

**South Western Region  
Transportation Technical Advisory Group  
June 30, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

TTAG:	<i>Mr. Jeremy Ginsberg, Darien; Mr. James Michel, Greenwich; Mr. Mike Yeosock, Norwalk; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford; Mr. Pete Ratkiewich, Westport; Ms. Kimberlee Morton, Norwalk Transit District; Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Westport Transit District;</i>
WestCOG:	<i>Ms. Sue Prosi; Mr. Rob Sachnin; Ms. Elizabeth Esposito;</i>
Other:	<i>Roxane Fromson, CTDOT.</i>

*Participating via phone*

Ms. Sue Prosi called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The place of meeting was the WestCOG Stamford Office, 888 Washington Avenue, Stamford, CT 06901.

**1. TTAG Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2015\***

The meeting minutes were approved as revised following a motion by Mr. Michael Yeosock and seconded by Mr. James Michel. The motion carried. Mr. Peter Ratkiewich and Mrs. Jennifer Johnson abstained because they did not participate at the May meeting.

**2. Public Involvement**

There were no members of the public present.

**3. South Western Region STP-B Program\***

Ms. Prosi provided an update regarding the Surface Transportation Program for the Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area (STP-B). She explained that there CTDOT agreed to the use of STP-B for two important Norwalk Transit District (NTD) studies: a Comprehensive Operational Analysis and a Facility Needs Assessment. A total of \$600,000 in federal STP-B funds will be transferred to FTA5307 and used for the two projects should the TTAG recommend and the SWRMPO endorse the TIP amendments. CTDOT is providing the non-federal match of \$150,000. Lastly, Ms. Prosi explained that the commitment of funding to the NTD studies will keep the STP-B funding in the region. The alternatives are that CTDOT would either move the STP-B South Western Region funding ceiling to another FHWA program or to a STP-Urban project in another region.

Ms. Kimberlee Morton described the proposed NTD projects for a comprehensive operational analysis and for a facility needs assessment. Ms. Morton explained that Norwalk is experiencing an increase in growth, resulting in traffic congestion and increased transit service demands. She explained that there has not been an operational analysis conducted at the organization in over 30 years and the update would serve to better assess needs and productivity. It is very timely because it can be done with the facilities needs assessment. She added that it is more cost efficient to do them together. The facilities assessment is needed because the Norwalk Transit District headquarters/maintenance facility is currently overcapacity. In addition Ms. Morton stated that funding of the projects with the STP-B transferred to FTA with the CTDOT match enables use of other FTA funding for capital projects that support state of good repair of the assets.

Ms. Fromson mentioned that Greater Bridgeport Transit (GBT) is doing a long range transit plan. Some features of the GBT effort include GIS mapping overlay of bus infrastructure, land use, and transit routes, boarding and alighting counts from the GBT AVL. These plan components will help identify gaps in existing service, under and over utilized routes – painting a complete portrait of the GBT service network.

Ms. Morton noted that Norwalk Transit is working with GBT on various initiatives and studies.

Ms. Prosi added that WestCOG will be doing comparable work for the Stamford CT Transit Bus Study with new technology which WestCOG will share.

Ms. Prosi advised that the STP Working Group supported the use of STP-B for the NTD studies. At the TTAG meeting, participants also expressed support for the projects and use of STP-B funding.

#### **4. Transportation Improvement Program: FFY 2015-2018\***

Ms. Prosi stated that the proposed two NTD Projects will be on the MPO's next agenda on July 16<sup>th</sup> and TTAG's support will be noted.

#### **5. Local Road Accident Reduction Program\***

Ms. Prosi stated that Norwalk and Stamford have each submitted a candidate project for the 2015 Local Road Accident Reduction Program. Mr. Yeosock explained that the location of the Norwalk project, at Flax Hill and Highland was identified in the city's Master Plan and in the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Study. It is a heavily used intersection and crossing with three schools nearby. In the past three years there have been seven accidents, and there is a long history of accidents. Norwalk plans to create a T-intersection and improve safety measures. As a frequent user of the intersection, Mr. Jeremy Ginsberg voiced his support for the project.

Mr. Poola described the two Stamford candidate project: Broad and Summer, and Broad and Atlantic Street. He explained that locations are in the center of downtown Stamford and are heavily used by pedestrians. In the last three years there were 55 crashes at the Broad and Summer Street location, 11 of which resulted injuries. The plan is to neck down the intersection and raise the pedestrian crosswalks. Ms. Prosi noted that this is a part of Stamford's continued efforts to improve pedestrian safety.

Mr. Michel stated that Greenwich has not yet refined their short-list of projects for this program but intends to submit a candidate project. Because each MPO region is entitled to submit four candidate projects, the TTAG agreed to allow Stamford to submit another project. Norwalk and Greenwich were also supportive.

### **6. Information Items**

#### **6a. Upcoming Meetings**

7/16/15 8:15 a.m. South Western Region MPO – WestCOG Stamford Office

7/16/15 12:00 noon Western CT COG – Bethel Stony Hill Volunteer Fire Department

8/4/15 10:00 a.m. TTAG – WestCOG Stamford Office (*if needed*)

8/20/15 12:00 noon Western CT COG – New Canaan Town Hall

8/20/15 1:30 p.m. South Western Region MPO – New Canaan Town Hall (*if needed*)

#### **6b. Other**

There were no other items.

### **7. Adjournment**

The TTAG meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

The June 30, 2015 meetings were approved as revised by the TTAG on October 6, 2015.