

Western Connecticut Council of Governments
Housatonic Valley & South Western Region
Metropolitan Planning Organizations

January 23, 2017 – 10:00 a.m. *(immediately following Legislative Breakfast)*

Location: Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Assoc. (RVNA)
27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

HV & SWRMPO Agenda

1. Meeting Call to Order
2. Public Participation
3. Informational Items:
 - a) TAP Update
4. Action Items:
 - a) Approval of December 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes Attachment 4a, pp MPO-1-6
 - b) Transportation Improvement Program Attachment 4b
 - i. HV: Project #170-3439, Statewide pg. MPO 7
 - ii. SWR: Projects #102-296, Norwalk; #170-3439, Statewide pp. MPO 8-9
5. Next Meeting: February 23, 2017 at 11:30 am
6. Adjournment

**separate votes taken for HV and SWR MPOs*

COG Agenda

1. Meeting Call to Order: Hon. Matthew Knickerbocker, Chairman
2. Public Participation
3. Action Items:
 - a) Approval of December 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes Attachment 3a, pp. COG- 1-4
 - b) Uniform Dues Structure Attachment 3b, pg. COG-5
 - c) LOTCIP Program Adjustments Attachment 3c, pp. COG-6-7
 - d) Election of Officers
 - e) Proposed Bylaw Amendment
 - f) FRA NEC Future Tier 1 Final Environmental Impact Statement
4. Next Meeting: February 23, 2017 at 12:30 pm
5. Adjournment

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HVMPO
HOUSATONIC VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Attachment 4a

DRAFT MINUTES OF 12/15/2016 MEETING

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 First Selectman Curtis Read
- Brookfield First Selectman Stephen Dunn
- Danbury Alternate Planning Director Sharon Calitro
- 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
- Transit HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner
- CTDOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
- MPO Staff Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, Norwalk Chief of Staff Laoise King, HARTransit Planner Harrison Wenchell, Newtown First Selectman's Intern John Board, Stamford Traffic Engineer Robert Zaitooni, WestCOG staff members David Hannon, Robert Brinton, William Kenny, Nicole Sullivan, Patty Payne, Robert Sachnin, Carl Zimmerman and Jonathan Chew.

HVMPO CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment. New staff members Nicole Sullivan and William Kenny were introduced.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

SweetHART Operational Analysis: HARTransit Director of Service Development Richard Schreiner distributed a research report by HARTransit for WestCOG entitled "SweetHART Operational Analysis 2016." Transit Planner Harrison Wenchell participated in the presentation. There was then a discussion of elderly and disabled transit issues in several of the municipalities.

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Update: Rob Sachnin provided an update on this state funded program for improving transportation in municipalities. Due to changes in cost estimates and project schedules, staff will recommend some adjustments to the capital program at the WestCOG meeting on January 23.

Federal Rulemaking on MPO Planning Areas: On a motion made by Clay Cope and seconded by Steve Dunn, this topic was added to the joint HVMPO – SWRMPO meeting agenda.

Francis Pickering provided a summary of recent developments, noting the strong opposition by MPOs nationally to USDOT's new MPO boundary rules that lessen the efficiency of regional transportation planning. Unfortunately, US DOT is proceeding with its boundary revision plan, he said. However, that implementation will be delayed until 2024 and an exception process has been added.

He reviewed remaining opportunities for opposing the administrative complications. He was requested by members to prepare a short report on these options.

ACTION ITEMS

HVMPO Approval of 11/17/2016 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Pat Llodra and seconded by Curtis Read, the minutes of the HVMPO meeting of 11/17/2016 were unanimously approved, except for abstentions by Sharen Calitro, Susan Chapman and Clay Cope who were not present at that meeting.

HVMPO 2017 Meeting Schedule: A draft meeting schedule entitled "Draft 2017 COG and MPO Meeting Schedule" was reviewed. Then on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Steve Dunn the schedule was unanimously approved.

HVMPO Title VI Civil Rights and Public Participation Plan: Jon Chew reviewed the draft update which had been distributed earlier, the full title of which is "Title VI Civil Rights and Public Participation Plan."

