



State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives

Brien Buckman, Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2015
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Buckman and Committee Member Reps. Fedeli, Heaphy, Pratt and Watkins. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Quinones and Summerville. Also present were Rep. Reeder and Francis Pickering and Matt Weinstein of the Western Connecticut Regional Council of Governments.

Chair Buckman called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. SC29.022	REVIEW; 2015 Initiatives of the Western Connecticut Regional Council of Governments. 01/06/15 – Submitted by Rep. Buckman 04/20/15 – Held in Committee	Report Made

Mr. Pickering reported that:

- The WestCOG was formed on January 1, 2015 and is the second largest COG in the State
- They have an office in Stamford and an office in Brookfield
- Their primary function in the past was regional planning, but the State legislature is focusing more on the delivery of regional services
- They are bringing on a new person to look at cost savings from regionalization
- Their main focus currently is transportation planning, including all modes of transportation in the region
 - They are looking at bus and shuttle services around the Stamford Transit Center
- They are developing a regional GIS which will be available online
- They will be seeking designation as an economic development district which will provide additional access to state and federal funds
- They are working on a natural disaster mitigation plan
- They currently have 13 employees

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Pickering stated that

- They have been providing input into the proposal to put in tolls
- They have been involved in the concept to widen I-95 between Stamford and Bridgeport
- Branch lines of the train need investment
- The proposed transit authority has reduced powers than originally contemplated and requires a MOU with any municipality; the WestCOG had voted in opposition to the authority; they would have a non-voting seat on it
- He will be glad to meet with the Committee again in the future

Chair Buckman adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brien Buckman, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).