

APPENDIX – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Opportunities for public participation were incorporated throughout the Vision 2020 process and served several purposes:

1. To educate persons who live, work and do business in the study area about the causes of traffic congestion and potential strategies for congestion mitigation;
2. To engage persons who live, work and do business in the study in honest discussions about a variety of congestion mitigation strategies and their potential costs and benefits; and
3. To gauge the potential levels of public and political support for specific congestion mitigation strategies.

A summary of public outreach and participation activities conducted during the Vision 2020 process follows.

Advisory Committee

An advisory committee including representatives of local, state and federal agencies, transportation providers, environmental organizations and the business community was the primary link between the study team and those constituencies that will likely emerge as providers or users of the transportation services comprising the vision. The advisory committee provided input on the direction of the study at regular intervals during the process. Advisory committee meetings were as follows:

June 26, 2001	SWRPA (Stamford)
November 16, 2001	Norwalk Transit District
January 11, 2002	The WorkPlace, Inc.
March 8, 2002	Norwalk Transit District
May 3, 2003	Norwalk Transit District
July 19, 2002	SWRPA
September 26, 2002	Norwalk City Hall

Summaries of these meetings including copies of project progress presentations are available for review on SWRPA's website at www.swrpa.org.

Advisory committee members also were encouraged to review and comment on the draft technical memoranda which form the basis on the vision.

Public Meetings

Other members of the general public also were provided with an opportunity to share their ideas for mitigating traffic congestion in the study area. Three general meetings were held during the initial phase of the study, one each in the South Western, Greater Bridgeport and South Central regions. An additional public meeting was held in the South Western Region upon release of preliminary evaluation results.

These public meetings occurred on the following schedule:

October 18, 2001	South Central Regional COG (North Haven)
November 1, 2001	Bridgeport City Hall
January 17, 2002	Darien Town Hall
September 26, 2002	Norwalk Town Hall

Telephone Surveys

Two public opinion telephone surveys were conducted. Each survey was designed and fielded by the Center for Research and Public Policy (CRPP). Each survey was answered by 1,000 randomly selected respondents. (A random digit sample technique used; unlisted and unpublished telephone numbers were available for sampling.) The demographic and geographic distribution of survey respondents reflected the demographic and geographic composition of the study area.

The first survey tested the following: perceptions of traffic congestion, roadway safety and the availability and accessibility of travel options; awareness of current transportation planning efforts; customer satisfaction with existing transportation infrastructure and services; and knowledge of general alternatives to travel by automobile. This survey was fielded in early October 2001.

The second survey tested the potential acceptance and success of specific congestion mitigation strategies. Specifically, respondents were asked what travel options they would support, what travel options they would use and how willing they were to pay for implementation of such improvements. Certain core questions fielded during the first survey were also asked again. This survey was fielded in September 2002.

Focus Groups

Focus groups were conducted to test a variety of factors including public perception of traffic congestion, awareness of current transportation planning efforts, preference for various congestion mitigation strategies and willingness to pay for transportation improvements. A total of eight focus groups were held. Focus group participants included persons commuting by automobile and transit, business managers and human resources personnel, and shippers and receivers.

The focus groups were conducted in January 2002.

Special Presentations

Information about the Vision 2020 process and objectives were given to several organizations at their request. These special presentations included opportunities for question and answer, and opportunities to provide comment of the congestion mitigation strategies under consideration.

Presentations were made to the following:

SWR Incident Management Team	April 9, 2002
East of Hudson Rail Operations Task Force	May 6, 2002
SACIA Leadership Fairfield County	May 17, 2002
Norwalk Traffic Summit	May 29, 2002

Project progress reports and updates were also provided periodically to the Transportation Strategy Board, the Coastal Corridor Transportation Investment Area and the Coastal Corridor Coalition.

Media

SWRPA distributed periodic press releases to area print, radio and television media as a means of communicating information about the study to persons who live and work in the study area. Media coverage was provided by the following: Greenwich Time, Stamford Advocate, The Hour (Norwalk), Connecticut Post (Bridgeport), New Haven Register, Hartford Courant, Darien News, Norwalk Citizen-News, Westport News, New Canaan Advertiser, Wilton Bulletin, News 12 Connecticut, WICC/WEBE radio (Bridgeport), WEZN radio (Milford), WGCH radio (Greenwich), WSTC/WNLK radio (Stamford/Norwalk) WELI/WKCI radio (New Haven) and WABC radio (New York).

Press releases and custom articles were also provided to targeted organizations such as area Chambers of Commerce, ridesharing organizations and professional associations for publication in their organization's newsletters.

CMS 2020 Study –Advisory Committee List

Name/Organization	Primary Interest Represented
Bridgeport Regional Business Council	Business
Connecticut Business and Industry Association	Business
Darien Chamber of Commerce	Business
Greenwich Chamber of Commerce	Business
Norwalk Chamber of Commerce	Business
Pitney Bowes	Business
Purdue Pharma	Business
Regional Growth Partnership (New Haven)	Business
SACIA	Business
Stamford Chamber of Commerce	Business
Westport/Weston Chamber of Commerce	Business
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce & CT Regional Institute for 21 st C.	Business/Land Use
Stamford Partnership	Community Organization
Congressman Shays' Office	Congressional
The Workplace	Economic Development/Social Services
Connecticut Fund for the Environment	Environmental
Transportation Choices Coalition of Connecticut	Environmental
Connecticut Department of Social Services	Government
Connecticut Department of Transportation	Government
Federal Highway Administration	Government
Federal Transit Administration	Government
Westchester County Department of Planning	Government
Westchester County Department of Transportation	Government
AFL-CIO	Labor
Association of Commuter Rail Employees	Labor
Regional Plan Association	Land Use/Smart Growth
City of Norwalk	Municipal
City of Stamford	Municipal
Town of Darien	Municipal
Town of Greenwich	Municipal
Town of New Canaan	Municipal
Town of Weston	Municipal
Town of Westport	Municipal
Town of Wilton	Municipal
Central Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments	Regional Planning Agency
Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency	Regional Planning Agency
Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials	Regional Planning Agency
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council	Regional Planning Agency
South Central Regional Council of Governments	Regional Planning Agency
Valley Council of Governments	Regional Planning Agency
Coastal Fairfield County Convention & Visitors Bureau	Tourism
MetroNorth Commuter Council	Transit Advocacy Group
CT Transit	Transit Provider
Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority	Transit Provider
HART	Transit Provider
Metro North Commuter Railroad	Transit Provider
Norwalk Transit District	Transit Provider
Metropool	Transportation Management Organization
Rideworks	Transportation Management Organization
CT Motor Transport Association	Trucking Industry
High Speed Ferry Task Force	Waterborne Transit