The new document will be a combination of current SWRMPO, HVMPO and WestCOG policies, updated and standardized into one document for all three organizations, he said. After brief discussion and on a motion made by Curtis Read and seconded by Matt Knickerbocker, the updated Plan was unanimously approved.

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP): Rob Sachnin reviewed the status of the solicitation for municipal TAP applications. Using an attached map, he referenced the two different Urbanized Areas (UZA) for which the regions projects were located within, noting different federal requirements between the two. He added that UZA funding was shared with neighboring MPOs within each UZA.

The HV and SWR MPO projects were reviewed, prioritized, and recommended for MPO approval by the WestCOG Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on December 6. They have now been ranked as part of a competitive selection process

The resulting recommendations from the TAG to the MPO were included in attachments to the agenda entitled "2016-2020 TAP Solicitation Project Prioritization and Recommendations." These recommendations for HVMPO are summarized below:

HVMPO FOR DANBURY URBANIZED AREA

FUNDS – AS INCLUDED ON RESOLUTION #2016-003

Priority 1: Brookfield's Town Center Streetscape Phase 2 at \$475,000 federal share

Priority 2: Newtown's Hawleyville Streetscape at \$690,600 federal share

Priority 3: New Milford's Route 7 - Danbury Road Sidewalks at \$720,000 federal share

Contingency: should additional TAP or other funding be made available, proceed to New Milford's Old Boardman Bridge Multi-Use Trail at \$800,000 federal

HVMPO FOR BRIDGEPORT – STAMFORD URBANIZED

AREA FUNDS – AS INCLUDED ON RESOLUTION #2016-004

Priority 1: Norwalk's Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) Phase 3 at \$1,127,160 federal

Priority 2: Ridgefield's Branchville Transit Oriented Development Phase 1 at \$720,000 federal

Priority 3: Wilton's Wilton Loop of the NRVT at \$1,200,000 federal

Contingencies: should additional TAP or other funding be made available, proceed to: Stamford's Stillwater Avenue Roadway and Pedestrian Safety Improvements at \$498,520 federal;

Stamford's Magee and Shippan Avenues Roadway and Pedestrian Safety Improvements at \$513,040 federal;
Redding's Redding Mile of NVRT at \$473,440 federal;
Norwalk's Traffic Signal Upgrade Phase 3 at \$395,400 federal;
Stamford's West Main Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge (cost varies depending on other grants);
Norwalk's NVRT Phase 2 (cost varies depending on other grants)

Mr. Sachnin further explained that following MPO approval, the project applications would be transmitted to CTDOT for review of scope, cost estimates and schedule. Following CTDOT review, further project discussions were likely.

There was discussion. Then on a motion made by Clay Cope and seconded by Matt Knickerbocker, HVMPO Resolutions **#2016-003** and **#2016-004** endorsing the priorities above were unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

HVMPO ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rudy Marconi stated that the next meeting would be held on January 23rd, following legislative breakfast at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association in Ridgefield. Then on a motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM.

SWRMPO
SOUTH WESTERN REGION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

DRAFT MINUTES OF 12/15/2016 MEETING

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 Absent
- Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling
- Stamford Mayor David Martin
- Weston First Selectman Nina Daniel
- Westport Absent
- Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice
- Transit Norwalk Transit Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli
- CTDOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
- MPO Staff Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, Norwalk Chief of Staff Laoise King, HARTransit Planner Harrison Wenchell, Newtown First Selectman's Intern John Board, Stamford Traffic Engineer Robert Zaitooni, WestCOG staff members David Hannon, Robert Brinton, William Kenny, Nicole Sullivan, Patty Payne, Robert Sachnin, Carl Zimmerman and Jonathan Chew.

SWRMPO CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment. New staff members Nicole Sullivan and William Kenny were introduced.

INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

SweetHART Operational Analysis: HARTransit Director of Service Development Richard Schreiner distributed a research report by HARTransit for WestCOG entitled "SweetHART Operational Analysis 2016." Transit Planner Harrison Wenchell participated in the presentation. There was then a discussion of elderly and disabled transit issues in several of the municipalities.

