings are posted to the website calendar at the beginning of each



*MetroCOG's homepage includes sidebars for meetings and news.*

year. The meeting schedule is also transmitted to CTDOT.

Regular meeting agendas are posted to the MetroCOG webpage at least twenty four hours prior to the meeting. The agenda is also transmitted to Board/MPO members, CTDOT and municipal clerks at this time. The meeting agenda may be distributed to members of the public and other stakeholders upon written request. Special meetings may be called up to 24 hours before the time set for the meeting. Agenda distribution follows the process of regular meetings.

All Board and MPO agendas include an opportunity for the public to participate.

For MPO meetings, the meeting agenda includes a list of proposed amendments to the TIP. A 30-day public notice period is pro-

vided for major actions, such as approval of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan or Transportation Improvement Program.

Draft meeting minutes are posted to the website within 7 days of the meeting. Upon approval of the Board or MPO (usually at the next regular meeting), final minutes are posted to the website.

### Website: [www.ctmetro.org](http://www.ctmetro.org)

MetroCOG's website is a clearinghouse of data and information on MetroCOG programs, projects, plans, and events. Google Translate supports the translation of content into multiple languages. All documents posted to the MetroCOG website are in accessible, pdf format.

The main page of the website includes a calendar and news feed. The calendar provides the public with information on MetroCOG and GBVMPO meetings, as well as project-specific events, advisory committee meetings and other events that may be of interest. The news feed is updated regularly and keeps the public informed of recent activities, press releases, initiatives, and projects.

All publications, project reports and plans are posted to the MetroCOG website for public review and comment. After the document is first posted, a notice of availability is announced on the main page of the website. Individual project webpages are created for major plans and projects, which are discussed in the next section.





and brochures are regularly prepared for this purpose and to concisely explain projects to elected officials.

## **Advisory Committees**

MetroCOG hosts several standing Advisory Committees. These committees provide general guidance to the MPO Board, COG Board and COG staff. Meeting notices of MetroCOG's standing Advisory Committee are posted to the website's calendar. Group lists are maintained of members and members of the public who have requested a notification. Meeting agendas are typically distributed 3-5 days prior to the meeting.

### **Conservation Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC):**

The CTAC is made up of municipal staff and local Conservation Commissions. The CTAC provides a forum to share best practices, coordinate projects and promote a regional approach to conservation. CTAC members also keep their communities informed of MetroCOG's conservation initiatives. The CTAC meets quarterly.

### **Economic Development & Tourism Advisory Committee; Brownfields Working Group:**

Made up of local and regional economic development stakeholders and Capital for Change (the statewide Community Development Financial Institution), the EDTAC and Brownfields Working Group aligns land use, conservation, and transportation planning with local economic development goals.

### **Geospatial Technical Advisory Committee:**

The Geospatial Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) serves as the regional forum for the discussion of the Regional Geographical Information Systems and related technologies. Each member of the GTAC is appointed by the municipality's Chief Elected Official and consists of staff members of municipal Public Works, Engineering, Assessment, Information

Technology, Land Use, and Public Safety departments.

### **Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) & Safety Planning Subcommittee:**

The TTAC is made up of representatives from member municipalities, Greater Bridgeport Transit and CTDOT. The TTAC advises the COG Board and MPO Board on transportation issues, funding priorities and the status of projects. The TTAC meets at least quarterly.

## **Legal Notices**

MetroCOG follows all federal and state noticing requirements. This includes the agency's Title VI and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) policies. Some projects require a formal 30, 45 or 65 day public comment period and publication of a legal notice in a local newspaper(s). These newspapers are:

- CTPost: daily publication
- El Sol (Spanish): weekly publication

Notices include the project information, the meeting's date, time, location and purpose, contact information, and any other required information. In addition to following all noticing requirements, MetroCOG will continue to use their standard methods of distribution to enhance this process, such as sending periodic reminders to the agency's e-mail list.



# Projects, Plans & Studies

This section describes MetroCOG's public involvement approach for specific plans and projects. The Greater Bridgeport Region is an economically and ethnically diverse region made up of six municipalities. In addition to transportation planning, MetroCOG provides assistance with a variety of other planning disciplines, such as conservation, hazard mitigation, economic development and public safety. Therefore, it is imperative that involvement strategies are relevant to the topic and sensitive to the impacted community. Evaluating the effectiveness of these strategies should occur periodically throughout a project.

## Project E-mail List

An e-mail list of interested parties is maintained for the project. This includes the project team, known stakeholders and members of the public who request that they are added to the list. Project updates, events and other opportunities to participate are sent to the e-mail list.

