

**South Western Region
Metropolitan Planning Organization
April 16, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Chief Elected Officials:	Hon. David Martin, Stamford; Hon. Jayme Stevenson, Darien; Hon. James Marpe, Westport; Hon. Peter Tesei, Greenwich;
Transit District Officials:	Ms. Kimberlee Morton, Norwalk Transit District; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford Transit District;
Official Voting Members:	Ms. Kimberlee Morton, for Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling;
WestCOG:	Mr. Francis Pickering, Executive Director; Ms. Sue Prosi, Sr. Transportation Coordinator; Mr. Alex Karman, Sr. Transportation Planner; Mr. Rob Sachnin, Sr. Regional Planner; Mr. Carl Zimmerman, GIS Coordinator; Mr. Michael Towle, Regional Planner; Mrs. Patty Payne, Financial Manager;
CTDOT:	Ms. Roxane Fromson, Supervising Transportation Planner;
USDOT:	No one
Other:	Mrs. Jo-Anne Horvath, Norwalk resident; Ms. Joanne Ferrera, Norwalk resident.

Ms. Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m. The place of meeting was the Darien Town Hall Mather Center, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820.

1. South Western Region MPO Minutes – March 19, 2015*

Mr. Peter Tesei made a motion to approve the March 19, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. James Marpe. The minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Public Involvement

There were no comments from the public.

3. Annual Certification of the South Western Region Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process*

Ms. Prosi advised that certification of the South Western Region metropolitan transportation planning program is 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 now for the long range transportation plan update. The May certification will satisfy the requirement for the FY2016 & FY2017 UPWP.

The motion to approve **Resolution #2015-004 South Western Region Metropolitan Transportation Planning Certification – April 2015** was moved by Mayor David Martin seconded by Mr. Tesei. The motion carried unanimously.

4. South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan Update*

Mr. Alex Karman summarized the reasons for and changes in the *South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2011-2040 (LRTP)* update to 2015-2040. The LRTP as the blueprint for transportation investment in the region identifies 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.

Following the guidance of CTDOT and USDOT, the update of the region's 2011 – 2040 LRTP was considered a perfunctory update with MPO endorsement of the 2015 LRTP and air quality conformity determinations to be completed no later than April 30, 2015. The changes to the 2011 LRTP included these edits:

- 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 2015 LRTP and air quality determinations were made available for a 30-day public review period from April 1, 2015 – April 30, 2015. Public information opportunities were held on 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

Mr. Karman noted that the TTAG recommended SWRMPO approval of the 2015 LRTP and air quality conformity determinations.

The motion to approve the resolutions was made by Ms. Stevenson and seconded by Mr. Tesei. The resolutions were unanimously passed:

- **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*

Ms. Prosi briefly reviewed the CTDOT requested TIP amendments. For the projects that involve bridge inspections a handout titled *CTDOT Bridge Safety Inspections (June 2014 Status Report)* was distributed and indicated the number of bridges (5,266), sign supports (1,800), mast arms (900) and other structures that are routinely inspected. Bridges are inspected every two years while sign supports and mast arms are inspected every four years. The handout also advised that over 3,300 structures are inspected each year.

FHWA Amendments (SWRTIP#2015-002)

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

MAP-21 changed funding and inspection requirements. Based on revised estimates for the inspection program, an additional \$3,600,000 is required to fund the first of year of inspections of Non-NHS bridges by State forces. The original estimate was \$400,000 total (\$320,000 federal). The new estimate is \$4,000,000 total, \$3,200,000 federal.

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 Non- National Highway System (NHS) by Consultant Engineering Firms

Again, MAP-21 changes impacted CTDOT inspection activities. Initial cost estimates were underestimated. The amendment reflects the cost adjustment upward.

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

135-0327 – Washington Blvd Crosswalks (Stamford)

CTDOT construction estimates for the project have increased due to better information available in preliminary design. Crosswalk alignment, cost for the signal equipment and other design features including granite curbing, concrete sidewalks, and the additional of distinctive cross walks, and maintenance and protection of traffic account for the cost increase. This project is strongly supported by the City of Stamford which has launched a comprehensive StreetSmart campaign to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, education and engineering.

