

SWRMPO
SOUTH WESTERN REGION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

APPROVED 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 Wenchel 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 Brenda, 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.