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Update: Rob Sachnin provided an update on this state funded program for improving transportation in municipalities. Due to changes in cost estimates and project schedules, staff will recommend some adjustments to the capital program at the WestCOG meeting on January 23.

Federal Rulemaking on MPO Planning Areas: On a motion made by Clay Cope and seconded by Steve Dunn, this topic was added to the joint HVMPO – SWRMPO meeting agenda.

Francis Pickering provided a summary of recent developments, noting the strong opposition by MPOs nationally to USDOT's new MPO boundary rules that lessen the efficiency of regional transportation planning. Unfortunately, US DOT is proceeding with its boundary revision plan, he said. However, that implementation will be delayed until 2024 and an exception process has been added.

He reviewed remaining opportunities for opposing the administrative complications. He was requested by members to prepare a short report on these options.

ACTION ITEMS

SWRMPO Approval of 11/17/2016 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Nina Daniel, the minutes of the SWRMPO meeting of 11/17/2016 were unanimously approved, except for abstentions by Peter Tesei and Stephanie Scavelli who were not present at that meeting.

SWRMPO 2017 Meeting Schedule: A draft meeting schedule entitled "Draft 2017 COG and MPO Meeting Schedule" was reviewed. Then on a motion made by Nina Daniel and seconded by Lynne Vanderslice the schedule was unanimously approved.

SWRMPO Title VI Civil Rights and Public Participation Plan: Jon Chew reviewed the draft update which had been distributed earlier, the full title of which is "Title VI Civil Rights and Public Participation Plan."

The new document will be a combination of current SWRMPO, HVMPO and WestCOG policies, updated and standardized into one document for all three organizations, he said. After brief discussion and on a motion made by Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Nina Daniel, the updated Plan was unanimously approved.

SWRMPO Transportation Improvement Program Amendments: Rob Sachnin reviewed two requested TIP amendments from CTDOT as follows:

Amendment for Walk Bridge in Norwalk: He explained that CTDOT has requested this TIP amendment to increase the funding for the replacement of the Norwalk River Railroad (Walk) Bridge, State Project No. 0301-0176, in the amount of \$172.6 million of which nearly \$129.5 million is federal. An attachment to the agenda entitled "FFY 2015-2018 TIP" was referred to for details as to financing and categorical sources.

Harry Rilling urged MPO approval, stating that this more than one century old bridge serves 197 trains per day and is clearly obsolete. When problems occur much of the East Coast rail network is impacted, he said. Further, that the City of Norwalk is very active in the current CTDOT environmental assessment process for bridge replacement and has submitted detailed comments.

Amendment for Mill River Greenway in Stamford: Rob Sachnin then provided background on the CTDOT requested TIP amendment pertaining to Stamford's Mill River Greenway Trail Phase 2. The proposed project would add 2,250 feet to the current Greenway, from Hanrahan Street to Scalzi Park. An attachment to the agenda entitled "FFY 2015-2018 TIP" was again referenced for funding details.

Then after review and on a motion made by David Martin and seconded by Lynne Vanderslice, the two TIP changes were unanimously endorsed by approval of Resolutions **#2016-012** and **#2016-013**.

Transportation Alternative Program (TAP): Rob Sachnin reviewed the status of the solicitation for municipal TAP applications. Using an attached map, he referenced the two different Urbanized Areas (UZA) for which the regions projects were located within, noting different federal requirements between the two. He added that UZA funding was shared with neighboring MPOs within each UZA.

The HV and SWR MPO projects were reviewed, prioritized, and recommended for MPO approval by the WestCOG Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on December 6. They have now been ranked as part of a competitive selection process

The resulting recommendations from the TAG to the MPO were included in attachments to the agenda entitled “2016-2020 TAP Solicitation Project Prioritization and Recommendations.” These recommendations for SWRMPO are summarized below:

SWRMPO FOR BRIDGEPORT – STAMFORD URBANIZED

AREA FUNDS – AS INCLUDED ON RESOLUTION #2016-014

Priority 1: Norwalk’s Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) Phase 3 at \$1,127,160 federal

Priority 2: Ridgefield’s Branchville Transit Oriented Development Phase 1 at \$720,000 federal

