

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

September 14, 2016 at 11:00 am

Comstock Community Center, 180 School Road., Wilton, CT, 06897

Agenda

- 1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- 3. FEATURED GUESTS**
 - a. MS4 & Stormwater-related Resources Available to Municipalities
Dr. Sarah Crosby, Director of Harbor Watch
Mike Towle, WestCOG Associate Planner
- 4. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
 - a. New Funding Opportunities
 - b. 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program
 - c. Status of CTDOT Corridor Studies
 - d. MPO Consolidation NPRM
- 5. ACTION ITEMS**
 - a. Approval of July 12, 2016 minutes Attachment 5a, pp. 1-4
 - b. Transportation Improvement Program (no items received as of 09/08/16)
- 6. OTHER BUSINESS**
 - a. Discussion Items as Raised by the TAG
 - b. Future Presentations & Items of Interest
 - c. Break-out Session: Housatonic Valley MPO LOTCIP Update
- 7. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

9/14/16 – Planners Lunch
9/15/16 – WestCOG Monthly Meeting
10/6/16 – TAG – Will Britnell, CTDOT Principal Engineer, Roundabout Presentation
- 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.

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Attachment 5-a

**7/12/2016 MINUTES OF WESTCOG'S
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP**

Ridgefield Board of Education Meeting Room
66 Prospect Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

IN ATTENDANCE

- Bethel Absent
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
- Danbury Senior Design Engineer Tom Altermatt
- 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 Public Works Director Fred Hurley
- Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
- Norwalk TD Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli

- Redding Zoning Enforcement Officer Aimee Pardee
- Ridgefield Town Engineer Charles Fisher
- Sherman Absent
- Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Joshua Benson
- Weston Absent
- Westport Town Engineer Peter Ratkiewich
- Wilton Absent

ALSO ATTENDING

Roxane Fromson of CTDOT, Chet Arnold and Dave Dixon of UConn CLEAR, Greenwich Public Works Deputy Commissioner Jim Michel, Stamford's Regulatory Compliance Officer Tyler Theder, Traffic Engineer Mani Poola and Transportation Planner Emily Provonsha, and WestCOG staff members Rob Sachnin, Dave Hannon, Mike Towle, Jon Chew, and Soumya Sudhakar.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM by Senior Planner Robert Sachnin. Attendees introduced themselves.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

PRESENTATION

MS4 and Stormwater Related Resources: Initial remarks on this topic were made by WestCOG staff member Mike Towle. He reviewed the services that WestCOG can provide to municipalities to help meet MS4 requirements; development of plan templates, provide GIS webmaps of MS4 priority areas, joint RFP to have pre-approved vendors for MS4 consulting work, and appropriate grant applications.

A pilot study in Bethel will be performed to identify challenges in the IDDE process detailed in the upcoming MS4 permit, the results of which will be shared with the region. WestCOG will survey the eighteen municipalities to determine their MS4 technical assistance needs.

Then Chet Arnold and Dave Dixon of U Conn CLEAR made a related PowerPoint presentation. They explained the mission of CLEAR which is the “Center for Land Use Education and Research at the University of Connecticut.”

CLEAR is soon to receive a grant specifically to assist municipalities with the technical aspects of managing their MS4 commitments. This will integrate with the WestCOG assistance, they said.

Key web resources discussed were:

--- WestCOG MS4 page: <https://westcog.org/ms4/>

--- An MS4 Listserv at U Conn: ctms4-l@listserv.uconn.edu

--- Towns with Low Impact Development regulations: s.uconn.edu/stateoflid

Then distributed was the “MS4 Schedule of Tasks 2017-2022” followed by general discussion. It was agreed that MS4 compliance should be a continuing agenda item.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Earmark Repurposing: Rob Sachnin reviewed this topic. He noted that FHWA has provided an opportunity for DOT’s to repurpose earmark funds allocated to specific projects over ten years old that may be either unused or underutilized.