## Project Webpage

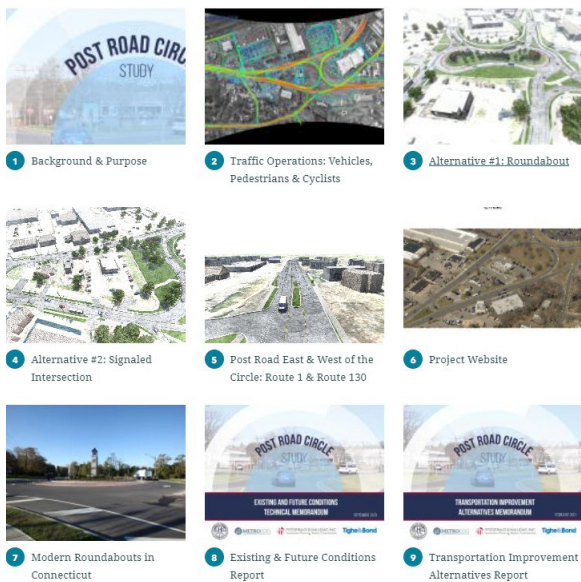
The project webpage serves as the project's information repository. In addition to a description of the project, the webpage includes presentations from public meetings, reports and graphics. A comment box provides a mechanism for the public to ask questions, provide feedback and make recommendations anytime throughout the project. Visitors may also request that they are added to the project's e-mail list. Links to other means of participation, such as online surveys or a municipal website are included on the webpage. Draft reports are posted to the webpage prior to the final public meeting (or hearing) and the final version is posted at the project's completion. MetroCOG typically hosts the project



Collection

## Post Road Circle Study

The Post Road Circle provides regional access to major roadways, commercial establishments and residential neighborhoods. However, travel can be confusing and unsafe. This study provides a new vision for the area.



From top, the Final Report for the Post Road Study and Storymap collection, available at [bit.ly/post-road](http://bit.ly/post-road)

## How To Get Involved

webpage. However, if a greater number of stakeholders can be reached, a consultant or municipality may host the webpage instead.

### Project Summary, Frequently Asked Questions & Brochure

At the beginning of a planning project, a one to two page flyer is developed. The flyer includes a summary of the project, geography of the study area, funding information and contact information. The flyers are formatted for print and electronic distribution.

A list of frequently asked questions has also been found helpful, especially in the first few months of a project. Examples of questions include:

- What is the purpose of the Study?
- Who is involved and how can I participate?
- What are the final deliverables and how will they be used in the future?
- Who should I contact with questions?
- Brochures are developed to provide an in-depth explanation of complex or multi-task projects.

### Project Specific Committees:

Two committees are typically formed for a project, a Community Advisory Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee. Additional committees or sub-committees may be formed as the need arises.



### Community Advisory Committee:

Community Advisory Committees (CAC) represent the communities and stakeholders who could potentially be impacted by a specific planning project. The CAC provides guidance, reviews projects deliverables and makes recommendations to the Project Team. The CAC also serves as a means of interaction between the public and the project team. CAC members typically include residents, local businesses and their employees, property owners, neighborhood associations, parent-teacher associations, bicycle/pedestrian organizations, senior centers and other local advocacy organizations. CAC members are appointed by the local government(s) in which the planning project is occurring. MetroCOG emphasizes that CACs have diverse representation, and include groups that have been traditionally underserved by the transportation system.

### Technical Advisory Committee:

Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) provide their professional expertise and local familiarity with the technical aspects of a planning project. The TAC assesses project recommendations for their feasibility and implementation. The composition of the TAC

Please join us at a

# PUBLIC MEETING

to discuss the **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)**

for the Greater Bridgeport Region

**Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7:00 pm**

**MetroCOG:** 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

**Virtual:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83519578652>  
**audio only:** 1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 835 1957 8652

**CEDS =** a strategy-driven plan for economic development

learn more at [ctmetro.org](http://ctmetro.org)

**METROCOG**  
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

*Outreach material for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.*

varies by the focus of each project. Typically, a TAC is made up of staff from local Engineering, Public Safety, Conservation, Public Health and Planning departments, as well as representation from CTDOT and transit providers.

## Public Notice

MetroCOG provides adequate notice of public meetings and opportunities for public comment. The availability of documents for review and public meetings are announced within a few weeks of the meeting. Reminders are periodically sent out as the meeting date approaches. The meeting notice is posted in the events section of the MetroCOG website. E-mail notifications are sent to the project mailing list and members of the TAC and CAC. An initial press release

and periodic updates are prepared for various media. Display ads in local newspapers are utilized when suitable. If required, a legal notice is published in a local newspaper (or newspapers) and the required, formal noticing process is followed.

If a project or plan recommendations could impact private property, the owner and abutting property owners are sent direct mailings of meeting notices (or e-mails upon request).

## Reaching the Public

MetroCOG has found that an effective method of involving the public is to work with local governments, community organizations and individual stakeholders in distributing project information and opportunities to participate. All stakeholders are identified and contacted with the help of our partners

(municipalities, transit districts, etc.) as well as through public outreach meetings and materials (brochures, pamphlets, etc.). We will hold public meetings and distribute outreach materials at various locations including public libraries, community centers, municipal offices, transit hubs, etc. We also translate outreach materials into LEP languages and if needed, have a translator present at public meetings.

MetroCOG will utilize an Evaluation Framework to review our outreach methods and determine what has been working and what has not. For the methods that are not effective, we will work to amend those methods so they reach our LEP communities, or implement new outreach strategies that will engage the community as effectively as possible.

Municipal electronic newsletters and announcements reach a wide audience and are often more familiar to the recipient than a regional communication. A link to the project webpage or a meeting flyer can be easily shared via social media, either to other interested individuals or neighborhood/special interest pages. MetroCOG often partners with Greater Bridgeport Transit to distribute project and event information to their riders via on-board seat drops. Identifying





Above, a pop-up event at a local crafts fair (photo provided by Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc). To the right, a paper version of an online survey.

innovative and alternative methods of public involvement should be utilized when suitable.

