1. South Western Region MPO Minutes – August 20, 2015 * (pages 1-4)

2. Public Involvement – Comments and questions from the public are welcome at this time.

3. Transportation Improvement Program: FFY2015-2018* (pages 5-7)
   Amendment of the TIP is requested by CTDOT and the City of Stamford.
   Resolution #2015-016* FFY2015-2018TIP Endorsement* (page 6)

4. Information Items
   a. Upcoming Meetings
      11/3/15  10:00 a.m.  TTAG – Darien Town Hall (if needed)
      11/19/15  8:15 a.m.  South Western Region MPO – WestCOG Stamford Office (if needed)
      11/19/15  11:30 a.m.  Housatonic Valley MPO – Danbury City Hall (if needed)
      11/19/15  12:00 noon  Western CT COG – Danbury City Hall
   b. TTAG Meeting Minutes – October 6, 2015 (pages 8-9)
   c. Other

5. 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.

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.
South Western Region  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
August 20, 2015  
Draft Meeting Minutes

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transit District Officials:</td>
<td>Ms. Kimberlee Morton, Norwalk Transit District; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford Transit District;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Official Voting Members:</td>
<td>Ms. Eileen Flug for Hon. James Marpe, Westport; Mr. Michael Pollard for Hon. David Martin, Stamford;</td>
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<tr>
<td>WestCOG:</td>
<td>Mr. Francis Pickering, Executive Director; Ms. Sue Prosi, Sr. Transportation Manager; Mr. Rob Sachnin, Sr. Planner; Mr. Michael Towle, Associate Planner; Ms. Elizabeth Esposito, Associate Planner; Mr. Matthew Weinstein;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTDOT:</td>
<td>Ms. Roxane Fromson, Supervising Transportation Planner, CTDOT;</td>
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<tr>
<td>USDOT:</td>
<td>No one</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>Ms. Jo-Anne Horvath, Norwalk Resident; Ms. Tracey Alston, Eversource.</td>
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Ms. Gayle Weinstein called the meeting to order at 2:25 pm. The place of meeting was the New Canaan Town Hall, 77 Main Street, New Canaan, CT 06840.

1. **South Western Region MPO Minutes – July 16, 2015***
   Ms. Jayme Stevenson made a motion to approve the July 16, 2015 minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Mallozzi and carried unanimously.

2. **Public Involvement**
   Ms. Jo-Anne Horvath, a resident of Norwalk living in close proximity to the proposed Route 7 and 15 interchange project, advocated on behalf of it. The full transcript of Ms. Horvath is attached hereto.

3. **Transportation Improvement Program FFY2015-2018***
   Ms. Sue Prosi briefly reviewed the CTDOT requested TIP amendments. The SWRMPO also discussed the potential to serve as a cooperating agency in the project, the benefits of which were highlighted by Ms. Prosi. TIP project information is listed below.

Additional TIP project details are provided below:

**FHWA Amendments (SWRTIP#A2015-006)**

0102-0358 – Norwalk Route 7 and 15 Interchange
CTDOT is proposing preliminary and final engineering design (PD, FD) for a project which would provide full interchange access from all directions at the junction between U.S. Route 7 and CT-15
(Merritt Parkway). Currently only a partial interchange exists, which has contributed to area traffic congestion. The preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is also included in the scope of work.

Funding will be split with 80% of funding provided through the federal National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) and the remaining 20% to be provided by the State of Connecticut. The NHPP provides support for the condition and performance of the National Highway System (NHS), and both Route 7 and the Merritt Parkway are part of the NHS. Total engineering project costs amount to $20 million dollars, with the specific breakdowns provided in the table below.

Completion of the Route 7 and 15 Interchange is a priority project for the South Western Region MPO, and is included in the South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2015-2040. In the last interchange design and environmental project, SWRPA (now WestCOG), on behalf of the South Western Region MPO, was a “cooperating agency” in the design and environmental assessment. This enables the region with the ability to receive project information and communications, while also providing critical input. WestCOG, on behalf of the South Western Region MPO, should request participating agency status. WestCOG is a cooperating agency in the Danbury Branch Line Environmental Assessment, which is still active.

