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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
10:00 a.m., Friday, September 18, 2026

This meeting may be viewed on the NVCOG YouTube channel.

Speaker: Nancy Hamson, Valley Council Health & Human Services, Community Care Hub

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING
The meeting was called to order at approximately 10 a.m. by Mayor Tom Dunn. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance, and the roll was confirmed.

NVCOG CEOs (v=virtual): N. Warren "Pete" Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck (v); Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, Bristol (v); Andrew Martelli, Alternate, Cheshire; Joseph DiMartino, Mayor, Derby (v); George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; David Sekorski, Mayor, Plymouth; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect (v); Annmarie Drugonis, First Selectwoman, Seymour (v); Timothy O'Neil, First Selectman, Southbury (v); Judy Mancini, Alternate, Waterbury (v); Jerry Lukowski, Alternate, Watertown; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Paul Zulpa, First Selectman, Woodbury.

GUESTS: Matthew Abbott (CT DOT) (v); Daniel Davis (Eversource); Lou Mangini (DeLauro) (v); James Nardozzi (WDC) (v); Felix Gottdeiner (Land Use, Bethlehem) (v).

NVCOG Staff: Executive Director Rick Dunne, Deputy Director Rich Donovan (v), Drew Baklik, Trish Bauer, Tucker Beckett, Desira Blanchard, Patricia Bruder, Demetre Coles, Richard Crowther, Thomas Dougherty, Kevin Ellis, Lana Harrison, Shahadat Hossein, Molly Johnson, Anthony Lawson, Nasrin Nahar, Tim Nolan, Tayo Olaleye, Inez Ortiz, Kate Pipa, Emely Ricci, Ricardo Rodriguez, Joanna Rogalski, Craig Stevenson (v), Nicole Sullivan, Michael Szpryngel, Danny Thomas.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL
Jerry Lukowski MOVED to approve the minutes of the 06-12-2026 NVCOG meeting; SECONDED by Paul Zulpa. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report for the period ending 06-30-2026

Michael Szpryngel explained that the financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 ended in the positive. The report was finalized the morning of the meeting, and the full report will be emailed to the Board; hard copies are available in the office.

The Board had adopted a flat budget with a $250,000 general fund allocation placeholder. The year ended with an approximate $35,000 surplus no general fund allocation was used. The office transition has incurred about $50,000 thus far and was recovered via the indirect rate. There were no operating budget funding cuts. Minor expense overruns occurred in IT maintenance contracts, extended RPO contracts, insurance premiums, printing, and website add-ons. Revenue variances were tied to staff billing across projects; actuals varied from estimates.

Tom Dunn TABLED acceptance of the financial report to the October 16, 2026 NVCOG meeting, in order to give the members the opportunity to review it.

Director's Report

Introduction of New Staff

The following staff were introduced to the Board:

Bobbi Brown, Communications Associate
Anthony Lawson, Operations Manager
Nasrin Nahar, Senior Housing Planner

Proposed NVCOG Paid Leave Policy

Rick Dunne explained that the Executive Committee did not meet due to the lack of a quorum. The draft policy consolidates existing practices and aligns with State paid leave benefits. A copy is in the meeting book for review; Executive Committee members are invited to submit comments to Anthony Lawson in advance – alawson@nvcogct.gov

Tom Dunn TABLED this item to an upcoming Executive Committee meeting.

Status of Agency Move to One Exchange Place

Rick Dunne explained that the target move into the new space is tentatively the week of October 5th pending the issuance of a CO. The plan is for remote work the first three days during the actual move, then employees will spend two days for setup in the new space. The agency will be closed for business that week. We are waiting for the installation of broadband by CEN.

Miscellaneous Agency Discussion

Rick will be absent from the October meeting as he is attending the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Conference. Rich Donovan will fill in.

There is one open position for a solid waste management coordinator; we are holding off on that until next year.

BROWNFIELDS DIVISION

Ricardo Rodriguez reported that there has been tremendous progress on 130 Freight Street, Waterbury.

Adoption of DECD Resolutions for Brownfields Projects:

NVCOG has received multiple DECD Brownfield awards. Each of these three awards are $200,000 assessment grants

a) NVCOG Resolution 2026-17 – O'Sullivan's Island, Derby
b) NVCOG Resolution 2026-18 – 389 Meadow Street, Waterbury
c) NVCOG Resolution 2026-19 – 135 South Main Street, Thomaston

Paul Zulpa MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolutions 2026-17, 2026-18 and 2026-19 – DECD Certified Resolutions for O'Sullivan's Island, Derby, 389 Meadow Street, Waterbury, and 135 South Main Street, Thomaston; SECONDED by David Sekorski. Motion carried unanimously.

The next two DECD Certified Resolutions authorize NVCOG to apply for $200,000 grants for the Plymouth and the Waterbury Brownfield Areawide Revitalization Planning (BAR) projects.

d) NVCOG Resolution 2026-20 – Plymouth BAR Application
e) NVCOG Resolution 2026-21 – Waterbury BAR Application

Andrew Martelli MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2026-20 and 2026-21, DECD Certified Resolutions for the Plymouth BAR Application and the Waterbury BAR Application; SECONDED by David Sekorski. Motion carried unanimously.

