

**South Western Region  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
March 19, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

<b>Chief Elected Officials:</b>	<i>Hon. William Brennan, Wilton; Hon. Gayle Weinstein, Weston; Hon. Jayme Stevenson, Darien; Hon. Robert Mallozzi, New Canaan; Hon. James Marpe, Westport; Hon. Peter Tesei, Greenwich; Hon. Harry Rilling, Norwalk;</i>
<b>Transit District Officials:</b>	<i>Ms. Kimberlee Morton, Norwalk Transit District; Mrs. Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford Transit District;</i>
<b>Official Voting Members:</b>	<i>Mr. Michael Pollard, Stamford; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford;</i>
<b>WestCOG:</b>	<i>Mr. Francis Pickering, Executive Director; Ms. Sue Prosi, Sr. Transportation Coordinator; Mr. Alex Karman, Sr. Transportation Planner; Mr. Rob Sachnin, Sr. Regional Planner; Mr. Carl Zimmerman, GIS Coordinator; Mr. Michael Towle, Regional Planner; Mr. David Hannon, Deputy Director; Jon Chew, Senior Project Manager;</i>
<b>CTDOT:</b>	<i>Ms. Roxane Fromson;</i>
<b>USDOT:</b>	<i>Mr. Kenneth Shooshan-Stoller, FHWA;</i>
<b>Other:</b>	<i>Mr. Thomas Madden, Stamford Economic Development.</i>

*Note: Italics indicates participation via telephone.*

Chairman William Brennan called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m. The place of meeting was the Stamford Offices of the Western CT Council of Governments, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901.

**1. South Western Region MPO Minutes – February 2, 2015**

Corrections were made to the draft minutes. Mr. Robert Mallozzi made a motion to approve the amended February 2, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jayme Stevenson. The amended minutes were approved with these exceptions. Abstentions because they were not at the meeting included: Ms. Gayle Weinstein; Mr. Harry Rilling, and Mr. Mani Poola. Mrs. Jennifer Johnson opposed approval of the minutes.

**2. Public Involvement**

There were no comments from the public.

**3. FY2015 South Western Region Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Adjustments\***

Ms. Prosi briefed the SWRMPO about the need for adjustments to the South Western Region transportation planning work program for FY2015. The revisions are necessary to take into account changes attributable to the merger of the two regions into the Western CT Council of Governments

(WestCOG). The UPWP adjustments will: revise the staff listing to identify the COG staff roster; update the cost allocation plan; and adjust the burden fringe and overhead rate. WestCOG will be identified as the “transportation planning agency” for the South Western and Housatonic Regions replacing SWRPA and HVCEO which no longer exist.

Ms. Johnson opposed designation of WestCOG as the transportation planning agency for the South Western Region MPO. Mr. Brennan and others pointed out it was a practical and necessary action to enable transportation planning and project funding to continue. **Resolution #2014-002 Designation of WestCOG as the Transportation Planning Agency for the South Western Region MPO** was approved following a motion by Mr. Brennan and a second by Ms. Weinstein. Ms. Kimberlee Morton abstained, and Mrs. Johnson voted against the resolution and designation.

The motion to approve the FY2015 UPWP adjustments was moved by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Ms. Weinstein. Following discussion of the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process **Resolution #2015-003 South Western Region Unified Planning Work Program Adjustments** was approved. Ms. Morton abstained from voting and Mrs. Johnson opposed the resolution.

#### **4. South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Alex Karman described the update of the *South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2011-2040 (LRTP)* to 2015-2040. WestCOG has prepared a draft update to the South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The LRTP, last adopted in 2011, is a blueprint for transportation investment over a twenty-five year period. The LRTP highlights the projects and strategies necessary to maintain the Region’s transportation system in a state of good repair. It also recommends new projects and strategies that will help the Region meet future demand for transportation.

In 2014, the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO) and South Western Regional Planning Agency (SWRPA) consolidated under state law to form the WestCOG. This consolidation did not affect the two federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) associated with each organization, which exist today as separate boards. Therefore, this LRTP covers the eight municipalities represented by the South Western Region MPO. The Housatonic Region LRTP covers the ten municipalities in the Housatonic Region MPO and is also being updated.

Because of the changes to the state’s regional planning organizations, Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) has directed all regions to make only minor updates to their long range plans. Therefore, the format and content of the 2015 LRTP is similar to that of the 2011 LRTP with edits necessary to meet the latest Federal requirements as well as to keep the content current. For instance, the 2015 Plan will include the latest available demographic and travel data, narrative updates, a revised project list, and references to performance management requirements under MAP-21.

#### **Draft 2015 LRTP Updates**

The edits to the draft 2015 LRTP include:

- Merger: A brief narrative describing the formation of WestCOG from the consolidation of HVCEO and SWRPA as well as the status of the respective MPO boards.
- MAP-21: Reference to new rules under MAP-21, including performance management requirements.
- Demographic and travel data: Latest available population, demographic, employment, and travel data.
- Updated narrative describing the region’s land use, economy development prospects, and the environment.
- Updated narrative describing the region’s transportation system, the challenges it faces over the next quarter century, and recommendations to meet those challenges.
- Updated project list.
- Updated funding and financial information.