If the public is unfamiliar with the organization or topic, stand-alone public meetings, especially at the beginning of a planning process, are challenging to promote and can be poorly attended. A pop-up meeting takes place in a location where a community congregates and feels comfortable. A larger number of stakeholders can be reached, especially member of the public traditionally underserved by the transportation system. Examples of these locations are:

- Shopping centers
- Neighborhood fairs and festivals
- Farmer's markets
- Community centers
- Sporting events

Another method to gather initial feedback is the use of electronic surveys and mapping software. SurveyMonkey and interactive maps provide an opportunity for the public

**BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE SAFETY STUDY**

**Survey**

We want to hear what you think!

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete this brief survey about the Black Rock Turnpike. Your responses will help guide improvements along the Turnpike to create a safer, more multi-modal corridor.

This survey is being conducted to help the project team for the Black Rock Turnpike Safety Study better understand the issues and opportunities for all those who travel along the Turnpike, including motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users. The study is focused primarily on the section of Black Rock Turnpike from Tunxis Hill Cut-Off to Tahmore Drive.

More information about the study can be found at <http://bit.ly/blackrockstudiesurvey>

1. What is the most common reason you travel along Black Rock Turnpike?

☐ I travel to destinations along Black Rock Turnpike. ☐ I use Black Rock Turnpike to get to other places in Fairfield. ☐ I use Black Rock Turnpike to travel to the Merritt or I-95.

2. If you travel to destinations along the Turnpike, what type do you visit? (select all that apply)

☐ Shopping ☐ Dining & entertainment ☐ Work ☐ Home

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

3. If you use the Turnpike to travel to other locations in Fairfield, please indicate which areas (use the map above as a guide, the red line is Black Rock Turnpike).

☐ I. Eastern Fairfield ☐ II. Central Fairfield & Fairfield University ☐ III. Downtown Fairfield & Shoreline ☐ IV. Western Fairfield

☐ V. Northern Fairfield & Sacred Heart University

to become familiar with a project and give feedback. Upon request, MetroCOG will adapt electronic surveys to paper versions.

These outreach efforts ensure residents who are not proficient in English can effectively participate in the transportation planning process. Through MetroCOG's Title VI Program & Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. All significant language groups are identified and incorporated into the Public Participation Plan. MetroCOG continues to conduct outreach





*Attendees at a public workshop identify issues along Black Rock Turnpike (photo provided by Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc).*

to traditionally under-served individuals and communities, which include but are not limited to low income, minority and LEP persons. MetroCOG and GBVMPO use appropriate methods to notify the public of its activities and of opportunities for public involvement. Determination of which methods to use must be done for each individual planning project or study.

At a minimum, all Board and MPO Public Meeting Notices (including Kickoff Events, Open Houses, Workshops, etc.), Meeting actions/minutes, notifications, documents, summaries, reports, outreach materials, etc. shall include a statement that translator services may be requested in advance. If a predetermination is made that the meeting and/or action may affect a

significant non-English speaking population, the Notification will include a statement, in that language, that translator services may be requested in advance.

When the need exists, MetroCOG will translate documents and outreach materials in all LEP and Safe Harbor languages. These materials will also be translated to other languages, if requested, or if MetroCOG determines that the outreach materials will affect a significant population other than a language identified as LEP or Safe Harbor.

### **Face to Face Contact**

Attendance at public meetings and other forums for face to face contact is

greater when notification occurs early, often and via a diversity of channels. Therefore, MetroCOG holds public meetings outside of working hours and at a location within, or in close proximity to the impacted area. ADA and transit accessible locations are preferred. Innovative methods of providing feedback, such as electronic polling devices, will engage the public longer and allow all attendees to participate. After the meeting, follow-up communications such as electronically posting comments made during the meeting, will keep attendees updated of the project and encourage future participation.

## Kickoff Event

A Kickoff Event is held at the beginning of the project. A public meeting, open house, workshop, or pop-up event early in the planning process emphasizes that the public is a partner in the project. The purpose of the event is to focus on the specific issue and for the public to express their concerns. Project team members emphasize that a solution or concept has not yet been identified. Rather, an open process is utilized and the project team works closely with the community to identify the best possible solution. This first engagement encourages a proactive, rather than a reactive relationship.

## Public Meetings

Public Meetings provide an informal atmosphere to discuss the project and exchange ideas. These meetings include an informational presentation and an interactive question and answer session. Presentations include visuals such

as display graphics, maps, and simulations of before and after conditions. Summaries of the meetings are prepared and comments recorded.