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AQC  M = modeled for air quality analysis

The motion to approve **Resolution #2015-015 FFY2015-2018 TIP Endorsement – August 2015** was made by Mr. Michael Pollard and seconded by Mr. Mallozzi. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Information Items
   a. Upcoming Meetings
      Ms. Weinstein announced the upcoming meetings, which were included on the agenda.
   b. Solicitation for Candidate Planning Studies
      Ms. Prosi briefly provided an overview of the regions solicitation of potential planning studies. She explained the SWRMPO will have an opportunity to review and endorse any studied priorities identified by the TTAG at the 10/22 meeting. A schedule of the study process is provided below:

<table>
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<th>Date (2015)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 4 – 14</td>
<td>Contact Sue Prosi to discuss candidate planning study concept, purpose &amp; need</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Candidate Planning Study Concepts due – to Sue Prosi</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>TTAG discussion of planning studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21</td>
<td>Full applications due – to Sue Prosi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>TTAG review and development of priorities</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
c. Other
Ms. Weinstein referenced the flyer for the state’s Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) workshop on October, which was discussed earlier at the COG meeting. The workshop will aid in development a SHSP for Connecticut, which determines how federal safety funding is invested. She added that e-mail notices would be transmitted to relevant stakeholders in the area.

5. Adjournment
The MPO meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm on a motion by Mr. Pollard and seconded by Ms. Eileen Flug. The motion passed unanimously.
My name is Jo-Anne Horvath and I live a block away from Exit 40 of the Merritt Parkway in Norwalk.

In 2009 The Merritt Parkway/Route 7 Interchange Project was “put on hold” due to lack of funding. Every year since then, I have spoken with ConnDOT’s Bureau Chief, Mr. Thomas A. Harley, to keep this very important project in the forefront of Transportation Planning.

I am here this afternoon to ask all elected officials of the MPO to vote YES to pass the Amendment of the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) as requested by the Connecticut Department of Transportation and the City of Norwalk, so that this vital project can finally move forward.

THANK YOU.
FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*

MPO Action Requested:
- Review and endorsement of FFY2015 TIP amendments and actions using SWRMPO Resolution #2015-016.

Background
The FFY2015-2018 South Western Region TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 23, 2014. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 21, 2015.

Amendments
WestCOG has received CTDOT requests for the following FHWA TIP amendments:

FHWA Amendments (SWRTIP#A2015-007)

0135-0325 – Rehab Bridge #37 over I-95
CTDOT has identified that Bridge #37, carrying Rt. 1 over I-95, is in need of rehabilitation. The proposed rehabilitation seeks to address identified superstructure (deck) deficiencies and minor substructure repairs, additional details are provided in the next paragraph. Project goals include increased safety of the traveling public, minimizing construction disruptions, reducing future maintenance costs, and effectively using available funds.

While the abutments that support the deck will primarily remain unchanged, the deck itself will be replaced using accelerated bridge construction techniques. Included within the deck improvements are substructure repairs to the bridge seats, a part of the abutment which helps support the deck itself. Traffic impacts are projected to be limited to one weekend and include the temporary closure of Rt. 1 during deck removal and installation of new span. A Rt. 1 detour is provided via Hamilton and Courtland Avenues, in addition to the activation of temporary I-95 bypass lanes along the existing on and off ramps.

The requested amendment seeks to move construction (CON) from federal fiscal year (FFY) ‘16 to FFY ’17 as a result of anticipated construction commencing a few months later than previously expected. The original cost estimate has also been adjusted upwards to $17,000,000 for CON. The original estimate was based in specifications (specs) for the type of bridge proposed, with the new estimate reflecting the actual specs for Bridge #37. CTDOT does not expect the proposed changes in this amendment to adversely impact neighboring projects.

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<td>X6</td>
<td>US 1</td>
<td>STAMFORD</td>
<td>REHAB BR 00037 OVER I-95</td>
<td>CON</td>
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AQC X6 = exempt

Attachments
- Resolution #2015-016 FFY2015-2018 TIP Endorsement
RESOLUTION #2015-016 Resolution to Endorse the South Western Region
FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program

WHEREAS: Present federal regulations governing federal transportation assistance in urban areas prescribe that a Transportation Improvement Program be structured for each urban area which realistically balances need and financial resources over a four year period; and

WHEREAS: The South Western Region FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been reviewed by the transportation technical and policy boards as well as the public.

WHEREAS: The projects are consistent with the South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2015-2040, and are financially constrained.

WHEREAS: The projects meet the conformity requirements of the Clean Air Act

- Connecticut Department of Transportation Ozone Air Quality Conformity Determination; of the 2015 Regional Transportation Plans and the FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Programs for the Connecticut Portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT Ozone Nonattainment Area and the Greater Connecticut Ozone Nonattainment Area, March 2015, and

- Connecticut Department of Transportation PM 2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination; of the 2015 Regional Transportation Plans and the FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Programs for the Connecticut Portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT area PM2.5 Attainment/Maintenance Area, March 2015.

