

**Meeting of the South Western Region  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
July 21, 2016 at 11:30 am**

**Stamford Government Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 888 Washington Blvd, Stamford, CT, 06901**

**Agenda**

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
3. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - a. Earmark Repurposing Update
4. ACTION ITEMS\*
  - a. Approval of June 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes Attachment 4-a, pp. 1-3
  - b. Transportation Improvement Program Attachment 4-b, pp. 4-6
    - i. Project #135-337, Stamford, CT
    - ii. Project #102-360, Norwalk, CT
  - c. Local Roads Accident Reduction Program (LRARP) Attachment 4-c, pg. 7
5. NEXT MEETING: August 18, 2016 at the Ridgefield Library (*if necessary*)
6. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:help@westcog.org).*



## SWRMPO

### SOUTH WESTERN REGION

### METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### DRAFT MINUTES OF 6/16/2016

Meeting held at the Ridgefield Library  
472 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Public access by phone was also available from the WestCOG Stamford Office

Chairman Jayme Stevenson - Vice Chairman Robert Mallozzi

#### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
- Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei
- New Canaan Absent
- Norwalk Alternate Assistant Principal Engineer Mike Yeosock
- Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Joshua Benson
  
- Weston First Selectman Nina Daniel
- Westport First Selectman Jim Marpe
- Wilton Chief Financial Officer Anne Kelly-Lenz
- Transit Norwalk Transit Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli
- CTDOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
- MPO Staff Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

#### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Brookfield First Selectman Stephen Dunn, New Fairfield First Selectman Susan Chapman, New Milford Mayor David Gronbach, Newtown First Selectman Patricia Llodra, Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Sherman First Selectman Clay Cope and HARTransit Director Eric Bergstraesser.

Also Weston resident Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg, Rick Schreiner and Harrison Wenchell of HARTransit, Ryan Carey and Will Poundstone of the Ridgefield First Selectman's Office, Ellen Graham of Senator Blumenthal's Office, Tracey Alston of Eversource, Ridgefield citizen Isette Brendza, WestCOG staff members Patty Payne, Liz Esposito, Carl Zimmerman, Rob Sachnin, Soumya Sudhakar and Jon Chew.

#### SWRMPO CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jayme Stevenson called the SWRMPO meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## NEW TRANSPORTATION DATA SETS

A PowerPoint presentation was made on this topic by WestCOG's Senior GIS Manager Dr. Carl Zimmerman. He provided an update on the development of new transportation data sets designed to meet SWRMPO and HVMPO responsibilities.

Tools illustrated included planimetric maps, three dimensional projections, biker and runner use of "on" and "off" road and trail networks, accident data in much greater detail than previously, and maps of "drivesheds" showing relative access by time taken. A discussion followed.

## ACTION ITEMS

**Approve 5/19/2016 Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Jim Marpe and seconded by Peter Tesei, the minutes of the SWRMPO meeting of 5/19/2016 were unanimously approved, except for abstentions by Nina Daniel and Anne Kelly-Lenz.

**Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendments:** Rob Sachnin explained that the UPWP defines transportation planning priorities to be carried out by staff during a two-year time frame, one year of the current cycle soon to be completed. Examples of activities include MPO coordination, processing of TIP amendments, study management, transportation plan update, etc.

As outlined in an agenda attachment, this current request is for approval of minor administrative and technical adjustments using Resolution #2016-006. There are no fiscal impacts to the overall budget due to the adjustments, he said.

The mid-course adjustments move some indirect staff to direct billing where eligible, then budget adjustments to equipment, training, and other line items, a clearer definition of the prominent role of GIS and analytics based on new authorizing federal legislation, and revisions to outdated job titles and positions.

There was discussion. Then on a motion made by Peter Tesei and seconded by Jim Marpe, the requested UPWP amendments and accompanying endorsement resolution were unanimously approved.

**Transportation Improvement Program Amendments:** There were four CTDOT requested TIP amendments, as follows:

1) **State Project #412-149 In Norwalk** for Phase 2 of the Norwalk Transit District's Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Project, which is part of the region's ITS Strategic Plan and for which Phase 1 was previously endorsed by SWRMPO.

Stephanie Scavelli of the Norwalk Transit District explained that Phase 2 will make use of the District's global positioning system – automatic vehicle location system already installed. That a total of \$800,000 is requested with component sources at 80% federal and 20% state, to integrate the bus fleet into an automated maintenance management system.

The objective is to maximize the useful life of equipment and create cost-saving efficiencies within the Maintenance Department, Ms. Scavelli said. The discussion that

followed indicated sufficient interest that the District's software model will be discussed at an upcoming Technical Advisory Group meeting.

2) **State Project #301-180 in Norwalk** for the New Haven Main Line, part of the replacement of the 120-year-old Walk Bridge over the Norwalk River. Rob Sachnin provided the project summary, noting that this component upgrades and electrifies the Danbury Branch for a length of one-mile north of the main line.

The intent of the improvement is to achieve operational efficiencies during Walk Bridge reconstruction, he said. A total of \$5,000,000 is requested with component sources at 80% federal and 20% state.