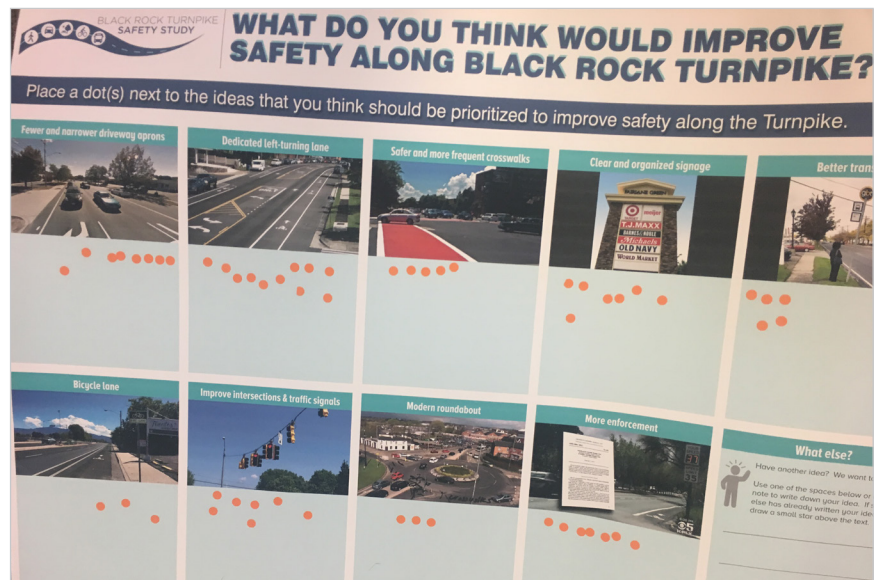
## Open Houses

Open Houses are informal events for the public to speak with project staff, review project information, and provide feedback. Tables with presentation boards, project documents, maps, brochures, videos and other graphics allows for the public to review the project, ask questions and discuss concerns. Presentations are

brief or do not occur. Rather, barriers are eliminated by providing an open environment where the public can discuss the project with staff and other attendees. Comment cards, visual preference surveys and maps are utilized to gather feedback.

## Workshops

Workshops are small group events organized around a particular topic or activity. Because they are relatively short and task-focused, workshops can be standalone events or part of a larger meeting. Often, break-out sessions during a



Issues (bottom) and preferred solutions (top) indicated with stickers (photos provided by Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc).



public meeting utilize a workshop format, and include time for each group to report back to the larger audience.

As discussed earlier, pop-up meetings occur at existing community gathering places and local events, such as neighborhood festivals, shopping centers and community centers. The project team sets up a table with project displays, brochures and contact information to attract interested attendees. This format supports one-on-one interaction and are less intimidating for people who may be uncomfortable during a traditional public meeting.

## Public Feedback & Comments

Opportunities for the public to provide feedback and comments are provided throughout a project period. To facilitate feedback, comment forms are provided at public meetings. Attendees are encouraged to contact the project team with additional comments. Online surveys, comment boxes and e-mails are also utilized to gather feedback. An end date for comments and feedback is included with these announcements. Comments may be transmitted via:

- Public information meeting: Orally or in writing.
  - Via mail: typed or legibly written on 8½" x 11" paper.
- Via email: a specific e-mail address is provided.

- An online survey, comment box or social media.

MetroCOG responds to significant public comments, and explains why the comment was considered (or not) and how it was incorporated into the decision-making process. Public Feedback and Comments from Limited English Proficiency (LEP) persons is encouraged. MetroCOG will work with our On-Call Translation Service Providers to respond to all questions, comments and feedback provided in other languages. A summary of comments are included as an appendix of the plan or document.

## Public Hearings

Public hearings are more formal than public meetings and occur prior to adoption of a plan by the Council or MPO. A public hearing gathers community comments and positions for the public record and provides input for final decisions. Often, a public hearing is a state or federal requirement for a specific plan or project. A legal notice must be published, and sufficient time provided for the public to learn more about the action and to make comments. Often, the required public review period is 30 days. Minimum requirements for public notice, comment period and number of public hearings are below:

Product	Update	Public Hearing	Legal Notice	Comment Period
Metropolitan Transportation Plan*	4 years	1	Yes	30 days
Public Participation Plan*	Periodic	1	Yes	45 days
Regional Plan of Conservation & Development**	5 years	1	Yes	65 days
Transportation Improvement Program*	4 years	1	Yes	30 days
Unified Planning Work Program*	2 years	-	Yes	-
Title VI & LEP Plan*	Periodic	1	Yes	45 days

\*Approval occurs at MPO meeting \*\* Approval occurs at COG meeting

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# Appendix A



# Stakeholder & Contact Lists

Agencies, organizations and individuals from e-mail group lists maintained by MetroCOG. The list is periodically updated and subject to change.

## Local & State Stakeholders

### Bicycle & Pedestrian Advocates

Bike Walk Connecticut  
East Coast Greenway Alliance  
Fairfield Bicycle Pedestrian Committee Members  
Fairfield's Representative Town Meeting Members

Stratford Planning Commission Members

### Business Community

Bridgeport Regional Business Council  
Bridgeport Economic Development Corporation  
Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District  
Fairfield County Business Council  
Fairfield Chamber of Commerce

### Community-Based Organizations

Big Brother Big Sisters of Southwestern Connecticut  
Bridgeport YMCA  
Bridgeport YMCA/Ralpho Taylor Community Center  
Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust  
Capital for Change  
International Institute of Connecticut, Inc  
Recovery Network of Programs-Prospect House Shelter & SRO Units

## Local & State Stakeholders

### Conservation

Beardsley Zoo  
Connecticut Fund for the Environment  
Groundwork Bridgeport  
The Nature Conservancy

### Education\*

Housatonic Community College  
University of Bridgeport  
Fairfield University  
Sacred Heart University