WHEREAS: The TIP is based on a continuing, comprehensive transportation process carried on cooperatively by the State, MPO, and transit operators in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49) U.S.C. app. 1607.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby:

Endorses the South Western Region FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

This resolution is effective October 22, 2015.

Date: October 22, 2015.

___________________________
William Brennan, Chairman
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<td>CON</td>
<td>2017</td>
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<td>MOVE FROM FFY '16 TO FFY '17 AND INCREASE FROM ESTIMATE FED. $7.2M</td>
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**CODE KEY**

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<td>Fiscal constraint issues</td>
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<td>03</td>
<td>Adjust existing projects for design schedule changes</td>
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<td>04</td>
<td>Adjust existing projects for revised cost estimates</td>
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**AQ CONFORMITY CONSULTATION**

The Air Quality Codes identified by CT DOT

**SELECT FROM THE LIST BELOW (ONLY INCLUDE APPROPRIATE CODE)**

**X6 - Projects exempt from the requirement to determine conformity under 40 CFR 93.126**

**X7 - Projects exempt from regional emissions analysis requirements under 40 CFR 93.127**

**X8 - Traffic signal synchronization projects under 40 CFR 93.128**

**M - Projects modeled for air quality analysis**

**N - Projects that are not regionally significant and are not modeled**
South Western Region  
Transportation Technical Advisory Group  
October 6, 2015  
Draft Meeting Minutes  

TTAG:  
Mr. Frank Petise (for Mr. James Michel), Greenwich; Mr. Michael Yeosock, Norwalk; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford; Mr. Pete Ratkiewich, Westport; Mr. Robert Nerney, Wilton; Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District;  

WestCOG:  
Ms. Sue Prosi; Mr. Rob Sachnin;  

Other:  
Roxane Fromson, CTDOT;  

Participating via phone  

Ms. Sue Prosi called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The place of meeting was the WestCOG Stamford Office, 888 Washington Avenue, Stamford, CT 06901.  

1. TTAG Meeting Minutes – June 30, 2015*  
The meeting minutes were approved as revised following a motion by Mr. Mani Poola and a second by Mr. Michael Yeosock. The motion carried with one abstention from Mr. Frank Petise, who was not at the June TTAG meeting.  

2. Public Involvement  
There were no members of the public present.  

3. Transportation Improvement Program: FFY 2015-2018*  
Ms. Prosi introduced the proposed TIP amendment, which seeks to move the project construction year from federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016 to 2017. She explained the project will rehabilitate the bridge (#37) along Route 1 where it crosses I-95 at Exit 9. CTDOT will expedite construction by using the “Accelerated Bridge Construction” technique which will result in closing Route 1 for only one weekend.  

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AQC X6 = exempt  

Mr. Poola advised that Stamford’s Mayor, David Martin, would like the Route 1 bridge to accommodate the future widening of I-95 which is included in the Lets GO CT Plan. The City of Stamford does not want to invest in a $17 million dollar improvement that will have to be replaced when I-95 is widened. The objective is to maximize the efficient use of transportation funding and to reduce construction related impacts and disruptions to the area. CTDOT staff has informed Mr. Poola that there is no plan to widen I-95. Currently this is not reflected in the project designs. Additional conversations ensued regarding the total cost of the proposed widening and the history of previous interest in such measures between exits 8 and 10.  

The TTAG agreed that more information from CTDOT was needed regarding the timing of proposed I-95 widening relative to the life expectancy of the proposed bridge project and the future widening of
I-95. WestCOG will transmit this request to CTDOT with input from Stamford. With respect to the SWRMPO time line, the TTAG agreed that the requested information and CTDOT’s consultation with Stamford will determine if the TIP project amendment will be on the SWRMPO’s October 22, 2015 agenda. To ensure that the meeting packet is sent to the SWRMPO in a timely manner, the information and consultation should be completed by October 12th or the TIP amendment may be deferred to the SWRMPO’s November meeting.

4. **Information Items**
   a. **Upcoming Meetings**
      10/22/15 12:30 p.m. WestCOG – Stamford Government Center
      10/22/15 1:30 p.m. South Western Region MPO – Stamford Government Center
      11/3/15 10:00 a.m. TTAG (if needed)

   b. **Other**
      Ms. Prosi advised that a new election of South Western Region MPO and WestCOG officers will take place in December.

5. **Adjournment**
   The TTAG meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.