

HVMPO
HOUSATONIC VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
APPROVED MINUTES OF 4/21/2016

Meeting at the Ridgefield Library
472 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877
Public access was also available at the WestCOG Stamford Office
Chairman Rudy Marconi - Vice Chairman Susan Chapman

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Bethel First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
- Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read
- Brookfield First Selectman Stephen Dunn
- Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton
- New Fairfield First Selectman Susan Chapman
- New Milford Absent

- Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra
- Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton
- Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi
- Sherman First Selectman Clay Cope
- Transit Appointment Pending
- CTDOT Appointment Pending (non-voting)
- MPO Staff Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei, New Canaan First Selectman Robert Mallozzi, Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Joshua Benson and Westport First Selectman James Marpe.

Also Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, Weston resident Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg, CT DOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson, Rick Schreiner of HARtransit, Norwalk Transit District CEO Kim Morton, WestCOG staff members David Hannon, Patty Payne, Rob Sachnin and Jon Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

FUNDING AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Rob Sachnin reviewed the following funding opportunities the details for which were provided in the agenda packet:

USDOT TIGER - Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program: \$500 million discretionary grant program, awarding projects that advance USDOT's strategic goals. Primarily geared towards capital projects. Application deadline April 29, 2016.

USDOT ATCMDT - Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMDT) Program: \$60 million in annual discretionary funding through 2020, awarding projects that implement and operate advanced transportation technologies. Application deadline June 3, 2016.

FTA 5310 Program: Seeks to enhance mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. There is approximately \$3.1 million in statewide funding. Applications are due to CTDOT (original) and WestCOG (copy) April 29, 2016. Questions regarding the WestCOG solicitation for this program may be directed to Rick Schreiner of HARTransit at ricks@hartransit.com.

FTA 5339b and Low-No Programs: Approximately \$266 million in competitive grant funding, including \$211 million for buses and related facilities projects (5339b) and \$55 million for the Low and No Emission (Low-No) bus program. Approximately 100 project awards are anticipated nationwide.

STSFA: Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives Program: Funding totals of \$15 million (FFY16) and \$20 million annually (FFY17-20) has been made available to states to demonstrate user based alternative revenue mechanisms to maintain the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

LOTICIP Projects: David Hannon distributed a spread sheet defining the current and proposed LOTICIP funded capital program with regional balance by program year. An overview of the projects listed by proposed calendar year of construction is as follows:

2016 Brookfield – Four Corners Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements \$837,000
2016 Danbury – White Street Intersections (Danbury Hospital/WestConn) \$2,650,000
2016 Ridgefield – Farmingville Road Combined Use Trail \$1,100,000

2017 New Fairfield – Candlewood Corners Drainage \$693,000
2017 New Milford – Still River Drive Roundabout \$590,150
2017 New Milford – Wellsville Avenue Bridge Reconstruction \$1,381,000
2017 Newtown – Toddy Hill Road Bridge Replacement off Route 34 \$2,596,000
2017 Sherman – Taber Road Pavement Rehabilitation \$398,000

There was discussion. Clay Cope spoke to the proposed reorientation of the Sherman project from Taber Road to more commuter oriented Wakeman Hill Road.

LOTICIP Consultant Task Based Services: Rob Sachnin reviewed this item, stating that as part of the responsibilities assigned by CTDOT for administering LOTICIP, WestCOG has completed a request for qualifications process for the needed planning, engineering and program management services. He also thanked the staff involved during the process for their efforts.

The result of the process was three lists of consultants as shown in an agenda attachment and summarized below. The selection process met the standards of CTDOT's qualifications based selection guidelines, that procurement method designed to also satisfy municipal procurement guidelines.

LIST 1 for On Call Design Assistance: Municipalities may select from these firms for assistance with LOTICIP design phases; Fuss & O'Neil, Milone & MacBroom, Stantec and Tighe & Bond. Municipal selection from this list is optional.

LIST 2 for On Call Construction Assistance: Municipalities may select from these firms for assistance with LOTICIP construction phases; GM2, Milone & MacBroom, Tighe & Bond and VHB. Municipal selection from this list is optional.

LIST 3 for WestCOG Project Reviews: The Council has LOTICIP responsibilities separate from those assigned by CTDOT to municipalities. Accordingly, WestCOG has entered into agreements with consultants AECOM and CHA for program management and engineering design review services. The two consultant agreements are effective until 1/31/2019 and not to exceed \$152,550.

ACTION ITEMS

Transit Operator and CTDOT Representative on MPO: Referencing the MPO Operating Procedures approved at the last meeting, staff stated that CT DOT and transit operator MPO members now need to be appointed, as required by the recently approved MPO Operating Procedures:

Transit Operators: Each MPO will appoint one or more transit operator representatives by a majority vote of the MPO's municipal members. Each representative shall be a member of management, general manager, or equivalent of a public transit system that operates in the region and that is a designated or direct recipient of federal Urbanized Area Formula Program funds from the Federal Transit Administration. Alternates to these members may also be appointed by the MPO.

State Officials: The Commissioner of the CT DOT will be requested to appoint a representative and alternate to serve as a non-voting member of the MPO. The CT DOT appointees will serve until their resignation or replacement by the CT DOT Commissioner.

There was discussion of the appointments. The consensus was to appoint HARTransit Executive Director Eric Bergstraesser as the transit member and HARTransit Service Development Director Richard Schreiner as the transit member alternate.

Further, to request CT Commissioner James Redeker to appoint himself as the CTDOT member and to appoint CT DOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson as the CTDOT alternate. A motion to this effect was made by Matt Knickerbocker, seconded by Clay Cope, voted all aye.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve 3/17/2016 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Mark Boughton and seconded by Pat Llodra, the minutes of the meeting of 3/17/2016 were unanimously approved, with Clay Cope abstaining.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Dave Hannon stated that CTDOT was requesting TIP endorsement for three federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) projects to be undertaken by CTDOT. The purpose of CMAQ is to fund transportation projects and programs that will improve air quality and reduce congestion, he said.

The fourth CMAQ project is to fund HARTransit to provide commuter bus service to the west side "Reserve" business park section of Danbury. The four amendments are summarized as follows:

--- **#170-3400** FY16 \$1,595,000, Statewide Transportation Demand Management; market, educate and provide outreach to employers and individuals in support of regional rideshare programs.

--- **#170-3402** FY16 \$221,000, Telecommuting Partnership; part of the CTRides program to assist employers design and maintain telecommuting programs.

--- **#170-3407** FY16 \$474,000, Statewide Marketing; transit marketing to make public transportation the mode of choice.

--- **#416-0076** FY16 \$257,000, HARTransit Peak Hour Commuter Shuttle Bus for the Danbury "Reserve; A three-year pilot program to serve the Matrix Office Building, Praxair, Boehringer Ingleheim, General Motors, Guideposts, Penwest, Bristol Technology, Belimo Americas and Anne's Place.

There was brief discussion. Then on a motion made by Clay Cope and seconded by Susan Chapman, the proposed TIP amendments were unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rudy Marconi stated that the next meeting would be held at 11:30 AM before the WestCOG meeting scheduled for 5/19/2016 at the Ridgefield Library.

Then on motion made by Curtis Read and a second by Matt Knickerbocker, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the HVMPO meeting at 12:15 PM.