Regional Brownfields Partnership Annual Meeting – Save the Date

Inez Ortiz invited the NVCOG CEOs to attend the Regional Brownfields Partnership Annual Meeting from 1-4 p.m. October 1st at Counter Weight Brewing Company in Cheshire. Attendance is by invitation only, which is included in the meeting book.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Open Space Funding Opportunities

Molly Johnson reported that NVCOG can help scope projects, create maps, and/or submit a support letter for municipalities that wish to apply for any of the following grants.

The "Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition" is due November 6th and is open to all municipalities.

The "Urban Green and Community Gardens" is due December 4th. It is open to distressed, EJ, and targeted investment communities.

The Highland Conservation Act funding is ongoing. It is open to all municipalities, 8 located in current boundaries and 11 located in a possible expansion area.

Floodplain Management Program

Molly Johnson directed municipalities to NVCOG's new Floodplain Management web page at https://bit.ly/nvcog-floodplain

Invasive Plant Management Training

Danny Thomas made municipalities aware of an Invasive Plant Management Training to be held Wednesday, September 23, 2026, commencing at 9 am at the Prospect Fire Hall. Attendees will participate in an exclusive field walk with RWA Foresters, including a Steam Weeder demonstration. A light breakfast will be provided. Public Works and Parks staff, Land Use planners, and any interested municipal staff can register by emailing Danny Thomas at dthomas@nvcogct.gov by September 21st.

MAPPING, DATA AND TECHNOLOGY

Municipal GIS Consulting Update

New England Geosystems (NEGEO) has been acquired by Schneider Geospatial. Users should expect great potential for lower services at increased pricing. Richard Crowther, Jr. explained that NVCOG is available to help with vendor switching. He also discussed the possibility of NVCOG taking on parcel editing and hosting as an agency-provided service if the majority of towns commit. NVCOG could acquire hardware, host, and aim to keep costs flat initially, while improving service.

INTEGRATED MOBILITY AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Community Planning

Land Use Technical Advisory Committee (LUTAC)

Lana Harrison announced the formation of NVCOG's Land Use Technical Advisory Committee. She explained that its purpose is to provide a regular forum for NVCOG's member municipalities to learn about, discuss, and engage in information exchange on land use topics that pertain to our towns, cities, and the region. The first meeting is scheduled for 9-10:30 am Tuesday, October 13th. CEOs may communicate their appointee to Lana (lharrison@nvcogct.gov) or Tucker Beckett (tbeckett@nvcogct.gov).

Regional Plan of Conservation and Development (RPOCD) Focus Group Summary and Next Steps

Emely Ricci reviewed the results of the five Action Principle meetings that have been held thus far. In total, 140 participants attended and were engaged in meaningful activities and discussion groups on major regional and local issues. NVCOG staff analyzed and summarized the information collected at the meetings. The summaries provide important takeaways and data points that will be incorporated into the NVRPOCD. They can be viewed at https://nvcogct.gov/project/current-projects/plan-of-conservation-and-development/ .

Lana Harrison reviewed the next steps and explained the anticipated completion is in the Spring of 2027.

Transportation

LOTCIP Cost Change – Division Street and Seymour Avenue, Derby, Safety Improvements

Kevin Ellis explained the project that features sidewalk improvements and pedestrian safety feature. The previous construction cost was not previously endorsed. He reviewed the updated costs at just under $4.1 million, and recommended approval, committing regionally apportioned LOTCIP funds to the project.

George Temple MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2026-15 – LOTCIP Cost Change for Division Street and Seymour Avenue, Derby, Safety Improvements; SECONDED by David Sekorski. Motion carried unanimously.

LOTCIP Cost Overages – Rubber Avenue, Naugatuck, Reconstruction

Kevin Ellis explained that there had been unforeseen challenges during construction including undocumented or mislocated subsurface utilities, unsuitable soils, undocumented structures, and drainage and environmental constraints. Scope modifications were needed to comply with regulatory, inspection, utility or safety requirements identified only after construction commenced. An additional $740,754.90 in funding is requested.

Paul Zulpa MOVED to adopt NVCOG Resolution 2026-16 – LOTCIP Overages for Rubber Avenue, Naugatuck, Reconstruction; SECONDED by George Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

LOTCIP Financial Overview

Kevin Ellis provided an overview of LOTCIP revenue and obligations by Fiscal Year over the period of 2025 through 2032. A review of LOTCIP funding spent each year shows significant overprogramming in the future, starting in 2027. This demonstrates a strong need for the program to CT DOT which may help secure more state funding.

NVCOG Freight Mobility Plan

Tayo Olaleye reported that NVCOG staff will be developing a freight plan for the region that will use data analysis and stakeholder input to optimize freight movement, resulting in a prioritized list of projects and potential funding sources.

