

4/16/2015 MINUTES
HOUSATONIC VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MEETING AT DANBURY CITY HALL

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel..... First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
Bridgewater..... First Selectman Curtis Read
Brookfield..... First Selectman William Tinsley
Danbury..... Mayor Mark Boughton

New Fairfield.. First Selectman Susan Chapman, Vice Chairman
New Milford... Mayor Patricia Murphy
Newtown..... First Selectman Patricia Llodra
Redding..... First Selectman Julia Pemberton

Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chairman
Sherman..... First Selectman Clay Cope

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Roxane Fromson of CTDOT, Lynn Waller of Danbury, Richard Schreiner HARTransit, Director of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments Richard Lynn, and from the WestCOG staff David Hannon, Alex Karman, Carl Zimmerman, Camille Acquanita and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM by Chairman Rudy Marconi, after which attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES FROM 3/19/2015

After review and on a motion made by Susan Chapman and seconded by Pat Murphy, the minutes of the HVMPO meeting of 3/19/2015 were unanimously approved, with an abstention by Matt Knickerbocker.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Dave Hannon presented an agenda attachment with TIP amendments received from CT DOT. He then summarized them as follows:

- Bridgewater - Brookfield Boundary Route 133:
Rehabilitate bridge over Lake Lillinonah, \$5,550,000.
- Redding Route 53: Replace bridge over the Saugatuck River, \$2,400,000.
- Statewide: Delete replacing light fixtures with LED as funding obtained elsewhere.

There was discussion of the two bridge projects. After further review of the TIP agenda attachments and on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Pat Llodra, the three TIP amendments were unanimously approved.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN APPROVALS

Jon Chew presented this agenda item, stating that periodic updating of the Regional Transportation Plan is a federal requirement for the area's transportation funding, and that the Plan was last updated in 2011.

He overviewed an agenda attachment entitled "Record of Input to the 2015-2040 Regional Transportation Plan," a list of steps taken in recent months to obtain input for the revision. Comments received at the evening Draft Plan public information meeting held at the Brookfield Office on April 14 were also distributed.

There was discussion of the process, the two air quality resolutions and the larger issue of air quality in Connecticut. Approvals for the Plan and related air quality resolutions were then requested as follows:

- 2015 Ozone Air Quality Conformity Determination.
- 2015 Particulate Air Quality Conformity Determination.
- Record of Input to Draft Regional Transportation Plan and 4/14 supplement.
- 2015-2040 Draft Regional Transportation Plan.
- Annual Recertification of Transportation Planning Program.

Then on a motion made by Clay Cope and seconded by Pat Llodra, the HVMPO unanimously approved the five items above.

CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES

The background on this agenda item was provided by Dave Hannon. He overviewed the CTDOT solicitation for applications to be funded through the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ). This program funds projects that will help to improve or maintain air quality.

CTDOT requires that CMAQ applications and priorities be approved by the MPO and also WestCOG prior to the due date of April 30, 2015. Each MPO is entitled to submit up to three prioritized projects with individual project costs not to exceed \$3M in federal CMAQ funding, he said.

Two applications have been received. Their descriptions and staff recommended priorities were as shown below:

- **Priority 1: New Milford Signal Control for combined Routes 67 and 202 (Bridge Street), \$1,300,000 CMAQ total.**

"Poor traffic signal timing contributes to traffic congestion and delay. Most conventional signal systems use pre-programmed timing schedules for various periods of the day. Adaptive signal control technology on Bridge Street will adjust the timing of red, yellow and green lights to quickly accommodate changing traffic patterns and ease traffic congestion."

• **Priority 2: HARTransit, Commuter Bus Service for western Danbury, \$239,323 CMAQ total.**

“The service will connect with the existing commuter transit service at the I-84 Exit 2 Park and Ride Lot for Matrix, Praxair, Boehringer, Belimo, Anne’s Place, new housing units, etc.

The 20% grant match will be provided by fares and Belimo. The proposed pilot program will test the feasibility of incorporating this transit service into HARTransit’s annual operating budget.”

There was discussion. The HVMPPO was then requested to endorse the CMAQ applications and priorities as presented. Then on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Pat Murphy, the two applications and recommended priority order were unanimously endorsed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Francis Pickering discussed the potential for contracting with the adjacent Northwest Hills Council of Governments to prepare that region’s Northwest Hills Regional Transportation Plan. Richard Lynn, Executive Director of the Northwest Hills Council spoke to the issue.

There was discussion. While some members agreed that such cooperation would enable an approach to transportation that is well coordinated, the view of others was that as WestCOG is in its formative stages there are higher priorities for use of staff time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion made by Susan Chapman and seconded by Pat Murphy the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.