## Public Involvement and South Western Region TTAG and MPO Review and Approval

The draft LRTP will be available for public review during a thirty-day public review period tentatively scheduled to begin on April 1, 2015. The public review period will begin after CTDOT has issued the air quality conformity from CTDOT, which is scheduled for March 31, 2015. During the public review period, WCCOG will post the draft document to its website and hold one or more public meetings. To meet the CTDOT and USDOT deadline of April 30, 2015 for Metropolitan Planning Organization endorsement of the LRTP updates, CTDOT has advised regions to approve the LRTP update and air quality conformity contingent on receipt of no major adverse impacts. This results in scheduling SWRMPO action at the April 16, 2015 meeting.

## **5. Transportation Improvement Program FFY2015-2018\***

Ms. Sue Prosi referred the SWRMPO to the TIP amendments and actions proposed by CTDOT which increase funding for bridges and sign supports. The SWRMPO tabled the TIP amendments and requested more information about the projects and cost increases before action is taken.

### **Tabled FHWA Amendments – SWRTIP#2015-002**

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
70	STPA-BRX	0170-3223	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	SF BRIDGE INSP - NON-NHS ROADS 9/1/13 - 12/31/16 - AC CONVERSION	OTH	2015	4,000	3,200	800	0	INCRE. EST. FROM FED. \$320K
70	STPA	0170-3227	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	CE SIGN SUPPORT INSP - NON-NHS ROADS 7/1/13 - 12/31/16 - AC CONVERSION	OTH	2015	690	552	138	0	INCRE. EST. FROM FED. \$98K

AQC X6 = exempt

The SWRMPO.

## **6. South Western Region MPO 2015 Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Brennan noted that the next SWRMPO meeting would be held on April 16, 2015 and hosted by Ms. Stevenson in Darien Town Hall. The SWRMPO meeting will follow the WestCOG 12noon – 1:30 p.m. meeting which has CTDOT Commissioner James Redeker as the featured speaker. The SWRMPO members were encouraged to submit comments and questions to the WestCOG staff.

Mr. Brennan asked the SWRMPO to consider whether the 8:15 a.m. meetings should be moved to another time, say 9:00 a.m., on the dates that the WestCOG meeting is held outside of the South Western Region. This topic will be discussed at an upcoming SWRMPO meeting.

## **7. Information Items**

### **a. Upcoming Meetings**

Mr. Brennan reviewed the upcoming meetings included on the agenda.

### **b. 2015 South Western Region MPO Schedule**

This was discussed under agenda item 6.

### **c. Bicycle and Pedestrian Update**

Mr. Karman advised that WestCOG was working with the City of Stamford and others for “Bike to Work” day on May 15, 2015 which is expanded to Bike to Work Week in Stamford.

Mr. Karman described the USDOT Mayor’s Challenge. He noted that Stamford has taken the challenge and encouraged other towns to join.

Ms. Prosi said that the **CTDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board 2014 Report** was issued and is available on the CTDOT website at: <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1373&Q=561874>

**7. Adjournment**

The MPO meeting was adjourned at 8:42 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Brennan and a second by Ms. Weinstein which was unanimously approved.

Minutes approved by SWRMPO on April 16, 2015

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# SOUTH WESTERN REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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**SWRMPO AGENDA – March 19, 2015 at 8:15 a.m.**

**Location: Western CT COG – Stamford Office**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor – 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford CT 06901**

1. **South Western Region MPO Minutes – February 2, 2014** \* (pages 1-4)
2. **Public Involvement** – *Comments and questions from the public are welcome at this time.*
3. **FY2015 South Western Region Unified Planning Work Program UPWP Adjustments\*** (pages 5-7)  
*Adjustments to the FY2015 UPWP are recommended to reflect the change from SWRPA administration to Western CT COG administration of transportation planning services for the South Western Region MPO.*  
**Resolution #2015-002 Designation of WCCOG as the Transportation Planning Agency\*** (page 6)  
**Resolution #2015-003 South Western Region Unified Planning Work Program Adjustments\*** (page 7)
4. **South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan Update\*** (page 8)  
*As required by CTDOT and USDOT, the South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2011-2040 is being updated to the years 2015-2040. The changes between the approved 2011 Plan and the proposed 2015 Plan are identified in agenda item #4 and will be discussed at the SWRMPO meeting.*
5. **Transportation Improvement Program: FFY2015-2018\*** (pages 9-10)  
*Amendment of the TIP is requested by CTDOT.*  
**Resolution #2015-004 FFY2015-2018TIP Endorsement\*** (page 10)
6. **2015 South Western Region MPO and TTAG Schedule\*** (page 11)
7. **Information Items**
  - a. **Upcoming Meetings**

3/19/15	12:00 noon	Western CT COG – New Milford Town Hall
3/19/15	8:15 a.m.	South Western Region MPO – WCCOG Stamford Office
3/31/15	10:00 a.m.	TTAG – Darien Town Hall
4/13/15	8:30 a.m.	Managing the Unexpected in Crisis <i>Management (Sponsored by DEMHS Region 1)</i>
4/16/15	12:00 noon	Western CT COG – Darien Town Hall
4/16/15	1:30 p.m.	South Western Region MPO – Darien Town Hall (following COG meeting)
  - b. **2015 Western CT COG Schedule** (page 12)
  - c. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Update**
    1. **Bike to Work Day May 15, 2015**
    2. **USDOT Mayors Challenge** (page 13)
    3. **CTDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board 2014 Report**  
*The report is available on the CTDOT: <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=1373&Q=561874>*
8. **Adjournment** \* Action Item

*For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at [help@westernctcog.org](mailto:help@westernctcog.org).*

*Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con Western Connecticut Consejo de Gobiernos por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al [help@westernctcog.org](mailto:help@westernctcog.org).*