A freight advisory committee has been established and includes members from the trucking industry, railroad operators and private developers. Focus group discussions with the business community and a public meeting are planned. Completion is expected by early December for TTAC recommendation and board approval in mid-December.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Emergency Management

EMPG and HSGP EMPG Municipal Deliverables

Drew Baklik reported that for the 2025 Emergency Management Planning Grant, CEOs should ensure their local Emergency Management Director is tracking the September 30th completion deadline.

HSPG Memorandum of Agreement

For the 2025 Homeland Security Grant Program, municipalities need to sign the annual MOA. Northwest Hills COG acts as the fiduciary for this program. DEHMS regional coordinators for Region 5 sent emails with full details on September 9th.

NVC EDD – CEDS Resource Hub

Drew reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was successfully submitted to the US Economic Development Administration. A digital CEDS Resource Hub has been created to provide searchable regional assets and data. Staff are actively pursuing EDA funding for projects identified during CEDS development on a rolling basis, rather than an annual ranking process. The NVC EDD will manage the grant application process on behalf of the municipalities.

A Strategic Advisory Board meeting will be held on October 20, 2026 to outline the application process and introduce the resource hub.

ROUNDTABLE

No additional items were raised.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 11:15 a.m., George Temple MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by David Sekorski. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Bruder
Executive Administrative Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:
NVCOG Resolution 2026-15 – LOTCIP Cost Change – Division St. & Seymour Ave. Safety Improvements, Derby
NVCOG Resolution 2026-16 – LOTCIP Cost Overages – Rubber Ave., Naugatuck Reconstruction
NVCOG Resolution 2026-17 – DECD Certified Resolution - O'Sullivan's Island, Derby
NVCOG Resolution 2026-18 – DECD Certified Resolution - 389 Meadow Street, Waterbury
NVCOG Resolution 2026-19 – DECD Certified Resolution - 135 South Main Street, Thomaston
NVCOG Resolution 2026-20 – DECD Certified Resolution - Plymouth Brownfield Area-wide Revitalization Planning Application
NVCOG Resolution 2026-21 DECD Certified Resolution - Waterbury Brownfield Area-wide Revitalization Planning Application
Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 06-30-2026

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NVCOG RESOLUTION 2026-15

LOTCIP
ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS DIVISION STREET & SEYMOUR AVENUE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS
CITY OF DERBY

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

WHEREAS, Program guidelines stipulate that changes beyond the construction allocation require review and approval by the Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS, the current cost for the Division Street & Seymour Avenue Safety Improvements in Derby, Connecticut, funded under the Program, has increased beyond the construction allocation;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments approves the revised construction cost estimate as enumerated and described in Memorandum 20260918- DIVISION STREET AND SEYMOUR AVENUE.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on September 18, 2026, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on September 18, 2026

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed _____
N. Warren Hess, Chair

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RESOLUTION 2026-16

LOTCIP
ALLOCATE NVCOG ATTRIBUTABLE FUNDS FOR RUBBER AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION
NAUGATUCK

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

WHEREAS, Program guidelines stipulate that changes beyond the construction allocation require review and approval by the Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS, the current cost for the Rubber Avenue Reconstruction in Naugatuck, Connecticut, funded under the Program, has increased beyond the construction allocation;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments approves the revised construction cost estimate as enumerated and described in Memorandum 20260918-Rubber Avenue Reconstruction.

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments at its meeting on September 18, 2026, in Waterbury, Connecticut, at which a quorum was present.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on September 18, 2026

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed _____
N. Warren Hess, Chair

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
(AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER)

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

I, N. Warren Hess (Name of Official), Chair (Title of Official), certify that below is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (Name of the Applicant) at a meeting of its Board (Governing Body) duly convened on September 18, 2026 (Meeting Date) and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.

(Date) (Signature and Title of Official)

SEAL

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S Section 32-763 (State Statutory Reference) the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and **WHEREAS,** it is desirable and in the public interest that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (Applicant) make an application to the State for $ 200,000 in order to undertake the O'Sullivan's Island Assessment Project (Name and Phase of Project) and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board (Governing Body)

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S Section 32-763 (State Statutory Reference)

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (Applicant) in an amount not to exceed $ 200,000 is hereby approved and that

Revised 07/29/09

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
STATE OF CONNECTICUT
(AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER)

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board (Governing Body)

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S Section 32-763 (State Statutory Reference)

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (Applicant) in an amount not to exceed $ 200,000 is hereby approved and that

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board (Governing Body)

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2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (Applicant) in an amount not to exceed $ 200,000 is hereby approved and that

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board (Governing Body)

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S Section 32-763 (State Statutory Reference)

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (Applicant) in an amount not to exceed $ 200,000 is hereby approved and that

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(Date) (Signature and Title of Official)

SEAL

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S Section 32-763 (State Statutory Reference) the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and **WHEREAS**, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (Applicant) make an application to the State for $ 200,000 in order to undertake the North Street Waterbury Redevelopment Plan (Name and Phase of Project) Brownfield Area-wide Revitalization Planning Application and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Board (Governing Body)

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S Section 32-763 (State Statutory Reference)

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (Applicant)

Revised 07/29/09

RECEIVED
By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 9:25 am, Oct 13, 2026