

**Transportation Technical Advisory Group**  
**April 6, 2015**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Participants**

<b>TTAG:</b> <i>Mr. Jeremy Ginsberg, Darien; Mr. Frank Petise, Greenwich; Mr. Peter Ratkiewich, Westport; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford; Mr. Robert Nerney, Wilton; Ms. Kimberlee Morton, Norwalk Transit District; Mrs. Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District;</i>
<b>WestCOG:</b> Ms. Sue Prosi; Mr. Alex Karman;
<b>Other:</b> <i>Ms. Roxane Fromson, CTDOT; Mr. Kenneth Shooshan-Stoller, FHWA.</i>

*Participating via phone.*

Ms. Sue Prosi called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The meeting was held in the WestCOG Stamford office, Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT.

**1. TTAG Meeting Minutes: March 12, 2015\***

The meeting minutes were approved after revised following a motion by Mr. Mani Poola and a second by Ms. Kimberlee Morton. The motion carried. Mr. Frank Petise abstained because he was not at the March meeting.

**2. Public Involvement**

There were no members of the public present.

**3. Annual Certification of South Western Region Metropolitan Transportation Planning Program\***

Ms. Prosi advised that certification of the South Western Region metropolitan transportation planning program was required when the long range transportation plan was updated. It is also required when the TIP is updated, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is developed for a new period, and on an annual basis if none of these certification triggers exist. In the last year, the SWRMPO has certified compliance with any and all federal transportation planning requirements in May 2014, October 2014 and for the long range transportation plan.

The motion to approve **Resolution #2015-004 South Western Region Metropolitan Transportation Planning Certification – April 2015** was moved by Mr. Poola and seconded by Mr. Peter Ratkiewich. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan Update 2015**

Mr. Alex Karman recapped the reasons for and changes in the *South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2011-2040 (LRTP)* update to 2015-2040. The LRTP highlights the projects and strategies necessary to maintain the Region's transportation system in a state of good repair. It also recommends projects and strategies that will help the Region meet future demand for transportation.

**Draft 2015 LRTP Updates**

The edits to the draft 2015 LRTP include:

- Merger: A brief narrative describing the formation of WCCOG 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 and air quality determinations will be available for public review during a thirty-day public review period that runs from April 1, 2015 – April 30, 2015. Public information opportunities are scheduled for April 9, 2015 at 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the WestCOG Stamford office. The draft LRTP, the LRTP Executive Summary, and air quality conformity documents are posted on the WestCOG website at: [www.westernctog.org](http://www.westernctog.org)

SWRMPO endorsement of the LRTP update and conformity determinations is scheduled for April 16, 2015 in order to meet the CTDOT and USDOT deadline of April 30, 2015 the plan updates. CTDOT has advised regions to approve the LRTP update and air quality conformity contingent on receipt of no major adverse impacts.

The motion to approve the resolutions was made by Mr. Poola with a second by Mr. Jeremy Ginsberg. The motion passed with Ms. Johnson abstaining. The resolutions recommended for SWRMPO approval are: **Resolution #2015-005: Conformity with the Clean Air Act for Ozone; Resolution #2015-006: Conformity with the Clean Air Act for PM 2.5; and Resolution #2015-007: Approval of South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2015-2040.**

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

CTDOT has requested TIP amendments for three projects, which Ms. Prosi reviewed.

**FHWA Amendments (SWRTIP#2015-002)**

135-0327 – Washington Blvd Crosswalks (Stamford)

In design CTDOT determined additional improvements were needed to improve alignment, provide efforts were required to achieve proper alignments. Additional efforts include granite curbing, concrete sidewalks, and distinctive cross walks. As a result the construction cost estimate is increased. CTDOT has also increased the Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (M&PT) budget for the project. In the discussion about the project, Roxane Fromson was asked to provide the CTDOT’s current guidelines for contingencies and incidentals percentages because LOTCIP projects are constrained to 10% each.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
01	STPBS	0135-0327	X6	CROSSWALK	STAMFORD	PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK	CON	1,000	800	200	0	0	INCREASE ESTIMATE FROM FED \$520K

AQC X6 = exempt

170-3223 – Inspection of Bridges not located on the National Highway System (NHS) by State Forces

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

AQC X6 = exempt

170-3227 – Inspection of Bridges located on the updated National Highway System (NHS) by Consultant Engineering Firms

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCD	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
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 TTAG discussion regarding the bridge inspection projects raised questions about reasons for the cost increases, the number of bridges on NHS and non-NHS roadways. Because of the interest in bridges, Ms. Prosi advised that a report on the local bridges of the South Western Region (2013) prepared by SWRPA is posted online: <http://www.swrpa.org/default.aspx?Transport=302>

Additional reports on bridges will be prepared subject to availability of staff. (Ms. Fromson provided a link to the State’s 2014 update of CTDOT publication, *Transportation in Connecticut: The Existing System*, which was revised on 1/12/2015. I have included a link to this document: <http://www.ct.gov/dotsi/lib/dotsi/publications/existingsystems2014.pdf> . This document contains links Chapter 2. Bridges and Chapter 5.4 Railroad Bridges.

The motion to approve the amendments was made by Mr. Ginsberg and seconded by Mrs. Johnson. **Resolution #2015-008 FFY2015-2018 TIP Endorsement** was unanimously approved.

**6. South Western Region CMAQ Project Priorities\***

Ms. Prosi provided information on the CMAQ program. This is the first CTDOT solicitation for CMAQ projects since 2012 when Greenwich and Norwalk traffic signal projects were awarded funding. There were applications from Greenwich, Norwalk and Stamford. The applicants and staff met to discuss the projects and set priorities. The recommended priorities were approved by the TTAG. Upon a motion by Mr. Poola and a second by Mr. Peter Ratkiewich, the TTAG approved **Resolution #2015-009 South Western Region MPO CMAQ Projects and Priorities.**

Priority & Sponsor	Project	CMAQ Funding	Municipal Funding	Total
1. Stamford	Signal System Upgrade & Synchronization	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 4,000,000
2. Norwalk	Signal System Upgrade Phase 3	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 3,048,000
3. Greenwich	Traffic Signal Optimization & Intersection Improvements Glenville Street/Glenville Road Corridor	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000,000

**7. FY2016 & FY2017 South Western Region Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Adjustments**

Ms. Prosi tabled this agenda item to the TTAG’s May meeting which will make recommendations for the SWRMPO’s May 21, 2015 meeting.

**8. STP-Urban and LOTCIP Status Report – March 27, 2015**

The TTAG reviewed the STP Urban program report issued March 27, 2015. The importance of submitting one page project concepts to Ms. Prosi was noted. Updates on “committed LOTCIP projects” and projects in concept review will be provided at an upcoming meeting.

## **9. Information Items**

### **Upcoming meetings were noted:**

5/5/15 10:00 a.m. TTAG – Darien Town Hall\*  
5/21/15 8:15 a.m. South Western Region MPO – WCCOG Stamford Office  
5/21/15 12:00 noon Western CT COG – Newtown Town Hall

The TTAG March 31, 2015 meeting may provide telephone participation with the place of meeting WestCOG Stamford offices.

CTDOT Commissioner James Redeker will be the featured speaker at the WestCOG May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Ms. Prosi mentioned that there may be changes in SWRMPO and TTAG schedules. SWRMPO meetings that are held after the WestCOG meeting start much later than the target time of 1:30pm. 2015 South Western Region MPO and TTAG Schedule

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

The TTAG April 6, 2015 meeting minutes were approved by the TTAG on May 5, 2015.