

South Western Region  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
December 17, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

Chief Elected Officials:	Hon. Jayme Stevenson, Darien; Hon. James Marpe, Westport; Hon. Peter Tesei, Greenwich; Hon. Nina Daniel, Weston; Hon. Lynne Vanderslice; Wilton
Transit District Officials:	None
Official Voting Members:	Mr. Michael Pollard, Stamford; Ms. Elizabeth Stocker, Norwalk;
WestCOG:	Mr. Francis Pickering, Executive Director; Ms. Sue Prosi, Sr. Transportation Manager; Mr. Rob Sachnin, Sr. Planner; Mr. Alex Karman, Sr. Planner, Mr. Michael Towle, Assoc. Planner, Ms. Elizabeth Esposito, Assoc. Planner;
CTDOT:	Mrs. Roxane Fromson, Supervising Transportation Planner, CTDOT;
USDOT:	None
Other:	Hon. Jonathan Steinberg, State Representative; Mr. William Brennan, Wilton; Ms. Gayle Weinstein, Weston; Mr. Rick Schreiner, HART; Ms. Tracey Alston, Eversource; Ms. Margaret Wirtenberg, Weston.

*Participating via phone*

Mr. Brennan called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm. The place of meeting was the Weston Town Hall, 56 Northfield Rd. Weston, CT 06883

### 1. Election of Officers

Mr. Brennan nominated Ms. Stevenson as Chairman of the SWRMPO. Mr. Pollard seconded and the decision carried unanimously. Mr. Brennan acknowledged the excellent service Ms. Weinstein during her tenure with SWRMPO, and her leadership during the merger of the two former planning regions. Mr. Brennan also acknowledged and expressed his confidence in Ms. Stevenson's role as the new Chairman of the SWRMPO

Mr. Brennan then nominated Mr. Mallozzi as Vice Chairman of the SWRMPO, which was seconded by Mr. Tesei and carried unanimously. Ms. Weinstein then acknowledged Mr. Brennan for his service to the SWRMPO and for his leadership as Chairman, noting his efforts to help streamline the state bridge program and addressing flooding issues.

Ms. Stevenson also expressed appreciation for Ms. Weinstein's service to both SWRMPO and WestCOG. Ms. Stevenson then thanked the members of the SWRMPO for electing her to the position of Chairman.

## **2. South Western Region MPO Minutes – November 19, 2015\***

Mr. Tesei made a motion to approve the November 19, 2015 SWRMPO minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marpe and carried unanimously.

## **3. Public Involvement**

There were no comments from the public.

## **4. FFY16-17 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendments\***

Ms. Prosi introduced the UPWP amendment for the Westport Bus Needs Study, adding that this was a housekeeping matter that was inadvertently omitted from the original document. She explained that the study will be completed in the next quarter.

Mr. Marpe asked if adding the project as an amendment to the UPWP would impact Westport and the SWRMPO's ability to receive future grant funding. Ms. Prosi responded that amendment of the UPWP would not have a negative impact. The UPWP amendment supports auditing requirements for study close out. Both Mr. Pickering and Ms. Fromson confirmed that the amendment was for housekeeping and audit purposes, and would not have negative impacts.

Mr. Tesei made a motion to approve *Resolution #2015-019 FFY2015-2017 UPWP Amendments*. Mr. Marpe seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

## **5. Information Items**

### **5a. Upcoming Meetings**

Ms. Jayme Stevenson informed the group of the upcoming meetings, which were included on the agenda. This included the date for the next Transportation TAG meeting on January 13, 2016 at 10:00 am at WestCOG's Stamford Office.

### **5b. CTDOT Programs and Studies**

Ms. Prosi informed stated that the Community Connectivity Program applications would be available towards the end of December 2015. This program will enable municipalities to apply for bicycle and pedestrian roadway safety audits. The Community Connectivity Program was in Public Act 15-01, also known as the implementer bill.

She also provided an overview of the statewide bus study recently initiated, explaining that the new plan updates a 15 year old study. A companion paratransit study is also planned, in addition to rail and aviation plan updates.

Lastly, the Fairfield County Bus Rapid Transit was also included in the implementer bill and passed by the State Bond Commission at \$400,000. It uses two studies prepared by SWRPA as the basis for the current study: Greenwich-Norwalk BRT, and Coastal Link. She explained how the study will explore methods to bring CT fastrak to the Fairfield County without an exclusive guideway like the BRT in Hartford. Ms. Prosi recommended members visit the fastrak to better learn about current state of the art transit facilities.

### **5c. Other Business**

Mr. Pollard stated that Mayor Martin would like to discuss LOTCIP and STP project submission at the January meeting. Ms. Prosi stated that the LOTCIP working group set a maximum of three projects per municipality. She added that municipalities and regions also need to establish priorities before projects are submitted.

## **6. Adjournment**

Hearing no other business, Mr. Tesei made a motion of adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Pollard and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.

\*Approved by SWRMPO, as amended, on 1/21/16