Earmarks in our area under review are located in Danbury, New Milford, Newtown, Norwalk, and Stamford. WestCOG staff has contacted all affected municipalities and it appears that no major comments are warranted, based on the proposed repurposing plan.

LOTICIP Update: Rob Sachnin distributed financial tables defining progress with implementing the Local Road Accident Reduction Program (LOTICIP). He noted that as of 6/30/2016 the State Bond Commission has allocated to the SWRMPO area \$15,142,000 with an additional allocation pending of \$3,277,000, those figures for the HVMPO area \$8,174,000 and \$1,769,000.

New Funding Opportunities: Rob Sachnin advised that there will be an upcoming process for submitting municipal applications for transportation alternative projects. He stated that the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act replaced the former MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program with a set-aside of funds under the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program.

A spread sheet was distributed providing federal allocations by urbanized area, not yet reallocated into the nine council of government regions. He noted that projects were to be aggregated into two categories, “existing” projects currently experiencing funding shortfalls, and “new” projects.

Transportation alternatives include streetscape enhancement, on and off road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improved access to public transit and other alternatives. WestCOG staff will keep members informed of upcoming application forms and submission dates.

Available Trainings: There are upcoming training opportunities for participating in the UConn - Road Safety Audit program, Data-driven Safety Roundtable, and Modern Roundabouts. If interested contact Rob or Dave.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 6/7/2016 Minutes: on a motion made by Tom Altermatt and seconded by Peter Ratkiewich, the minutes of the 6/7/2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

SWRMPO Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Rob Sachnin reviewed the two federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant related TIP amendments soon to become before the SWRMPO board.

As is the usual process, he is seeking input and recommendations from Technical Advisory Group members representing SWRMPO towns prior to the SWRMPO vote later this month.

He stated that the scope of **Project #135-337 in Stamford** concerns traffic signal modernization at various locations. Its first project segment includes collection of travel data at intersections in order to develop timing plans to promote efficient traffic operation.

Then the second segment calls for upgrading of obsolete traffic signal hardware on Route 1 and on the I-95 Frontage Road. Costs are \$100,000 for preliminary design, \$100,000 for final design and \$3,000,000 for construction, total \$3,200,000 federal CMAQ, no local or state funds.

Continuing with the second item, the scope of **Project #102-360 in Norwalk** concerns traffic signal modernization and installation of message signs. Norwalk has been upgrading its intersections to utilize fiber-optic based communications, this project adding ten intersections, he said.

Costs are \$375,000 for preliminary design, \$460,000 for final design and \$2,547,000 for construction, total \$3,382,000 federal CMAQ, no local or state funds.

There was discussion. Then on a motion made by Steve Kleppin and seconded by Peter Ratkiewich, South Western Region representatives voted unanimously to recommend that SWRMPO approve the proposed Stamford and Norwalk TIP amendments.

Local Road Accident Reduction Program: Members reviewed the two applications received, one from Stamford for "Summer Street Corridor Safety Improvements," and the other from Norwalk for the "Washington Street and North Main Street and South Main Street Bridge Strike Reduction Plan." A third application had been submitted and then withdrawn.

Stamford and Norwalk representatives spoke to the merits of their applications. There was discussion followed by consensus that the Stamford application should be WestCOG's first priority for CTDOT funding and the Norwalk application the second.

Then on a motion duly made and seconded representatives voted unanimously to advise SWRMPO to submit to CTDOT the Stamford and Norwalk Local Road Accident Reduction Program grant applications in the priority order recommended.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion items raised by the TAG: These included the Westport automated vehicle location system and the Stamford Bus and Shuttle Study.

Future presentations and items of interest: Items suggested were CT DOT presentation on roundabouts and CHRO contract requirements.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

It was noted that SWRMPO will meet at the Stamford WestCOG office on 7/21/2016. Also that the next Technical Advisory Group meeting will be on 8/2/2016, but only if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.