

HVMPO
HOUSATONIC VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

APPROVED MINUTES OF 10/20/2016

Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association
27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Chairman Rudy Marconi - Vice Chairman Susan Chapman
Secretary Julia Pemberton

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

• Bethel	First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
• Bridgewater	Absent
• Brookfield	First Selectman Stephen Dunn
• Danbury	Absent
• 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	Absent
• Transit	HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner
• CTDOT	Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
• MPO Staff	Deputy Director David Hannon (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei, New Canaan First Selectman Robert Mallozzi, Stamford Mayor David Martin, Weston Alternate Selectman Chris Spaulding, Westport First Selectman Jim Marpe, Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard and Norwalk Transit CEO Kimberly Morton.

Also, Stamford Traffic Engineer Robert Zaitooni, Harrison Wenchell of HARTransit, Newtown First Selectman's Intern John Board, Norwalk Transit Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli, Tracey Alston of Eversource, WestCOG staff members Michael Towle, Patty Payne, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Robert Brinton, Elizabeth Esposito, Robert Sachnin and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM. New WestCOG staff members Kristin Hadjstylianos and Robert Brinton were introduced.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kim Morton spoke to the upcoming reductions to Norwalk Transit District services. She distributed a descriptive summary entitled "Proposed Fare Increase and Service Reductions Effective January 1, 2017." Having taken the position of CEO early in 2015, it soon became apparent that there were serious financial challenges, she said.

It was determined early on that there are no missing funds. Rather, that the overall operation was incurring a growing deficit. She then described the actions being taken to regain control over the finances. There was considerable discussion.

Rob Sachnin then reviewed current activity by HVMPO and SWRMPO regarding CTDOT Air Quality Conformity determinations for their Regional Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs. A 30-day public input process has been initiated with the documents and staff available to provide technical assistance.

He mentioned that following the public process, MPO action would be required as part of the November meeting. The results will be forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration and to the Environmental Protection Agency to enable continued federal transportation project funding, he said.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on the Transportation Alternatives Program: Rob Sachnin reviewed the status of the FFY 2016-2020 Transportation Alternatives Program solicitation. Nine applications have been received from within the SWRMPO area, and another nine from within the HVMPO area. The applications are under review, with recommendations as to priorities to be brought to the Technical Advisory Group for input and then to the COG, he said.

Update on 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program: Dave Hannon reviewed the draft TIP, commenting upon the municipal priority projects included. The draft document distributed was entitled "2018-2021 TIP Projects List – HVMPO Review Comments."

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 6/16/2016 and 8/12/2016 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Pat Llodra, the minutes of the HVMPO meetings of 6/16/2016 and 8/12/2016 were unanimously approved.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: There were two CTDOT requested TIP amendments, grouped for administrative tracking as "HVTIP Amendments 2016-04," as follows:

1) Project #0034-0305 in Danbury for the realignment of Route 37 at Stacey Road, Pembroke Terrace and Barnum Road to address traffic flow and safety concerns. Dave Hannon explained that this amendment is for the construction phase which totals to \$4,500,000 of which 80% is to be federally funded thru STP-O and Earmark funds.

The project has been off the TIP for many years and reinstatement will facilitate its completion, he said. There was brief discussion. Then on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Susan Chapman, the TIP amendment for Project #0034-0305 was unanimously approved.

2) Project #0096-0204 in Newtown for intersection redesign at I-84 Interchange 11 with Route 34 and Route 490 (Wasserman Way). Dave Hannon explained that the design phase is with state funds, and that the current amendment is for right of way funds totaling \$1,800,000 of which 80% is federal STPA funds and 20% is state funds.

He provided project background, noting that I-84 Interchange 11 ramps were designed for connection only to an expressway approaching from the south, not for local traffic. The proposed approaching expressway has long been abandoned and the current access arrangements were never intended to be permanent, he said.

The redesign will give priority to local access, significantly reducing traffic congestion at this strategic regional crossroads, also the location of the highest traffic volume in Newtown. He noted that a public information meeting on this project is planned by CTDOT.

There was discussion. Then on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Pat Llodra, the TIP Amendment for Project #0096-0204 was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rudy Marconi stated that the next meeting would be held at 11:30 AM before the WestCOG meeting scheduled for 11/17/2016 at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association in Ridgefield. Then on motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 PM.