### Elderly & Disabled Organizations

Access Independence  
Southwestern CT Agency on Aging  
The Kennedy Center

### Employment

The Workplace

### Faith-Based Organizations

Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport

### Hospitals\*

Bridgeport Hospital  
St. Vincent's Hospital

### Regional Policy & Planning

Regional Plan Association

## Local & State Stakeholders

### Transportation

Bridgeport & Port Jefferson Steamboat Company  
CTRides  
Greater Bridgeport Transit  
Motor Transport Association of Connecticut  
Transit for Connecticut  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign  
Valley Transit District

## Media\*

### Daily

CTPost

### Weekly

Easton Courier/Aspetuck News  
El Sol (Spanish)  
Fairfield Sun  
Fairfield Citizen  
Monroe Courier  
Stratford Star  
The Bridgeport News  
Trumbull Times

\*pending email availability

## Municipal Departments

### City of Bridgeport

Department on Aging

Engineering Department

Harbormaster

Health & Social Services  
Department

Neighborhood Revitalization Zones  
(NRZs)

Office of Planning & Economic  
Development

Sikorsky Memorial Airport

### Town of Easton

Easton Senior Center

Engineering

Town Planning

### Town of Fairfield

Conservation

Economic Development

Engineering

Health Department

Social Services (Senior Center)

Town Plan & Zoning Department

### Town of Monroe

Community & Social Services  
(Senior Center)

Engineering

Health Department

Planning & Zoning Department

### Town of Stratford

Conservation Department

Economic Development

Engineering

Planning & Zoning

Senior Center

## Municipal Departments

### Town of Trumbull

Economic & Community  
Development

Engineering

Health Department

Human Services (Senior Center)

Planning & Zoning

### Libraries\*

Bridgeport Public Library

Easton Public Library

Edith Wheeler Memorial Library  
(Monroe)

Fairfield Public Library

Stratford Library Association

The Trumbull Library System

## State & Regional Agencies

### COGs & MPOs

Naugatuck Valley Council of  
Governments (NVCOG)

New York Metropolitan Transporta-  
tion Commission (NYMTC)

South Central Regional Council of  
Governments (SCRCOG)

Western Connecticut Council of  
Governments (WestCOG)

### State of Connecticut

Connecticut Port Authority

Department of Transportation

Office of Policy & Management,  
Office of Responsible Growth

Office of Tourism

State Historic Preservation Office

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# Appendix B



## Public Outreach Process:

- Legal Notice: Posted in CTPost and *EISol* on January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Will present plans at March 30<sup>th</sup> meeting of the GBVMPO.
- E-mail notice to list of stakeholders on January 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Physical copies at MetroCOG and NVCOG
- Posted to MetroCOG and NVCOG's website and social media accounts
- Public meeting: February 8th

**Public Comments & MetroCOG Responses:** No public comments were received.

The image shows a screenshot of the Connecticut Public Notices website. The header features the title "Connecticut Public Notices" with the tagline "Powered by MyPublicNotices.com" and a date stamp "Friday, January 13, 2023". A navigation bar includes a "Home" link. The main content area displays a legal notice titled "GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION LEGAL NOTICE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND TITLE VI PROGRAM & LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN NOTICE". The notice text details the organization's commitment to public participation, the availability of draft documents for review, and the opportunity for public comments. It mentions a public meeting on February 8, 2023, and provides contact information for the Executive Director, Matt Fulda, and the Executive Director, NVCOG, Rick Dunne. The notice also states that the public is invited to attend the MPO meeting and will be afforded an opportunity to comment before the plans and programs are considered by the MPO. The notice is dated January 13, 2023, and is published in the Connecticut Post. The footer of the notice includes a "Printer-friendly version" link, an "E-mail to a friend" link, and a copyright notice for 2001-2023 Legacy.com.

Connecticut Public Notices  
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Home Friday, January 13, 2023

**GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION LEGAL NOTICE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND TITLE VI PROGRAM & LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN NOTICE** is hereby given that the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) has updated their Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley planning regions. The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments ("MetroCOG") serves as the host agency of the GBVMPO. The Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency Plan have been prepared in accordance with Section 601 of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 so as to ensure that the level and quality of MetroCOG's and the GBVMPO's planning services are provided in a nondiscriminatory manner and that the opportunity for full and fair participation is offered to the community. Through this program, MetroCOG has also examined the need for services and materials for persons for whom English is not their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English. The purpose of the Public Participation Plan is to actively involve all affected parties in an open, cooperative, and collaborative process that provides meaningful opportunities to influence transportation decisions and is consistent with 23 CFR §7450.316. A forty-five (45) day review and comment period has been established, beginning on January 13, 2023 and ending on February 27, 2023. The public is welcomed and encouraged to review and comment on the drafts of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans. Copies of both documents are available for review at the offices of Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925 (Ninth Floor), Bridgeport, CT 06604 and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments 49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702. Drafts can also be viewed on-line at [www.ctmetro.org](http://www.ctmetro.org) and [www.nvcogct.org](http://www.nvcogct.org). NOTICE is also given that MetroCOG will hold a public information meeting concerning the draft documents on February 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Agency staff will be available at 4:30 PM to informally discuss any aspects relating to the drafts and any other transportation issues and concerns. The public is encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the Title VI Program and the Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans and to express their support or concerns regarding these documents. Comments may be made orally at the information meeting, via e-mail or in writing. Written comments must be clearly legible, submitted on 8 1/2 " by 11" paper and include the person's name and address. Any person wishing to comment may submit their comments in writing to Matt Fulda, Executive Director, MetroCOG, [mfulda@ctmetro.org](mailto:mfulda@ctmetro.org) or Rick Dunne, Executive Director, NVCOG, [contactus@nvcogct.gov](mailto:contactus@nvcogct.gov). Written comments must be received before 10 AM on February 27, 2023. The MPO will consider endorsement of the draft Public Participation Plan and the Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency Plan at its regular meeting to be held on Thursday, March 23, 2023. The public is invited to attend this MPO meeting and will be afforded an opportunity to comment before the plans and programs are considered by the MPO. For more information, please call MetroCOG at (203) 366-5405 or NVCOG at (203) 735-8688. Language assistance may be requested within a reasonable timeframe and is provided at no cost to the public.

