

**South Western Region  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
Meeting Minutes - January 21, 2016**

Meeting at the Ridgefield Library, 472 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Secondary Location: Stamford Government Center, 888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT 06901

SWRMPO:	Ms. Jayme Stevenson, Darien; Mr. James Marpe, Westport; Mr. Peter Tesei, Greenwich; Ms. Nina Daniel, Weston;
Official Voting Members:	Ms. Elizabeth Stocker, Norwalk; Mr. Joshua Benson, Stamford
WestCOG:	Mr. Francis Pickering, Executive Director; Mr. Rob Sachnin, Sr. Planner; Mr. Michael Towle, Associate Planner
CTDOT:	Ms. Roxane Fromson, Supervising Transportation Planner, CTDOT;
USDOT:	None
Other:	Mr. Rick Schreiner, HARtransit; Mr. Richard Freedman, Stamford; Ms. Cyndy Anderson and Ms. Nancy Cooper, Greenwich League of Women Voters.

**1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM with a quorum present.

**2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Mr. Tesei acknowledged Ms. Cyndy Anderson and Nancy Cooper from the Greenwich League of Women Voters, who provided an update on their current efforts, including an upcoming event to discuss the benefits of inter-municipal and regional activities. The meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**3. ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Approval of December 17, 2015 Minutes**

As a point of clarification, Ms. Stevenson asked for confirmation of the second with respect to the nomination of Mr. Mallozzi for Vice Chairmen of the SWRMPO, which was confirmed as Mr. Tesei. Ms. Stevenson then made a motion to approve the December 17, 2015 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marpe and carried unanimously.

**b. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment FFY2015-2018**

Mr. Rob Sachnin provided background on the CTDOT requested TIP amendment for Project 173-472, which pertained to sign updates along the Merritt Parkway. An important

catalyst for the project was due to structural concerns of sign sheeting. A discussion then ensued regarding the project and other details.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
73	NHPP	0173-0472	X6	CT 15	VARIOUS	SIGN UPDATES ON ROUTE 15, EXITS 27-53	CON	2017	3,500	3,500	0	0	NEW PROJECT

AQC X6 = exempt

Members asked if other stakeholders and interested parties were apprised and supportive of the project. The group also discussed the process for adding tourist attractions and destinations to road signs.

After learning that the potential addition of Variable Message Signs (VMS) were being explored, the group expressed interest in learning more about such feasibility, and the type of information that would be conveyed on any potential VMS.

Mr. Tesei made a motion to approve Resolution #2016-001 FFY2015-2018 TIP Endorsement. Mr. Marpe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### 4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### a. FTA 5310 Program

Mr. Sachnin introduced Mr. Rick Schreiner with HARTransit to speak on the FTA 5310 Program. He explained the program is for the enhancement of mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities, describing the four types of 5310 funding available, offering assistance with the process. Mr. Sachnin added that the total FY2015 available funding to the entire Bridgeport-Stamford Urbanized Area is \$728,918. Additional information was provided as part of the meeting packet.

##### b. CTDOT Community Connectivity Program

Mr. Sachnin provided a description of the grant program, which seeks to improve accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians. He noted the deadline for submissions was March 1, 2016. Additional information was provided as part of the meeting packet.

##### c. OPM Responsible Growth & TOD Grant Program

Mr. Sachnin provided a description of the grant program. He noted that the deadline for applications was February 4, while resolutions and letters of support due on February 25. Additional information was provided as part of the meeting packet.

##### d. LOTCIP & STP-B Programs

Mr. Sachnin provided an overview of the LOTCIP program, which is a state-funded program created to streamline project delivery for capital improvements. He explained that the project selection process for the remaining funding is scheduled for discussion at the next TAG meeting.

Ms. Stocker briefly spoke to the SoNo Pedestrian & Streetscape Improvements project.

Mr. Josh Benson then provided an update on the Stamford Fiber Trunk Cable project.

**e. SWRMPO Meeting Format**

The group next discussed future MPO meeting logistics, identifying many commonalities with respect to informational items for HV and SWR MPOs. A discussion followed regarding meeting formats and where informational items could be addressed jointly, with action items remaining distinctly separate. The group also supported a format allowing remote access for those who could not travel to Ridgefield, and explored methods for meaningful public participation.

**f. Operating Procedures**

Mr. Pickering provided an overview of operating procedures for the two MPO's. The SWRMPO operating procedures require updates since their last revision in 2006, while the HVMPO has no defined operating procedures aside from Robert's Rules of Order.

Mr. Pickering and Mr. Sachnin explained that a uniform procedure would be developed for review and endorsement by both MPOs, reducing confusion and streamlining processes. A draft version is anticipated for the February 2016 meeting.

**g. Other Business**

Ms. Stevenson requested that significant TAG items of interest should be included in future MPO agendas.

**5. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Mrs. Stevenson informed the group of the upcoming meetings, which were included as part of the agenda.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no other business, Ms. Stevenson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Joshua Benson and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

\*Approved by the SWRMPO on 2/18/16