

**South Western Region
Transportation Technical Advisory Group
March 1, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Transportation TAG:	<i>Mr. Jeremy Ginsberg, Darien; Mr. James Michel, Greenwich; Mr. Steve Kleppin, New Canaan; Mr. Mike Yeosock, Norwalk; Mr. Josh Benson, Stamford; Mr. Mani Poola, Stamford Transit District; Mr. Pete Ratkiewich, Westport; Mr. Robert Nerney, Wilton;</i>
WestCOG:	<i>Mr. Rob Sachnin; Ms. Sue Prosi; Ms. Elizabeth Esposito; Mr. Francis Pickering;</i>
Other:	<i>Mr. Kenneth Shooshan-Stoller, FHWA; Ms. Roxane Fromson, CTDOT; Mr. Robert Mallozzi, New Cannan; Ms. Marsha Aarons, CTrides; Mr. Ed Perzanowski, CTrides; Ms. Jayme Stevenson, Darien; Mr. Robert Zaitooni, City of Stamford.</i>

Participating via phone

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Mr. Rob Sachnin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The place of meeting was the WestCOG Stamford Office, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

3. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of TAG Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2016

After review and a correction made to move Mr. Mani Poola to the Transportation TAG list of attendees, the meeting minutes were approved as amended, following a motion by Mr. Benson and a second by Mr. Ginsberg. The motion carried with an abstention from Mr. Ratkiewich, who was not at the February meeting.

b. LOTCIP Evaluation Criteria

After review and the incorporation of group recommendations, the evaluation criteria were approved as amended, following a motion by Mr. Benson and a second by Mr. Ratkiewich. The motion carried unanimously. The recommendations included the addition of an “Asset Type” row and a “Notes” column, the latter for use by project sponsors to articulate additional project details.

Mr. Sachnin reminded the group that the 1-page LOTCIP applications were due March 4th, with project sponsors also advised to submit evaluation criteria to help staff, TAG members, and the policy boards better understand project details. Next steps in the process were then described and included: WestCOG staff review of submissions for eligibility and consultation with CTDOT; the development of an eligible projects listing; presentation of eligible projects to TAG; as well as TAG identification and prioritization of eligible candidate projects, based on available funding. After discounting for existing candidate projects, total remaining funding was estimated at approximately \$13.5 to \$17 million, the higher end of the range including overprogramming. Mr. Sachnin noted that estimates for FY16 & 17 were derived using a \$74 million statewide allocation.

4. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Funding Opportunities:

i. USDOT TIGER 2016

Mr. Sachnin informed the group that the TIGER grant program is accepting applications until April 29th. This discretionary program is primarily for capital improvements. The maximum award for urban areas is \$100 million, with a minimum of \$5 million. Key themes include but are not limited to “ladders of opportunity,” as well as access to jobs and education, economic development, and “multi-modal” connectivity.

Ms. Prosi advised that applicants should work with the region to ensure proposed projects are added to the TIP and coordinated with the CTDOT Air Quality unit. A brief discussion ensued to clarify that TIGER projects could be added to the TIP, but only as illustrative projects.

ii. Section 5310

An overview of the recent solicitation was provided. Applications are due to CTDOT and WestCOG by April 29th. 5310A applications also need to place a public notice in a newspaper by April 15th.

iii. CT State Matching Grant Program

An overview of the program solicitation was provided. Applications are due March 24th. Each municipality is allocated funding, which may be applied to match local investments in dial-a-ride transportation services for seniors and the disabled. Municipal funding can also be pooled and/or administered through transit districts.

b. Other

i. CMAQ & LRARP Results

Mr. Sachnin congratulated the municipalities of Greenwich, Norwalk, and Stamford, for advancing in the CMAQ process. He also acknowledged Norwalk for their advancement in the LRARP program. Following this, a brief discussion ensued regarding the benefit/cost analysis used in application selection.

ii. LOTCIP Consultant Agreement Update

Mr. Sachnin and Ms. Prosi provided updates to the LOTCIP consultant selection and agreements process, including:

List 1 –Municipal Engineering Design Assistance. Four consultant firms have been selected for municipalities to assign tasks to.

List 2 – Municipal Engineering Construction Assistance. Four consultant firms have been selected for municipalities to assign tasks to.

List 3 – WestCOG Program Management and Design Review Assistance. Two consultants selected. WestCOG will execute consultant agreements following the execution of WestCOG-CTDOT agreement.

List 4 – WestCOG and Municipal Transportation Planning and Engineering Tasks. On hold.

iii. Future Guest Speakers & Topics of Interest

Mr. Sachnin mentioned several presentations that the TAG may be interested in from UConn and CTDOT.

5. UPCOMING MEETINGS

3/14/16 – WestCOG Planners Lunch

3/17/16 – WestCOG, HVMPO & SWRMPO, Ridgefield Library

4/5/16 – Transportation TAG, Darien Town Hall (if needed)

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

**Minutes approved by TAG on 4/5/16*