

**Meeting of the
WestCOG Technical Advisory Group (TAG)**

July 12, 2016 at 11:00 am

Ridgefield Board of Ed Meeting Room, 66 Prospect St., Ridgefield, CT, 06877

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3. FEATURED GUESTS

- Mr. David Dickson, National NEMO Coordinator, UConn; Mike Towle, WestCOG Associate Planner:
 - *MS4 & Stormwater-related Resources Available to Municipalities*

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- a. Earmark Repurposing
- b. LOTCIP Update
- c. New Funding Opportunities
- d. Available Trainings

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approval of June 7, 2016 minutes
- b. Transportation Improvement Program
 - i. HV (placeholder)
 - ii. SWR: Project #135-337, Stamford, CT
Project #102-360, Norwalk, CT
- c. Local Roads Accident Reduction Program (LRARP)
 - i. HV
 - ii. SWR

Attachment 5a, pp. 1-4
Attachment 5b, pp. 5-6

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG
- b. Future Presentations & Items of Interest

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS

7/21/16 – HVMPO & SWRMPO, CEDs; Stamford
8/2/16 - TAG (if needed)

8. ADJOURNMENT

For language assistance or other accommodations, contact Western Connecticut Council of Governments at least five business days prior to the meeting at help@westcog.org. Para asistencia con el idioma y otras adaptaciones, por favor póngase en contacto con WestCOG por lo menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión al help@westcog.org. Para obter assistência língua ou outras acomodações, entre em contato com WestCOG pelo menos cinco dias úteis antes da reunião em help@westcog.org.

DRAFT 6/7/2016 MINUTES

**WESTCOG TECHNICAL
ADVISORY GROUP**

Held at the Traskside Center of Wilton
15 Station Road, Wilton, CT 06897

REPRESENTING

- Bethel Absent
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
- Danbury City Engineer Farid Khouri
- Darien Absent
- Greenwich Commissioner of Public Works Amy Siebert
- HARTransit Absent

- New Canaan Town Planner Steve Kleppin
- New Fairfield Absent
- New Milford Town Engineer Daniel Stanton
- Newtown Absent
- Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
- Norwalk TD Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli

- Redding Absent
- Ridgefield Absent
- Sherman Absent
- Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Joshua Benson
- Weston Absent
- Westport Town Engineer Peter Ratkiewich
- Wilton Director of Planning Robert Nerney

ALSO ATTENDING

Roxane Fromson and Maureen Lawrence of CTDOT, Jim Wensley of Parsons Brinckerhoff, Stamford Signal Engineer Veera Karukonda, Stamford Transportation Planner Emily Provonsha, Danbury Traffic Engineer Abdul Mohamed, Danbury Engineer Tom Altermatt, WestCOG Director Francis Pickering and staff members David Hannon, Carl Zimmerman, Rob Sachnin, Mike Towle and Jon Chew.

WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM by Senior Planner Robert Sachnin. Attendees introduced themselves.

Mr. Sachnin reviewed the purpose of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) which is to bring together professionals within local governments for better coordination of

transportation and other aspects of municipal operations in the eighteen town WestCOG area.

Further, that WestCOG was created by the merger of two smaller planning regions, the southern of which had maintained a TAG coordination process for many years. That group is continuing as expanded into this larger group.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Structure Management Systems: A presentation on this topic was made by Karen Riemer, CTDOT Transportation Supervising Engineer. She demonstrated with a PowerPoint how CTDOT is modernizing its asset inventory and adding comprehensive features such as photos, inspection reports and CADD sketches.

Municipal and regional staff are anticipated to be provided with access, she said. Questions and answers followed the presentation.

Regional GIS Data Services: A presentation was made on this topic by Senior GIS Manager Carl Zimmerman. He provided an update on the development of WestCOG three-inch pixel aerial imagery, planimetric and topographic data, and the upcoming online GIS portal.

He also demonstrated the many applications of LIDAR, a surveying technology that measures distance to the surface with a laser light, this resource also to soon be available.

Local Road Safety Analysis: Carl Zimmerman continued by presenting the topic of GIS resources available for road safety analysis. WestCOG now has available speed, crash, pavement, and geometric data at very fine scales to understand local, street-level issues and vulnerabilities, he said.

Other transportation related services include network analysis and the creation of “driveshed” distance maps, access to date bases of biker and runner activity, and roadway 3D visualizations. His presentation was followed by questions and answers.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Local Road Accident Reduction Program: Rob Sachnin reviewed a memo in the agenda packet entitled “CTDOT 2016 Local Road Accident Reduction Grant Program (LRARP).” Maps of local road related accident sites by municipality were distributed. There was discussion.

Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit Study: Jim Wensley of CTDOT consultant Parsons Brinckerhoff provided an update on the CTDOT Route 1 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study. He explained that this CTDOT sponsored project seeks to identify feasible locations and methods for implemented more intense and faster intermunicipal coastal bus service.

The planning project includes a review of bus stop functionality and the identification of intersection modifications that could favor bus transit. The goal is for selected improvements to be scheduled for early implementation. An agenda attachment supplemented his remarks.

LOTICIP Update: Rob Sachnin reviewed progress with the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP). He referenced the two LOTICIP lists of endorsed projects included in the agenda packet, summarized below:

LOTICIP PROJECTS IN HVMPO AREA

2016 New Fairfield – Candlewood Corners Drainage \$693,000
2016 New Milford – Still River Drive Roundabout \$590,000
2016 New Milford – Wellsville Avenue Bridge Reconstruction \$1,381,000
2016 Newtown – Toddy Hill Road Bridge Replacement off Route 34 \$2,596,000
2016 Sherman – Taber Road Pavement Rehabilitation \$398,000

2017 Brookfield – Four Corners Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements \$837,000
2017 Danbury – White Street Intersection Improvements \$2,650,000
2017 Ridgefield – Farmingville Road Multi-Use Trail \$1,100,000

LOTICIP PROJECTS IN SWRMPO AREA

A: EXISTING COMMITMENTS

Stamford - Fiber Trunk Cable \$5,459,061
Norwalk - SoNo Streetscape \$2,069,045
Greenwich - Frontage Road \$1,080,000
Greenwich - Sound Beach \$3,900,900

B: FY14-15 SOLICITATION RESULTS WITH MUNICIPAL RANK

Norwalk (1) - Alternative Enhancements \$600,000
Stamford (1) - West Avenue and West Main Street \$2,000,000

C: FY16 SOLICITATION RESULTS WITH MUNICIPAL RANK

Darien (1) - Noroton Avenue and West Avenue \$1,200,000
Westport (1) - Riverside Avenue \$300,000
Westport (2) - Compo Road South \$400,000
Stamford (2) - Greenwich at Pulaski \$1,000,000

D: FY17 SOLICITATION RESULTS WITH MUNICIPAL RANK

New Canaan (1) - Locust Avenue Parking \$2,000,000
Greenwich (1) - Davis Avenue \$2,500,000
Greenwich (2) - Glenville Road and Brookside Drive \$1,750,000
Stamford (3) - Strawberry Hill Road at Rock Spring Road \$1,750,000
Westport (3) - Main Street \$300,000

E: FY16 AND 17 PROJECTED 20%

OVER-PROGRAMMING WITH MUNICIPAL RANK

Greenwich (3) - Lake Avenue at Rock Ridge Avenue \$1,000,000
Stamford (4) - Atlantic and Main Street \$2,000,000
Stamford (5) - Atlantic at Broad \$500,000
Stamford (6) – Broad Street at Summer Street \$500,000

LOTICIP ASSISTANCE FOR BOTH MPOS

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.

Road Safety Audits: Rob Sachnin noted that CTDOT has completed its acceptance of applications for its new Community Connectivity Program. An approved application enables a Road Safety Audit to be provided by a CTDOT consultant, roadways under both state and local jurisdiction being eligible.

Key project components of the Audit are bicycle and pedestrian access, safety improvements and accident reduction, he said. He noted that as a result of each application a professional report will be prepared at no cost to the municipality.

UPDATE ON MS4 GENERAL PERMIT

An update on this topic was provided by WestCOG Associate Planner Michael Towle. He noted that “MS4 General Permit” refers to DEEP’s “General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems.”

This area of federal law requires each municipality to take steps to keep the stormwater entering its storm sewer systems clean before entering water bodies, he said.

The current MS4 General Permit has been extended to June 30, 2017 as the modified MS4 General Permit will become effective July 1, 2017. Mr. Towle anticipated that this topic will remain a focus of WestCOG with a regional coalition approach.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 4/05/2016 Transportation Technical Advisory Group Minutes (SWR):

Rob Sachnin explained that for the eight town subgroup of the eighteen municipalities represented today, a set of minutes from April 5, 2016 awaited approval. On a motion made by Bob Nerney and seconded by Mike Yeosock, with an abstention by Peter Ratkiewich, the southern group's minutes were approved as amended, to correct a few typos.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendment: Rob Sachnin explained that the southern TAG subgroup has the practice of providing advisory positions to SWRMPO on proposed changes to the federally funded transportation capital program for that area.

