

**South Western Region
Metropolitan Planning Organization
August 20, 2015
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.