

**1/22/2015 MINUTES**  
**HOUSATONIC VALLEY**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

HELD AT THE SHERMAN VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT IN SHERMAN, CT

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Bethel..... First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker  
Bridgewater.... First Selectman Curtis Read  
Brookfield..... Absent  
Danbury..... Absent  
New Fairfield.... First Selectman Susan Chapman, Vice Chair  
New Milford.... Mayor Patricia Murphy  
Newtown..... First Selectman Patricia Llodra  
Redding..... First Selectman Julia Pemberton, Secretary  
Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chair  
Sherman..... First Selectman Clay Cope

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Chairman Rudy Marconi, after which attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

HARTransit Service Development Director Richard Schreiner updated members on the upcoming annual "Bike to Work Day", this year to be held on May 15. Bike riders will meet at the Bethel Train Station where there will be a free breakfast provided, T-shirts, water bottles and other giveaways, all promoting bicycle commuting.

An identical event will be held the same day at the HARTransit Pulse Point on Kennedy Avenue in Danbury. Mr. Schreiner noted that in the past this event has been financially sponsored by HARTransit, CT rides and HVCEO, and requested that WCCOG provide the earlier HVCEO financial support of \$180.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**Minutes from 12/11/2014:** After review and on a motion made by Julia Pemberton and seconded by Pat Murphy, the minutes of the HVMPO meeting of 12/11/2014 were unanimously approved, with an abstention by Matt Knickerbocker.

**Transportation Improvement Program Amendments:** The items from CT DOT proposed for endorsement were:

- a) Project #0096-0202 Newtown Sidewalk Improvement Program at a total cost of \$870,000, and
- b) Project #0174-0392 CT DOT Signal Installations in District 4 at a total cost of \$2,800,000, the locations in our area being on Route 6 - Mill Plain Road in Danbury and at the Routes 6 and 25 Hawleyville intersection in Newtown.

After brief discussion and then on a motion made by Curtis Read and seconded by Clay Cope, the two TIP amendments and their accompanying endorsement resolution were unanimously approved.

## **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

Jon Chew updated members on the latest federally required Regional Transportation Plan revision. Members had been forwarded an early draft copy for review prior to the initiation of the public review process, leading to adoption by the MPO in the spring. It is important to have each municipal list of proposed projects accurate and complete in order to maximize funding opportunities, he said.

## **MPO OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Dave Hannon reviewed HVMPO operational issues, noting how the ten town federal transportation planning function within HVCEO remained in place after HVCEO merged into WCCOG on 1/1/2015.

He discussed a recently distributed memo entitled "Review of MPO Operations for the Housatonic Valley Region" which reviewed MPO administrative issues pending.

Requested actions will include a "Resolution to Designate WCCOG as the Transportation Planning Agency for the HVMPO" and a "Resolution to Endorse Adjustments to the Current FY2015 Unified Planning Work Program", copies of which were attached to the agenda.

There was discussion with participation by Roxane Fromson of CT DOT and Sue Prosi of staff. It was agreed that most MPO issues will be acted on at the February 19 meeting.

As for an acronym for the organization, Housatonic Valley Region MPO or Housatonic Valley MPO, on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Pat Murphy it was voted unanimously to utilize the shorter HVMPO.

As for the scheduling of HVMPO meetings just before WCCOG meetings, it was recommended that to facilitate public participation all HVMPO meetings be held within the boundary of the ten town HVMPO, former HVCEO, area.

And as only every other WCCOG meeting is scheduled to be held within the HVMPO area, that HVMPO meetings should be scheduled just before those "in area" WCCOG meeting dates which occur every other month.

Further, that when HVMPO business is pressing yet the next WCCOG meeting is scheduled for a location outside of the HVMPO area, such as is anticipated for the February 19th WCCOG meeting, an HVMPO meeting will be held within the MPO area at a location convenient for members traveling on south to the WCCOG meeting location.

The three procedural understandings above were then summarized as a motion made by Pat Murphy, seconded by Rudy Marconi, voted all aye.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion duly made and seconded the HVMPO meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.