

SWRMPO
SOUTH WESTERN REGION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

APPROVED MINUTES OF 7/21/2016

WestCOG Office, Stamford Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06901
Chairman Jayme Stevenson, Vice Chairman Robert Mallozzi

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
- Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei
- New Canaan First Selectman Rob Mallozzi
- Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling
- Stamford Mayor David Martin
- Weston Absent
- Westport Absent
- Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice
- Transit Absent
- CTDOT Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
- MPO Staff Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Brookfield EDC member Hal Kurfehs, WestCOG staff members Liz Esposito, Rob Sachnin, Soumya Sudhakar and Jon Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

EARMARK REPURPOSING UPDATE

Rob Sachnin reviewed this topic as an informational item. 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 under-utilized.

Earmarks in the SWRMPO area under review are located in Norwalk and Stamford. WestCOG staff has contacted the affected municipalities and that no major comments on the proposed repurposing plan were warranted. He stated the purpose of this informational item was to further confirm with the MPO that no further earmark related follow ups were needed before the CTDOT deadline for comments. No additional follow ups were requested.

APPROVE 6/16/2016 MINUTES

After review and on a motion made by Peter Tesei and seconded by Rob Mallozzi, the minutes of the SWRMPO meeting of 6/16/2016 were unanimously approved, except for abstentions by Harry Rilling and Lynne Vanderslice.

TIP AMENDMENTS

Rob Sachnin reviewed the two federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant related TIP amendments requested by CTDOT, noting these were the result of applications endorsed by SWRMPO in 2015, as follows:

1. Project #135-337 in Stamford concerns traffic signal modernization at various locations. Its first project segment includes collection of travel data at two hundred intersections citywide 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.

2. Project #102-360 in Norwalk is the third phase of the City's traffic signal modernization plan. Installation of message signs is included. Norwalk has been upgrading its intersections to utilize fiber-optic based communications, this project adding ten intersections on East and West Avenues, 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. Harry Rilling spoke to the importance of the upgrades for traffic management in Norwalk.

It was then noted that on 7/12 the South Western Region representatives to the Technical Advisory Group voted unanimously to recommend that SWRMPO approve the proposed Stamford and Norwalk TIP amendments.

Then on a motion made by Rob Mallozzi and seconded by Lynne Vanderslice, it was voted unanimously to approve Resolution #2016-008 to endorse the Stamford and Norwalk CMAQ funded TIP amendments.

CT DOT LOCAL ROAD ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM (LRARP)

Staff 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.

Rob Sachnin noted that at the 7/12 Technical Advisory Group meeting that Stamford and Norwalk representatives spoke to the merits of their applications. There was at that meeting a consensus that the Stamford application should be the first priority for CTDOT funding and the Norwalk application the second.

There was discussion. Then on a motion made by Rob Mallozzi and seconded by Lynne Vanderslice, it was voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Group.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rob Sachnin provided updates on a recent meeting of the Merritt Parkway Advisory Committee, and then the draft CTDOT Capital Plan soon to circulate to members for review.

Francis Pickering noted a special meeting on 8/12 to discuss proposed rulemaking regarding MPO jurisdictions and that a background memo would be forwarded before that meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Jayne Stevenson stated that SWRMPO will meet 8/18/2016 at the Ridgefield Library but only if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Rob Mallozzi and seconded by Lynne Vanderslice, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 AM.