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# SOUTH WESTERN REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

DARIEN • GREENWICH • NEW CANAAN • NORWALK • STAMFORD • WESTON • WESTPORT • WILTON  
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## SWRMPO AGENDA – OCTOBER 22, 2015 at 1:30 pm

**Location:** Stamford Government Center

**6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room**

**888 Washington Blvd**

**Stamford, CT 06901**

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 ( <i>if needed</i> )
11/19/15	8:15 a.m.	South Western Region MPO – WestCOG Stamford Office ( <i>if needed</i> )
11/19/15	11:30 a.m.	Housatonic Valley MPO – Danbury City Hall ( <i>if needed</i> )
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](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).*

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

Chief Elected Officials:	Hon. Gayle Weinstein, Weston; Hon. Jayme Stevenson, Darien; Hon. Peter Tesei, Greenwich; Hon. Robert Mallozzi, New Canaan;
Transit District Officials:	Ms. Kimberlee Morton, Norwalk Transit District; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford Transit District;
Official Voting Members:	Ms. Eileen Flug for Hon. James Marpe, Westport; Mr. Michael Pollard for Hon. David Martin, Stamford;
WestCOG:	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;
CTDOT:	Ms. Roxane Fromson, Supervising Transportation Planner, CTDOT;
USDOT:	No one
Other:	Ms. Jo-Anne Horvath, Norwalk Resident; Ms. Tracey Alston, Eversource.

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.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCD	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
01	NHPP	0102-0358	M	CT 7/15	NORWALK	NORWALK RT 7/15 INTERCHANGE - AC ENTRY	PD	2015	0	0	0	0	NEW PROJECT
01	NHPP	0102-0358	M	CT 7/15	NORWALK	NORWALK RT 7/15 INTERCHANGE - AC CONVERSION	PD	2015	5,000	4,000	1,000	0	NEW PROJECT
01	NHPP	0102-0358	M	CT 7/15	NORWALK	NORWALK RT 7/15 INTERCHANGE - AC CONVERSION	PD	2016	5,000	4,000	1,000	0	NEW PROJECT
01	NHPP	0102-0358	M	CT 7/15	NORWALK	NORWALK RT 7/15 INTERCHANGE - AC ENTRY	FD	2017	0	0	0	0	NEW PROJECT
01	NHPP	0102-0358	M	CT 7/15	NORWALK	NORWALK RT 7/15 INTERCHANGE - AC CONVERSION	FD	2017	5,000	4,000	1,000	0	NEW PROJECT
01	NHPP	0102-0358	M	CT 7/15	NORWALK	NORWALK RT 7/15 INTERCHANGE - AC CONVERSION	FD	2018	5,000	4,000	1,000	0	NEW PROJECT

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:

Date (2015)	Activity
August 4 – 14	Contact Sue Prosi to discuss candidate planning study concept, purpose & need
August 17	Candidate Planning Study Concepts due – to Sue Prosi
September 1	TTAG discussion of planning studies
September 21	Full applications due – to Sue Prosi
October 6	TTAG review and development of priorities

October 22	SWRMPO endorsement of priorities
October 26	Transmittal of two candidate planning studies to CTDOT

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.

**SOUTH WESTERN REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
ORGANIZATION MEETING – AUGUST 20, 2015**

**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.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)
01	STPA-BRX	0135-0325	X6	US 1	STAMFORD	REHAB BR 00037 OVER I-95	CON	2017	17,000	13,600	3,400	0

AQC X6 = exempt

### Attachments

- *Resolution #2015-016 FFY2015-2018 TIP Endorsement*

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# SOUTH WESTERN REGION

## METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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### 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 PM<sub>2.5</sub> 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.

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William Brennan, Chairman

**Resolution #2015-016**

[illegible]

**South Western Region  
Transportation Technical Advisory Group  
October 6, 2015  
Draft Meeting Minutes**

TTAG:	<i>Mr. Frank Petise (for Mr. James Michel), Greenwich; Mr. Michael Yeosock, Norwalk; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford; Mr. Pete Ratkiewicz, Westport; Mr. Robert Nerney, Wilton; Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District;</i>
WestCOG:	Ms. Sue Prosi; Mr. Rob Sachnin;
Other:	<i>Roxane Fromson, CTDOT.</i>

*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.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
01	STPA-BRX	0135-0325		X6	US 1	STAMFORD	REHAB BR 00037 OVER I-95	CON	2017	17,000	13,600	3,400	0

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.