Priority 3: Wilton’s Wilton Loop of the NRVT at \$1,200,000 federal

Contingencies: should additional TAP or other funding be made available, proceed to:

Stamford’s Stillwater Avenue Roadway and Pedestrian Safety Improvements at \$498,520 federal;

Stamford’s Magee and Shippam Avenues Roadway and Pedestrian Safety Improvements at \$513,040 federal;

Redding’s Redding Mile of NRVT at \$473,440 federal;

Norwalk’s Traffic Signal Upgrade Phase 3 at \$395,400 federal;

Stamford’s West Main Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge (cost varies depending on other grants);

Norwalk’s NVRT Phase 2 (cost varies depending on other grants)

Mr. Sachnin further explained that follow MPO approval, the project applications would be transmitted to CTDOT for review of scope, cost estimates and schedule. Following CTDOT review, further project discussions were likely.

There was discussion. Then on a motion made by Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Harry Rilling, SWRMPO Resolution #2016-014 endorsing the priorities above was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

SWRMPO ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jayme Stevenson stated that the next meeting would be held on January 23rd, following the legislative breakfast at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association in Ridgefield. Then on a motion duly made and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 PM.

HVMPO FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MPO Action Requested: Review and consider TIP amendment endorsement.

Background: The FFY2015-2018 Housatonic Valley TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 23, 2014. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 21, 2015.

Amendments (HVTIP #Am2017-001):

0170-3439: Federal Eligible PE: TAP Program – AC Entry and Conversion

This project provides funding for CT DOT oversight of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This includes federally-eligible engineering administration and review by CTDOT and their consultant for the recently submitted HVMPO TAP applications this past December, as well as other existing and future TAP initiatives.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
70	STPA	0170-3439	X6		STATEWIDE	FEDERAL ELIGIBLE PE: TA PROGRAM - AC ENTRY	PE	2017	0	0	0	0	NEW PROJECT
70	STPA	0170-3439	X6		STATEWIDE	FEDERAL ELIGIBLE PE: TA PROGRAM - AC CONVERSION	PE	2017	660	528	132	0	NEW PROJECT

AQC X6 – exempt

SWRMPO FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MPO Action Requested: Review and consider TIP amendment endorsement using Resolution #2017-001.

Background: The FFY2015-2018 South Western Region TIP was endorsed by the MPO on October 23, 2014. The TIP was incorporated into the larger Statewide TIP, which was approved by USDOT and EPA on January 21, 2015.

Amendments (SWRTIP #Am2017-001):

102-296: Resurfacing, Bridge, & Safety Improvements along Merritt Parkway, from CT 124 to Newtown Turnpike

This CTDOT requested this TIP amendment involves the resurfacing of the Merritt Parkway (Route 15) along a 6.1 mile stretch from CT 124 in New Canaan, east to the Newtown Turnpike in Westport. This is the final piece of an eight corridor effort to provide safety improvements and enhancements to the Merritt Parkway, while maintaining its unique character and aesthetics. All work will conform to the respective Merritt Parkway Guidelines.

Roadway improvements include shoulder widening, drainage improvements, guiderail replacement, and removing fixed objects within the recommended “clear zone” or protecting with guiderail to help reduce roadway departure crashes. Some pavement replacement and resurfacing is also anticipated. This project also includes bridge improvements.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
01	NHPP	0102-0296	X6	CT 15	NORWALK	RESURFACING, BRIDGE & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, CT 124 TO NEWTOWN TURNPIKE	PD	2017	2,000	1,600	400	0	NEW PROJECT

AQC X6 – exempt

0170-3439: Federal Eligible PE: TAP Program – AC Entry and Conversion

This project provides funding for CT DOT oversight of the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This includes federally-eligible engineering administration and review by CTDOT and their consultant for the recently submitted SWRMPO TAP applications this past December, as well as other existing and future TAP initiatives.