3) **State Project #301-181 in Norwalk** for the New Haven Main Line, again part of the replacement of the 120-year-old Walk Bridge over the Norwalk River. Rob Sachnin explained that this project component allows for four-track interlocking, allowing the current four tracks to operate as a highly intensive two tracks during construction. The location will be 1.5 miles east of the Walk Bridge, in the area formerly known as the "Dock Yard."

4) **State Project #56-315 in Greenwich** for signal optimization and intersection improvements along the Glenville Corridor in Greenwich. Peter Tesei spoke to traffic conditions in Greenwich, where this busy corridor is a connection between the Merritt Parkway – Hutchinson Parkway and the central part of the community.

The geometric improvements proposed for the Glenville Road and Pemberwick Road intersection are also of great value, he said. A total of \$2,250,000 is requested with the source 100% from the federal CMAQ program.

There was discussion of the four proposed amendments. Jayme Stevenson spoke to the interstate significance of the proposed Walk Bridge improvements.

Then on a motion made by Nina Daniel and seconded by Peter Tesei, the four TIP amendments and their accompanying endorsement resolution #2016-007 were unanimously approved.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

It was agreed that the July meeting will be cancelled unless vital action is needed. Then on a motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM.

## FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**MPO 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

**Attachments:** Resolution #2016-008 FFY 2015-2018 TIP Endorsement

**SOUTH WESTERN REGION  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

DARIEN•GREENWICH•NEW CANAAN•NORWALK•STAMFORD•WESTON•WESTPORT•WILTON

**RESOLUTION #2016-008**

**Resolution to Endorse the South Western Region  
FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program**

**WHEREAS:** Present federal regulations governing federal transportation assistance in urban areas prescribe that a Transportation Improvement Program be structured for each urban area which realistically balances need and financial resources over a four year period; and

**WHEREAS:** The *South Western Region FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* has been reviewed by the transportation technical and policy boards as well as the public.

**WHEREAS:** The projects are consistent with the *South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2015-2040*, and are financially constrained.

**WHEREAS:** The projects meet the conformity requirements of the Clean Air Act

- *Connecticut Department of Transportation Ozone Air Quality Conformity Determination; of the 2015 Regional Transportation Plans and the FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Programs for the Connecticut Portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT Ozone Nonattainment Area and the Greater Connecticut Ozone Nonattainment Area, March 2015, and*
- *Connecticut Department of Transportation PM 2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination; of the 2015 Regional Transportation Plans and the FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Programs for the Connecticut Portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT area PM<sub>2.5</sub> Attainment/Maintenance Area, March 2015.*

**WHEREAS:** The TIP is based on a continuing, comprehensive transportation process carried on cooperatively by the State, MPO, and transit operators in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49) U.S.C. app. 1607.

**Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby:**

Endorses the *South Western Region FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*.

This resolution is effective July 21, 2016.

Date: July 21, 2016.

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Jayme Stevenson, Chairman

## 2016 Local Roads Accident Reduction Program

**MPO Action Requested:** Review and endorse the Local Roads Accident Reduction Program (LRARP) project priorities for the region, using the Technical Advisory Group's (TAG) recommendations.

**Background:** In April 2015, CTDOT, through funding provided by the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program, issued a solicitation for participation in the LRARP. This competitive grant program seeks to fund "highly effective safety improvements" for local roads. The region received a total of three applications, with one being withdrawn.

In accordance with the CTDOT solicitation guidelines, the region may submit two applications for funding consideration. Funding is eligible for 90% of construction costs only. Additional details are provided below.

### Candidate Projects:

Two applications were received, one each from Norwalk and Stamford. Both projects were reviewed by the region and discussed at the July 12, 2016 TAG meeting, where the group recommended advancement of both projects in the following order:

#### Priority #1: Stamford Summer Street Corridor Safety Improvements

This project seeks to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety along Summer Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets. A highly utilized multi-modal corridor experiencing high vehicular speeds and poor sightlines in certain spots, the project area has experienced 73 crashes with injuries or fatalities from 2010-2014, 13 of which involve pedestrians and include 1 fatality. Of the pedestrian incidents, 70% were a direct result of a driver failing to grant the right of way to the pedestrian.

Improvements are aimed at implementing proven countermeasures such as: increasing the visibility of signage along the corridor; improve signaling for all modes; traffic calming; increase the visibility of pedestrians in crosswalks, while also shortening crossing distances. Many of these measures are in alignment with state and regional safety goals, and advance complete streets initiatives.

Cost of Funding Sought: \$657,000 (scalable cost, with remaining match provided by municipality)

#### Priority #2: Norwalk Bridge Strike Reduction Plan

The proposed Bridge Strike Reduction Plan would reduce crashes at the Metro-North Railroad (MNRR) bridge at the intersection of Washington Street and North/South Main Street. Over a 9-year period, 26 bridge strikes occurred and including 1 injury. Of the crashes were contributing factor was provided, 90% were a result of "insufficient vertical clearance." Property damage associated with these strikes are costly and if severe enough, could substantially impact travel along the MNRR New Haven main line, which is part of the Northeast Corridor, and may result in far reaching economic impacts.

The project seeks to improve vehicle height detection and advance warnings to operators with insufficient vertical clearance, while also improving bridge visibility.

Cost of Funding Sought: \$307,800 (remaining balance to be provided by municipality).