

**SWRMPO**  
SOUTH WESTERN REGION  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

APPROVED MINUTES OF 10/20/2016

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

Chairman Jayme Stevenson - Vice Chairman Robert Mallozzi

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

- Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
- Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei
- New Canaan First Selectman Robert Mallozzi
- Norwalk Absent
- Stamford Mayor David Martin
- Weston Alternate Selectman Chris Spaulding
- Westport First Selectman Jim Marpe
- Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice
- Transit Norwalk Transit CEO Kimberly Morton
- CTDOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
- MPO Staff Deputy Director David Hannon (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, Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard and HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner.

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 Jayme Stevenson 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 become 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 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 2018-2012 Transportation Improvement Program:** Rob Sachnin reviewed the draft TIP, commenting upon the municipal priority projects included. The draft document distributed was entitled “2018-2021 TIP Projects List – SWRMPO Review Comments.”

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of 7/21/2016 and 8/12/2016 Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Rob Mallozzi and seconded by David Martin, the minutes of the SWRMPO meetings of 7/21/2016 and 8/12/2016 were unanimously approved, except for abstentions by Chris Spaulding and Jim Marpe.

**Transportation Improvement Program Amendments:** There were four CTDOT requested TIP amendments, grouped for administrative tracking as “SWRTIP Amendments 2016-07”, as follows:

**1) Project #56-316** in Greenwich and Stamford on I-95 in those communities. Rob Sachnin reviewed the project which includes seven miles of pavement rehabilitation, selected median barrier replacement, movement of illumination from the shoulder into the median, and selected bridge rehabilitation. Certain critical I-95 features are ending their useful service life, he said.

He referenced the agenda attachment in which the seven components of Project #56-316 total to \$177,532,000 in federal NHPP funds and with a State matching component of 20%.

**2) Project #56-305** in Greenwich for the replacement of State Bridge #01872 on Route 1 over Greenwich Creek. The bridge has been rated as structurally deficient due to the poor condition of its superstructure, and functionally obsolete due to poor deck geometry.

Rob Sachnin noted that the combined final design and right of way components total to \$1,775,000, of which 80% is to be federally funded thru STPB and STPA-BRX funding categories respectively, the 20% remainder State funds.

**3) Project #135-287** in Stamford will make safety and operational improvements along Route 106, also known as Courtland Avenue, including the intersection of Route 106 with Route 1. Exclusive left turn lanes will be provided at Route 106 intersections with Route 1 and to the north at Hamilton Avenue.

Funding has been redirected from state to federal, which has prompted this amendment. The amendment is for the construction phase and totals to \$5,500,000, 80% of which is federal from the STPB category.

**4) Project #158-214** in Westport for major rehabilitation and replacement of State Bridge #01349 on Route 1 over the Saugatuck River, this amendment for the preliminary design phase at a total of \$2,000,000, 80% of which is federal thru the STPB program.

The requested TIP amendments for this project build off of existing efforts, which proposed minor rehabilitation to damaged portions of the bridge. But following further review, a need for more rigorous improvements were determined to be warranted to address structural and functional deficiencies.

The MPO action then requested by staff was endorsement of the four amendments above and collectively titled "SWRTIP Amendments 2016-07" by way of "Resolution #2016-009 to Endorse the South Western Region FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program."

There was brief discussion. Then on a motion made by Peter Tesei and seconded by Rob Mallozzi, the requested resolution was unanimously approved.

**Preliminary Approval of Draft Public Participation Plan:** Robert Sachnin commented upon the draft update which had been distributed earlier, entitled "Draft Title VI Civil Rights and Public Participation Plan."

The new document will be a combination of current SWRMPO and HVMPO public participation and Title VI policies, updated and standardized into one text for both organizations as well as WestCOG, he said.

He noted that due to differences between current MPO adoption policies for public participation policy components, SWRMPO has two additional steps prior to joint public distribution of the draft for comment. These are a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) recommendation for preliminary approval to SWRMPO, followed by SWRMPO preliminary approval.

The regional TAG action has been completed. Then on a motion made by David Martin and a second by Rob Mallozzi, the Draft Title VI Civil Rights and Public Participation Plan was unanimously recommended for preliminary approval.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Jayme Stevenson 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.