

Transportation Technical Advisory Group
May 6, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Participants

TTAG:	<i>Mr. Jeremy Ginsberg, Darien; Mr. James Michel, Greenwich; Mr. Mike Yeosock, Norwalk; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford; Mr. Robert Nerney, Wilton; Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District; Ms. Roxane Fromson, CTDOT</i>
SWRPA:	Mr. Craig Lader; <i>Dr. Floyd Lapp</i> ; Mr. Ryan Hall
Other:	None

Note: Italics indicates participation via telephone.

At 10:03 a.m. Mr. Craig Lader called the meeting to order. The meeting was held at SWRPA Offices at the Stamford Government Center – 3rd Floor.

1. TTAG Meeting Minutes: April 8, 2014

Mr. Lader requested comments or suggestions on the meeting minutes for the previous TTAG meeting. Mr. Robert Nerney questioned the accuracy of the date posted in item one of the minutes from the April meeting. Mr. Lader verified that date was a typo and pledged to correct it soon. The meeting minutes were then approved as written following a motion by Mr. Mani Poola and a second by Mr. James Michel. The motion carried. Mr. Nerney abstained from the motion because he did not attend the April TTAG meeting.

2. Public Involvement

There were no members of the public present.

3. Annual Certification of the South Western Region Transportation Planning Program*

Mr. Lader discussed the recent TMA quadrennial certification process, noting that it had gone very well. Mr. Lader then asked TTAG to certify the regional transportation planning program (Resolution #2014-004) which would affirm that the South Western Region transportation planning program complies with any and all metropolitan transportation planning requirements. Mr. Poola made a motion to support the resolution with a second from Mr. Nerney. The motion carried on a voice vote with no opposition.

4. FY2015 Unified Planning Working Program*

Mr. Lader noted that the FY2015 Work Program only covers one year as a result of the upcoming merger activity. He emphasized that it was a standard work program in every other respect. Mr. Lader then asked TTAG for its support of the upcoming work program. Mr. James Michel made a motion to approve which was seconded by Mr. Jeremy Ginsburg. The motion carried on a voice vote with no opposition.

5. Transportation Improvement Program

5a.FFY2012-2015 TIP Amendments*

Mr. Lader noted that there have been no TIP amendments received from CTDOT.

5b. Draft FFY2015-2018 TIP*

Ms. Sue Prosi was not able to attend the meeting, so there was no discussion of the draft FFY2015-2018 TIP.

6. STP-Urban and LOTCIP

Mr. Lader drew attention to CTDOT's April 2014 STP-Urban program report for the South Western Region. There were no comments or discussion.

7. South Western and Housatonic Valley Regions Merger Status Report

Dr. Lapp provided an update on the upcoming COG merger. He noted that there had been significant progress on passing COG ordinances. The towns of Westport, Weston, and Greenwich have all approved the ordinance. Stamford and Wilton are also likely to approve the COG ordinance in May. The remaining municipalities are expected to approve the ordinance sometime in the next month or by September at the latest. In order to form WCCOG, 60% (11/18) of the region's municipalities will need to approve the COG ordinance. Dr. Lapp noted that none of the towns in the Housatonic Valley region had adopted the ordinance because they were reluctant to move forward without agreement over WCCOG bylaws. Dr. Lapp mentioned that agreement over bylaws would be forthcoming which should encourage more communities in Housatonic Valley to adopt the COG ordinance. Dr. Lapp estimated that there would be enough support to create the new COG by late summer or early fall.

Dr. Lapp next turned to the issue of MPO redesignation. Recently, the MPO sent a letter to CTDOT and FHWA recommending that a redesignated MPO consist of the same geography as the proposed WCCOG. While a majority of the MPO members voted to send the letter, the city of Stamford and the Westport Transit District voted against approving the letter. Dr. Lapp summarized the city of Stamford's position. While the city will support joining WCCOG, the city sees no benefit in joining with Housatonic Valley as an MPO, preferring instead to keep the MPO borders as they are today. Dr. Lapp then expressed his belief that the Westport Transit District would prefer a redesignated MPO whose borders stretched east instead of north.

Stamford's opposition to an MPO that includes Housatonic Valley is significant because MPO redesignation requires the support of a region's principal city (in this case, Stamford) to redraw MPO boundaries. Dr. Lapp expressed his belief that Stamford is currently sticking to its opposition. He stressed that this could lead to an outcome in which the future MPO boundaries would not align with WCCOG. Dr. Lapp stressed that it is still too early to speculate just what shape the future MPO will take.

