

**South Western Region
Metropolitan Planning Organization
May 21, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Chief Elected Officials:	<i>Hon. William Brennan, Wilton; Hon. Gayle Weinstein, Weston; Hon. Robert Mallozzi; Hon. Jayme Stevenson, Darien; Hon. James Marpe, Westport; Hon. Peter Tesei, Greenwich; Hon. Harry Rilling, Norwalk;</i>
Transit District Officials:	<i>Ms. Kimberlee Morton, Norwalk Transit District; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford Transit District; Mrs. Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District;</i>
Official Voting Members:	Mr. Mani Poola for Hon. David Martin, Stamford;
WestCOG:	<i>Mr. Francis Pickering, Executive Director; Ms. Sue Prosi, Sr. Transportation Coordinator; Mr. Rob Sachnin, Sr. Regional Planner; Mr. Michael Towle, Regional Planner; Mr. Carl Zimmerman, GIS Coordinator;</i>
CTDOT:	<i>Ms. Roxane Fromson, Supervising Transportation Planner;</i>
USDOT:	No one
Other:	<i>Ms. Susan Sweitzer, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency; Ms. Tracey Alston, Eversource.</i>

Participating via phone

Mr. William Brennan called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The place of meeting was the WestCOG Stamford Office, 888 Washington Avenue, Stamford, CT 06901.

1. South Western Region MPO Minutes – April 16, 2015*

Mr. Brennan made a motion to approve the April 16, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tesei. The minutes were approved as submitted. Ms. Gayle Weinstein and Mayor Harry Rilling abstained from voting because they did not attend the SWRMPO's April 16, 2015 meeting.

2. Public Involvement

Ms. Tracey Alston with Eversource announced that Eversource has updated their critical facility maps and will be reaching out to the WestCOG southern municipalities to provide that information/data.

3. FY2016 & FY2017 South Western Region Unified Planning Work Program*

Ms. Sue Prosi provided background information on the two year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which identifies the transportation planning activities and special studies to be undertaken in the South Western Region under the aegis of the South Western Region MPO (SWRMPO). In FY2016, there is \$854,800 and \$1,004,628 in FY2017 for South Western Region transportation planning activities to meet federal and state requirements as well as regional and municipal needs. There are seven studies totaling \$2.4m that will be undertaken. Two projects will close out early in FY2016; two new projects will be initiated, and three projects will continue.

The need for adequate staffing was mentioned by Ms. Prosi, and later by Ms. Kimberlee Morton, who explained Norwalk Transit District's reliance on the staff to provide technical assistance, do Title VI, GIS for the Norwalk Transit District and either participate in or manage studies. In the discussion, Ms. Weinstein provided a summary of her previous conversation with Mr. Pickering who does not feel that WestCOG requires additional staff at the moment. While Ms. Jayme Stevenson expressed concern about WestCOG staff for South Western Region transportation planning. Mr. Marpe would like planning studies completed.

Mr. Brennan, Ms. Stevenson, and Ms. Johnson requested a document which shows the projects and their schedules for the work program to provide an idea or specifics for the plans and what is required of the staff. Ms. Weinstein advised that staffing requirements will be part of the WestCOG budget discussions.

The motion to approve **Resolution #2015-010 FFY2016 & FY2017 UPWP – May 2015** was moved by Ms. Stevenson seconded by Mr. Tesei. The motion carried unanimously.

4. TIGER Grant Application*

In this 7th round of Tiger funding, the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency has applied for \$14 million for West Avenue Connectivity Infrastructure Improvements SWRMPO support for the application and amendment of the TIP are requested. The SWRMPO has supported previous TIGER grant applications for the West Avenue Corridor.

Ms. Susan Sweitzer described the project objectives and funding mix. There is continued development in the West Avenue corridor consisting of housing, mixed use development, and the future 95/7 development which will benefit from the proposed bus transit service and connections to the South Norwalk rail station. This will aid in reducing congestion. Ms. Sweitzer reported that Norwalk's 2014 application for TIGER funds was nearly granted last year. The City is optimistic about receiving 2015 funding. Mayor Rilling encouraged the SWRMPO to support this project which is important to the City of Norwalk.