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Home Friday, January 13, 2023

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#### GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

#### LEGAL NOTICE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND TITLE VI PROGRAM & LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

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Note: Retail Display Ads May Not End in Identified Placement

### Run Dates

1/13/2023

## **GBVMPO: Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan**

[Plan de Participación Pública y Programa del Título VI y Plan para Dominio Limitado del Inglés](#)  
[en Espanol](#)

The Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG) is committed to a continuous public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, and full public access to MetroCOG and the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (GBVMPO) activities at all key stages in the decision-making process. Public involvement ensures that transportation decisions consider public needs and preferences, and that the public has ample opportunity to participate in the transportation planning process. To ensure a proactive and inclusive public involvement process, MetroCOG has developed drafts of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Region.

- [The 2022 Update of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency Plan and Public Participation Plan can be accessed here](#)
- [En Espanol : Aviso Legal, Plan de Participación Pública y Programa de Título VI y Plan de Dominio Limitado del Inglés](#)

The forty-five day review and comment period began on **January 13, 2023 and ends on February 27, 2023**. The public is welcomed and encouraged to review and comment on the drafts of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans. Copies of the documents are available for review at the following locations:

Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments  
1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925  
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments  
49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor  
Waterbury, Connecticut 06702.

Drafts can also be viewed on-line at [www.ctmetro.org](http://www.ctmetro.org) and [www.nvcogct.gov](http://www.nvcogct.gov). **MetroCOG will hold a public information meeting concerning the draft documents on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925, Bridgeport, CT 06604.**

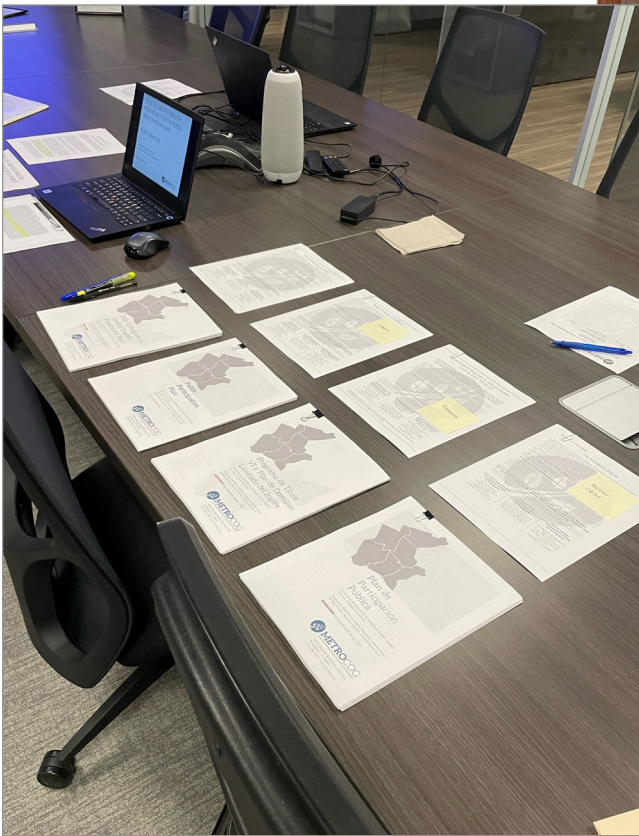


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MetroCOG is the Council of Governments for the six municipalities of the Greater Bridgeport Region: Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull. MetroCOG works closely with federal, state, and local agencies to facilitate a regional approach to transportation, conservation, economic development, natural hazard mitigation and land use planning, as well as municipal shared services. MetroCOG also serves as the host agency for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO), which includes MetroCOG's six members as well as Ansonia, Derby, Seymour and Shelton. GBVMPO oversees the regional transportation planning process and capital improvement program for this ten-town region. The membership of the GBVMPO consists of the Chief Elected Officials of the ten municipalities and the chairpersons of the region's two transit districts: Greater Bridgeport Transit and the Valley Transit District.

Public Meeting: February 8th, 2023



**METROCOG**  
Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments

**TITLE VI, LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLANS**

February 8, 2023  
Public Meeting

**PUBLIC MEETING WAS HELD FROM 5:00PM to 6:00PM**

A forty-five (45) day review and comment period has been established, beginning on January 13, 2023, and ending on February 27, 2023. The public is welcomed and encouraged to review and comment on the drafts of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans. Copies of both documents are available for review during normal business hours at the offices of Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925 (Ninth Floor), Bridgeport, CT 06604 and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments 49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702. Drafts can also be viewed on-line at [www.ctmetro.org](http://www.ctmetro.org) and [www.nvcogct.org](http://www.nvcogct.org).