Ms. Jennifer Johnson asked if CTDOT was still on track to give their recommendations on MPO geography. Dr. Lapp responded that the target for the release of the recommendations is still July 1st with a goal of 5 MPOs. There will be discussions after July 1st, but ultimately there would be a period of transition to new MPO boundaries by the end of the year. This timing is essential to allow for the newly formed COGs to receive a new MPO as soon as resignation becomes official.

Ms. Johnson then asked if a COG did not have the same geographic boundaries as its associating MPO, could such COG still provide transportation planning services. Dr. Lapp responded that it is his understanding that as long as the regions are in line with SAFTEA-LU, any potential geography could be proposed and accepted by federal regulators.

8. Legislative Update

Mr. Lader provided an update on the end of the current legislative session indicating that there were no large scale transportation bills currently showing any movement through the legislature. There were some smaller issue bills that did merit some attention. Mr. Lader mentioned a bill related to taxis and pedestrians had moved forward, but at the moment neither bill has been approved by either chamber. He also spoke on the bamboo and tree trimming legislation which have both passed one chamber so far.

Mr. Lader mentioned that the state did pass its budget pointing out that there may be some items in the budget of note to TTAG. Mr. Lader promised to provide a draft legislative update by the end of next week which will provide any updates as they relate to transportation topics.

Finally, Mr. Lader noted that there was some legislative movement on the regionalism bill (Bill 5584). This bill eliminates a great deal of the proposed language related to COGs and mergers. It leaves intact most of the language provided last year that set off the current round of COG mergers. The most notable change is a provision that would require only half the members of a regional planning commission to be members of a local planning and zoning board. The other half could be appointed according to the bylaws of the COG. At the moment, that bill has only passed one chamber of the legislature. There is no guarantee that the bill will pass both chambers by the end of the legislative session.

9. New Business

9a.Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Lader referenced the upcoming meetings and events, including the May 22nd MPO and June 11th TTAG meetings.

9b.Other

Dr. Lapp expressed his support for Mr. Lader as he moves to a new position after 8 years at SWRPA. These comments were reciprocated by the rest of the members of TTAG.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Ryan Hall and Craig Lader

Minutes approved by TTAG: June 11, 2014

April 30, 2014

TO: Transportation Technical Advisory Group (TTAG)
FROM: Sue Prosi, Senior Regional Transportation Coordinator
SUBJECT: TTAG Meeting – Tuesday, May 6, 2014 10:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held at SWRPA offices at the Stamford Government Center – 3rd Floor, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901.

Directions: <http://www.stamfordct.gov/government-center-facilities/pages/directions-to-the-government-center>

The South Western Region MPO meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2014 at 8:15 a.m. The place of meeting is Norwalk Transit District.

AGENDA

1. **TTAG Meeting Summary for April 8, 2014*** (pages 1-4)
2. **Public Involvement**
Comments and questions from the public are welcome at this time.
3. **Annual Certification of the South Western Region Transportation Planning Program*** (pages 5-6)
This resolution affirms that the South Western Region transportation planning program complies with any and all metropolitan transportation planning requirements.
Resolution #2014-004 Certification of the South Western Region Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program* (page 6)
4. **FY2015 Unified Planning Working Program*** (pages 7-9)
The transportation planning work program undertakes activities required by regulation and guidance issued by USDOT and CTDOT and describes the transportation planning studies and activities proposed for the next year, state fiscal year 2015.
Resolution #2014-005 FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program Approval - May 2014* (page 9)
5. **Transportation Improvement Program**
 - a. **FFY2012-2015 TIP Amendments***
TIP amendments requested by CTDOT will be reviewed. As of April 29, 2014, no amendments have been received.
Resolution #2014-006 FFY2012-2015 TIP Endorsement*
 - b. **Draft FFY2015-2018 TIP**
The status and schedule for the TIP update to FFY2015-2018 will be discussed.

*Denotes action item

6. **STP-Urban and LOTCIP** (page 10)
CTDOT's April 2014 STP-Urban program report for the South Western Region is attached. The STP Working Group will meet soon to review STPB project status and funding needs, new applications, the LOTCIP 3% set aside , and procurement of consultant services for regional review of LOTCIP project design.
7. **South Western and Housatonic Valley Regions Merger Status Report**
8. **Legislative Update**
9. **New Business**
 - a. **Upcoming Meetings**

5/22/14	8:15 a.m.	MPO – at Norwalk Transit District
6/11/14	10:00 a.m.	TTAG – at Darien Town Hall
 - b. **Other**

***Denotes action item**

To arrange for special accommodations or translation services contact SWRPA at least five (5) days prior to the meeting at (203) 316-5190 (voice only)

Para organizar especial de alojamiento o los servicios de traducción en contacto con SWRPA al menos cinco (5) días antes de la reunion al (203) 316-5190