Stephanie Scavelli of the Norwalk Transit District then reviewed the requested amendment, a Phase 2 supplement to the Transit District's Global Positioning System – Automatic Vehicle Location system.

A total of \$800,000 is requested at 80% federal and 20% state, to integrate the bus fleet into an automated maintenance management system. There was discussion, followed by support for the project.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion of the future activities of the group. Rob Sachnin then reviewed upcoming meeting dates of 6/9/2016 for the NY Metropolitan Area Planning Forum at Sacred Heart University in Stamford, 6/16/2016 for WestCOG, HVMPO and SWRMPO meetings at the Ridgefield Library, and then 7/12/2016 for the next Transportation Advisory Group meeting, location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at noon.

FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

TAG Action Requested: Review and support TIP amendment endorsement by SWRMPO using Resolution #2016-008.

Background: The FFY2015-2018 South Western Region TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 23, 2014. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 21, 2015.

Amendments (SWRTIP #Am2016-006):

CTDOT has requested amendments to add Norwalk and Stamford Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) projects to the TIP. The goal of the federal CMAQ program is to support surface transportation projects and other related efforts that improve air quality and reduce congestion.

These projects originated as part of a regional solicitation for eligible candidates early in 2015, with the Stamford and Norwalk projects ultimately ranked as the respective #1 and #2 regional priorities. Action to advance these projects was taken by the SWRMPO in April of 2015. Additional project details are included below:

135-337: Stamford Traffic Signal Modernization at Various Intersections

The project is broken down into two main parts:

Signal System Upgrade & Synchronization:

This project will include the collection of travel data all at City intersections in order to develop at least seven timing plans to help deliver efficient traffic operations, reducing travel time and delays. Timing plans will be conducted for various time of the day and week, including snow and/or emergency activities. Project results will improve signal coordination and safety while reducing emissions and fuel consumption.

Signal Hardware Upgrade:

Obsolete and unsafe traffic signal hardware will be upgraded, providing safe, efficient, and trouble free operation of intersection control. The replacement of deteriorated signal cables and rusted support poles create safety concerns and will thus be replaced. The majority of the proposed improvements will be conducted on Route 1 and on the I-95 frontage/service road, which serve as emergency detours for I-95.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCD	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
01	CMAQ	0135-0337	X8	VARIOUS	STAMFORD	TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION AT VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS	PD	2016	100	100	0	0	NEW PROJECT
01	CMAQ	0135-0337	X8	VARIOUS	STAMFORD	TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION AT VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS	FD	2018	100	100	0	0	NEW PROJECT

01	CMAQ	0135-0337	X8	VARIOUS	STAMFORD	TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION AT VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS	CON	FYI	3,000	3,000	0	0	NEW PROJECT
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AQC X8 – exempt

102-360: Norwalk: Upgrade Traffic Signals and Install Dynamic Message Signs

The City of Norwalk has been upgrading its intersections to utilize fiber-optic based communications, with this project serving to upgrade an additional 10 intersections. These efforts build off of existing work and seek to improve traffic operations, including reducing congestion and associated emissions, thus improving air quality.

The upgrades will help provide for the distribution of real-time traffic data and information between agencies and across jurisdictional boundaries. Traffic plans will be developed for a variety of scenarios, including incidents. The incident plan will be designed to mitigation unusual traffic conditions associated with construction, incidents (crashes, etc), bridge openings, weather and other causes.

Upon completion, this project will be incorporated with existing parking guidance information in South Norwalk to provide travel and parking information to the traveling public, facilitating better travel choices and alternative options.

Region	FACode	Pro#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
01	CMAQ	0102-0360	X8	VARIOUS	NORWALK	UPGRADE TRAFFIC SIGNALS & INSTALL DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS	PD	2017	375	375	0	0	NEW PROJECT
01	CMAQ	0102-0360	X8	VARIOUS	NORWALK	UPGRADE TRAFFIC SIGNALS & INSTALL DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS	FD	2018	460	460	0	0	NEW PROJECT
01	CMAQ	0102-0360	X8	VARIOUS	NORWALK	UPGRADE TRAFFIC SIGNALS & INSTALL DYNAMIC MESSAGE SIGNS	CON	FYI	2,547	2,547	0	0	NEW PROJECT

AQC X8 – exempt