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Bridgeport • East  
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The purpose of the Public Participation Plan is to actively involve all affected parties in an open, cooperative, and collaborative process that provides meaningful opportunities to influence transportation decisions and is consistent with 23 CFR § 450.316.

A forty-five (45) day review and comment period has been established, beginning on January 13, 2023 and ending on February 27, 2023. The public is welcomed and encouraged to review and comment on the drafts of the Title VI Program, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans. Copies of both documents are available for review at the offices of Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925 (Ninth Floor), Bridgeport, CT 06604 and the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments 49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702. Drafts can also be viewed on-line at [www.ctmetro.org](http://www.ctmetro.org) and [www.nvcogct.org](http://www.nvcogct.org).

**NOTICE** is also given that MetroCOG will hold a public information meeting concerning the draft documents on February 8, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the conference room of the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments, 1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925, Bridgeport, CT 06604. Agency staff will be available at 4:30 PM to informally discuss any aspects relating to the drafts and any other transportation issues and concerns.

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more about the Title VI Program and the Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans and to express their support or concerns regarding these documents. Comments may be made orally at the information meeting, via e-mail or in writing. Written comments must be clearly legible, submitted on 8 1/2" by 11" paper and include the person's name and address. Any person

# TITLE VI, LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

## Public Meeting

Greater Bridgeport & Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023



### FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

MPOs must have up-to-date Title VI, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans

As a recipient and sub-recipient of federal financial assistance, MetroCOG must ensure full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 13166 (Limited English Proficiency).

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964** prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Specifically, Title VI provides that...

"no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

(42 U.S.C. Section 2000d).

### FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

MPOs must have up-to-date Title VI, Limited English Proficiency and Public Participation Plans

- Executive Order 13166, **"Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency"** requires that the Federal agencies work to ensure that recipients of Federal financial assistance provide **meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries**. Recipients of Federal financial assistance must follow to ensure that their programs and activities normally provided in English are accessible to LEP persons and thus do not discriminate based on national origin in violation of Title VI's prohibition against national origin discrimination.
- Each MPO shall develop and use a **documented participation plan** that defines a process for providing interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.



## GREATER BRIDGEPORT & VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

- A **Title VI Program and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan** have been developed as a single document.
- The GBVMPO Board of Directors last approved the Title VI, LEP and Public Participation Plans on **October 25, 2018**.
- The **2022 update has been completed**. The Update has been submitted to CTDOT for review.
- A **45-day public noticing period** is required prior to adoption. A Legal Notice was issued on January 13, 2023. **GBVMPO is accepting comments on the Plan until February 27th, 2023**.
- **All documents have been translated into Spanish** and the public review/outreach period will include the Title VI process and LEP Plan.

## TITLE VI PROGRAM & LEP PLAN

Policies, analysis & supporting materials

### Title VI Process:

#### Title VI Policy

#### Complaint Process & Procedures

#### Program:

- Staff training
- Monitoring subrecipients
- Investigations, complaints & lawsuits.
- Minority Representation on Planning & Advisory Bodies
- Environmental Justice

### Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan

#### 4 Factor Analysis:

- Number & proportion of LEP Persons served or encountered in the Service Population.
- Frequency with which LEP Persons come into contact with MetroCOG services & programs.
- Nature & importance of the program, activity or service to people's lives.
- Resources available for LEP outreach, as well as associated costs.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Goals & Objectives

- **Adequate public notice** of activities, time for review and comment, and reasonable access to information.
- **Visualization** techniques to describe plans.
- Making information available in **electronically accessible formats** and means.
- Holding public meetings at **convenient and accessible** locations and times.
- Demonstrating **consideration and response** to public input.
- Providing **additional opportunities** for public comment, if the document differs significantly from the original version for public review.
- **Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by the existing transportation system**.
- Coordinating with the **statewide transportation planning** public involvement and consultation processes.
- Periodically **reviewing the effectiveness** of the procedures and strategies contained in the plan to **ensure a full and open participation process**.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Strategies for day-to-day engagement & specific projects

### Regular Business Operations:

- Office accessibility
- Stakeholder & contact lists
- Meetings
- Website & social media
- Distributing documents & materials
- Committees
- Legal notices

### Projects, Plans & Studies

- Email lists
- Project Webpage
- Summary, FAQs & Brochure
- Technical & Advisory Committees
- Reaching the public
- Public feedback & comments
- Public hearings

### 2022 Update

- In 2018 MetroCOG only analyzed data for the six municipalities of Greater Bridgeport. In 2022, data analysis included Greater Bridgeport as well as the four valley towns of **Ansonia, Debry, Seymour and Shelton** that comprise the GBVMPO.
- The GBVMPO encompasses 196.4 square miles and is home to a diverse population of 388,565 residents, speaking more than **thirteen (13) languages/language groups**.
- Of the total regional population (388,565), **11.8% (45,749) of residents' report speaking English "less than very well"**.
- Of the 11.8% of residents' who report speaking English "less than very well", 7.3% speak Spanish, 2.1% speak Other Indo-European Languages, 0.6% speak French (Incl. Cajun), 0.5% speak Russian, Polish or other Slavic Languages, 0.3% speak Chinese (Incl. Mandarin) and 1% speak All Other Languages.