The motion to approve **Resolution #2015-011* South Western Region Metropolitan Transportation Support for Norwalk West Avenue Connectivity Infrastructure Improvements TIGER Grant Application – May 2015** was made by Mr. Brennan and seconded by Ms. Weinstein. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Transportation Improvement Program FFY2015-2018*

Ms. Prosi briefly reviewed the CTDOT requested TIP amendments. TIP project information is listed below.

An amendment to delete Project # 0135-0323 from the TIP is on hold because Stamford wishes to keep these projects on the TIP. Mr. Poola explains that Stamford is making a big effort to improve bike and pedestrian safety in Stamford. The MPO wishes to know more about these projects before providing its support. Ms. Weinstein will provide a write up on the projects for the MPO before the next MPO meeting.

FHWA Amendments (SWRTIP#A2015-003)

170-3340 – Inspection of Bridges not located on the National Highway System (NHS) by Consulting Engineers (Underwater)

Funding for these bridge inspections is increased by \$440,000 each year and STP-Anywhere BRX (Bridges) rather than the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP- BRX) funding. The increase in project funding is similar to Project 170-3223, endorsed by the SWRMPO last month,

which was also related to MAP-21 changes. This project was recommended by the TTAG for MPO endorsement on May 5, 2015.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
70	STPA-BRX	0170-3340	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	CE BRIDGE INSP - UWATER - NON-NHS ROADS	OTH	2015	0	0	0	0	MOVE FROM NHPP-BRX TO STPA BRX
70	STPA-BRX	0170-3340	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	CE BRIDGE INSP - UWATER - NON-NHS ROADS (FY 15)	OTH	2015	680	544	136	0	MOVE FROM NHPP-BRX TO STPA BRX & INC. EST FROM \$240K
70	STPA-BRX	0170-3340	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	CE BRIDGE INSP - UWATER - NON-NHS ROADS (FY 16)	OTH	2016	680	544	136	0	MOVE FROM NHPP-BRX TO STPA BRX & INC. EST FROM \$240K
70	STPA-BRX	0170-3340	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	CE BRIDGE INSP - UWATER - NON-NHS ROADS (FY 17)	OTH	2017	680	544	136	0	MOVE FROM NHPP-BRX TO STPA BRX & INC. EST FROM \$240K

102-TIGR7 – TIGER Grant Application: West Avenue Connectivity (Norwalk)

The City of Norwalk and the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency have submitted an application for USDOT TIGER grant funding. The request is for \$14,000,000 in federal funding and is similar to submissions in previous years. The project seeks to connect two of Norwalk's primary transit nodes, the Wall Street bus hub (1 million riders/year) and the South Norwalk Rail Station (1.7 million riders/year) via a two vehicle urban circulator. The proposed circulator will also provide stops along this transportation spine, assisting with the movement of people to/from jobs/housing, assisting with area economic development efforts. This project was recommended by the TTAG for MPO endorsement on May 5, 2015.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
01	TIGER7	0102-TIGR7	NM	WEST AVE	NORWALK	WEST AVE CONNECTIVITY	ALL	2015	12,500	12,500	0	0	NEW PROJECT

The motion to approve Resolution #2015-012 FFY2015-2018 TIP Endorsement – May 2015 was made by Ms. Stevenson and seconded by Mr. Brennan. The motion carried.

6. South Western Region MPO – June 18, 2015 in Westport

Because there are several high school conflicts with the proposed WestCOG and SWRMPO meetings on June 18, 2015, an alternative WestCOG and SWRMPO meeting date will be discussed at the WestCOG 12:30pm meeting. Mr. Marpe would like Westport to host the meeting at the Westport Senior Center. It is his preference that the meetings be held on June 25, 2015.

7. Information Items

a. TTAG May 5, 2015 Meeting

Mr. Brennan cited the TTAG meeting minutes in the packet.

b. Upcoming Meetings

Ms. Stevenson reviewed the upcoming meetings which were included on the agenda.

c. Other

No other items were discussed.

8. Adjournment

The MPO meeting was adjourned at 8:53 a.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Stevenson seconded by Mr. Brennan, and unanimously passed.

SWRMPO Endorsement: June 25, 2015