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

170-3346 – Install Road Weather Info Systems (RWIS)

The proposed project will install road weather information systems (RWIS) at two locations within the South Western Region: I-95 (Greenwich) and Merritt Parkway (Greenwich). This is an ongoing statewide initiative of CTDOT to improve monitoring and real-time reporting of weather related road conditions. The addition of RWIS will enable CTDOT to respond more quickly to roadway conditions. Mr. Tesei agreed that the location of a monitor on the Merritt Parkway in Greenwich may change due to local or Merritt Parkway Advisory Committee input.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
70	NHPP	0170-3346	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	INSTALL ROAD WEATHER INFO SYSTEMS (RWIS)	PD	2015	150	120	30	0	ADD NEW PROJECT
70	NHPP	0170-3346	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	INSTALL ROAD WEATHER INFO SYSTEMS (RWIS)	FD	2016	350	280	70	0	ADD NEW PROJECT
70	NHPP	0170-3346	X6	VARIOUS	STATEWIDE	INSTALL ROAD WEATHER INFO SYSTEMS (RWIS)	CN	2016	4,500	3,600	900	0	ADD NEW PROJECT

AQC X6 = exempt

170-3304 – Replace Existing Light Fixtures with New LED-type Fixtures (Delete from TIP)

The TIP project and federal STP-Anywhere funding for the relamping of LEDs in lighting is no longer needed because CTDOT will use State “Fix-It-First”. The project should be deleted from the TIP.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCD	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
70	STPA	0170-3304	X6	VARIOUS	VARIOUS	REPLACE EXISTING LIGHT FIXTURES WITH NEW LED TYPE LIGHT FIXTURES	CON	2015	-3,150	-2,520	-630	0	DELETE PROJECT

AQC X6 = exempt

173-0436 – Install OSTA Traffic Signals (Delete from TIP)

Project 173-0436 is a companion project to two other projects that are regularly programmed for District 3 traffic signals. CTDOT advised that the funding was not needed because CTDOT that no locations warranted additional participation (from towns) for ROW or Construction.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCD	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
73	STPA	0173-0436	X6	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 3	INSTALL OSTA TRAFFIC SIGNALS	ROW	2015	-100	-80	-20	0	DELETE PROJECT
73	STPA	0173-0436	X6	VARIOUS	DISTRICT 3	INSTALL OSTA TRAFFIC SIGNALS	CON	2016	-1,150	-920	-180	-50	DELETE PROJECT

AQC X6 = exempt

The motion to approve the TIP amendments was made by Mr. Tesei and seconded by Mayor Martin.

Resolution #2015-008 FFY2015-2018 TIP Endorsement was unanimously approved.

6. South Western Region CMAQ Priorities*

Ms. Prosi provided information on the CMAQ program and noted that Greenwich and Norwalk traffic signal projects were awarded CMA funding in 2012. This round, there were applications from Greenwich, Norwalk and Stamford. The priorities recommended by the TTAG supported the recommendations of the WestCOG staff and the applicants, as follows:

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

The recommended priorities and **Resolution #2015-009 South Western Region MPO CMAQ Projects and Priorities FFY2015-2018 TIP** Endorsement were approved by the SWRMPO upon a motion by Mr. Tesei and a second by Mayor Martin. Poola and a second by Mr. Peter Ratkiewich, the TTAG approved **Resolution #2015-009 South Western Region MPO CMAQ Projects and Priorities FFY2015-2018 TIP Endorsement**.

7. Information Items

a. Upcoming Meetings

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

b. 2015 South Western Region MPO Schedule

This was discussed under agenda item 7a.

c. Other

Mayor Martin asked about two items which WestCOG staff will research. The first is the Regional Plan Association (RPA) statement that distance between rail trails on the Metro-North New Haven Line limits the maximum allowable speed of trains. The second, is about snow clearance and maintenance responsibilities at bus shelters and bus stops.

8. Adjournment

The MPO meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Tesei, seconded by Mr. Marpe, and unanimously passed.

Handout: CTDOT Bridge Safety Inspections (June 2014 Status Report)

Minutes approved by the SWRMPO on May 21, 2015