### 2022 Update

- The U.S. Census Bureau aggregated language groups differently in the 2016-2020 ACS Dataset, therefore **language groups differ between the 2018 and 2022 Plans**.
- For example, in the 2016-2020 ACS data **Portuguese** was not reported separately - this language was included under **"Other Indo-European Languages."**
- **Polish** was not reported separately either, it was included under **"Russian, Polish or other Slavic Languages."**
- Prior to the 2016-2020 ACS, **Portuguese was identified as a "Safe Harbor" language** in the GBVMPO Region.
- **Polish was also identified as a Safe Harbor language** due to statewide trends that we assume continue.

## Thank you!

Public Comment Period  
**January 13, 2023 – February 27, 2023**

Questions/Comments?  
[pcarleton@ctmetro.org](mailto:pcarleton@ctmetro.org)

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# Appendix C

**RESOLUTION 2023-03**

**ENDORSEMENT, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN  
FOR THE GREATER BRIDGEPORT AND VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO) is designated by the United States Department of Transportation as the transportation planning agency for the Greater Bridgeport and Valley Planning Region, and conducts the transportation planning process in accordance with Section 34 of Title 23 of the United States Code, as amended by the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)* and related US Department of Transportation planning regulations;

**WHEREAS**, the GBVMPO is committed to actively involving all affected parties in an open, cooperative, and collaborative process that provides meaningful opportunities to influence transportation decisions;

**WHEREAS**, the GBVMPO has completed an evaluation of the current public involvement process and prepared an updated *Public Participation Plan* in accordance with 23 CFR 450.316;

**WHEREAS**, the draft *Public Participation Plan* was made available for a 45-day public review and comment period from January 13, 2023 to February 27, 2023, and a public meeting was held on February 8, 2023;

**WHEREAS**, the draft *Public Participation Plan* was revised to incorporate comments received during this period;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the GBVMPO adopts the *Public Participation Plan* as its official public participation plan and will adhere to and implement its procedures in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the MPO, by its action at this meeting, requires member municipalities to also adhere to the *Public Participation Plan* for every program and project for which it will receive federal transportation funding assistance.

This resolution shall become effective as of March 30, 2023.

We, the undersigned co-secretaries of Greater Bridgeport and Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Connecticut, do hereby certify that the resolution adopted by the MPO at a public meeting held on March 30, 2023, at which a quorum was present and that the same is a correct and true transcript from the original thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



Matt Fulda, Executive Director  
MetroCOG – MPO Co-Secretary



Richard T. Dunne, Executive Director  
NVCOG – MPO Co-Secretary

Date: March 30, 2023

**Responsible Metropolitan Transportation Planning Agencies**

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1000 Lafayette Boulevard, Suite 925  
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**NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
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## Acknowledgements

### GREATER BRIDGEPORT & VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Ansonia	Mayor David Cassetti	Monroe	First Selectman Kenneth Kellogg
Bridgeport	Mayor Joseph P. Ganim	Seymour	First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis
Derby	Mayor Richard Dziekan	Shelton	Mayor Mark Lauretti, Vice-Chair
Easton	First Selectman David Bindelglass	Stratford	Mayor Laura Hoydick, Chair
Fairfield	First Selectwoman Brenda L. Kupchick	Trumbull	First Selectman Vicki Tesoro
Greater Bridgeport Transit	Doug Sutherland	Valley Transit District	Mayor Mark Lauretti



Patrick Carleton, AICP, Deputy Director

Lawrence Ciccarelli, Administrative Services Director

Devin Clarke, Senior Transportation Planner

Matthew Fulda, Executive Director

Mark Hoover, GIS Director

Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director

Robert F. Kulacz, P.E., Engineer

Lindsay Naughton, Regional Planner

Hannah Reichle, Regional Planner

Meghan A. Sloan, AICP, Planning Director



Drew Baklik, Director of Municipal Affairs

Trish Bauer, Office/Financial Manager

Desira Blanchard, Communications & Community Engagement Manager

Aaron Budris, Senior Regional Planner

Arthur Bogen, Environmental Planner-Brownfields

Ken Byron, Communications & Community Engagement Associate

Richard Crowther Jr., GIS Planning Assistant

Jack DeOliveira, Transportation Planner



John DiCarlo, Municipal Shared Services Director

Richard Donovan, Director of Transportation Planning

Rick Dunne, Executive Director

Kevin Ellis, P.E., Transportation Engineer

Joshua Lecar, Director of Planning

Mark Nielsen, Assistant Director

Eyitayo Olaleye, Transportation Planner

Christine O'Neill, Regional Environmental Planner

Mark Pandolfi, Transit Capital Administrator

Steven Perry, Environmental Planner

Glenda Prentiss, GIS Program Coordinator

Lauren Rizzo, Administrative Services Coordinator

Ricardo Rodriguez, Brownfields Manager

Joanna Rogalski, Senior Regional Planner/  
Emergency Management

Keith Rosenfeld, Regional Municipal Planner

Katie Schlick, Environmental Planner

Karen Svetz, P.E., Regional Transportation Engineer

Michael Szpryngel, Finance Director

Faith Thurmond, Staff Accountant/Program Coordinator

Savannah-Nicole Villalba, AICP, Senior Regional  
Planner for Housing & Integrated Development

Elliot Wareham, Transportation Planner