Region	FACode	Proj#	AQCd	Rte/Sys	Town	Description	Phase	Year	Tot\$(000)	Fed\$(000)	Sta\$(000)	Loc\$(000)	Comments
70	STPA	0170-3439	X6		STATEWIDE	FEDERAL ELIGIBLE PE: TA PROGRAM - AC ENTRY	PE	2017	0	0	0	0	NEW PROJECT
70	STPA	0170-3439	X6		STATEWIDE	FEDERAL ELIGIBLE PE: TA PROGRAM - AC CONVERSION	PE	2017	660	528	132	0	NEW PROJECT

AQC X6 – exempt

**SOUTH WESTERN REGION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

DARIEN•GREENWICH•NEW CANAAN•NORWALK•STAMFORD•WESTON•WESTPORT•WILTON

**RESOLUTION #2017-001 Resolution to Endorse the South Western Region
FY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program – FHWA**

- WHEREAS:** Present federal regulations governing federal transportation assistance in urban areas prescribe that a Transportation Improvement Program be structured for each urban area which realistically balances need and financial resources over a four year period; and
- WHEREAS:** The *South Western Region FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* has been reviewed by the transportation technical and policy boards as well as the public.
- WHEREAS:** The projects are consistent with the *South Western Region Long Range Transportation Plan 2015-2040*, and are financially constrained.
- WHEREAS:** The projects meet the conformity requirements of the Clean Air Act
- *Connecticut Department of Transportation Ozone Air Quality Conformity Determination; of the 2015 Regional Transportation Plans and the FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Programs for the Connecticut Portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT Ozone Marginal Nonattainment Area and the Greater Connecticut Ozone Nonattainment Area, September 2016, and*
 - *Connecticut Department of Transportation PM 2.5 Air Quality Conformity Determination; of the 2015 Regional Transportation Plans and the FFY 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Programs for the Connecticut Portion of the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT area PM_{2.5} Attainment/Maintenance Area, September 2016.*
- WHEREAS:** The TIP is based on a continuing, comprehensive transportation process carried on cooperatively by the State, MPO, and transit operators in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49) U.S.C. app. 1607.

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby:

Endorses the *South Western Region FFY2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*.

This resolution is effective January 23, 2016.

Date: January 23, 2016.

Jayme Stevenson, Chairman

DRAFT Council Minutes

For the 12/15/2016 Regular Meeting

Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association

27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877

Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker - Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson

Secretary Susan Chapman - Treasurer Patricia Llodra

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Bethel.....First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker
Bridgewater.....First Selectman Curtis Read
Brookfield.....First Selectman Stephen Dunn
Danbury.....Alternate Planning Director Sharon Calitro
Darien.....First Selectman Jayme Stevenson
Greenwich.....First Selectman Peter Tesei
New Canaan.....Absent
New Fairfield.....First Selectman Susan Chapman
New Milford.....Mayor David Gronbach
Newtown.....First Selectman Patricia Llodra
Norwalk.....Mayor Harry Rilling
Redding.....First Selectman Julia Pemberton
Ridgefield.....First Selectman Rudy Marconi
Sherman.....First Selectman Clay Cope
Stamford.....Mayor David Martin
Weston.....First Selectman Nina Daniel
Westport.....First Selectman James Marpe
Wilton.....First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

OTHERS ATTENDING

Newtown First Selectman's Intern John Board, Tracy Alston and Garrett Sheehan of Eversource, Patrice Gillespie of the CT Sustainable Energy Network, CTDOT Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson, Weston resident Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg, HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner and Planner Harrison Wenchell, Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, Norwalk Chief of Staff Laoise King, Stamford Traffic Engineer Robert Zaitooni, WestCOG staff members Francis Pickering, David Hannon, Robert Brinton, William Kenny, Nicole Sullivan, Patty Payne, Robert Sachnin, Carl Zimmerman and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 PM by Chairman Matthew Knickerbocker.

REGIONALISM PROPOSED BY THE CT DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Chairman Knickerbocker then introduced Ellen Blaschinski, CT DPH Chief of Staff. She distributed two documents entitled “Benefits of Local Health District and Department Integration” and “What Does Public Health Do for my Community?”

CT DPH is proposing to reduce the 72 local health departments in Connecticut to a lesser number in order to benefit residents, municipalities and overall public health outcomes, she said.

She noted that a regional consolidation could follow county boundaries. The suggested target for a new minimum funding mandate could be 1.5% of the municipal budget to be dedicated to public health. After additional presentation there was a discussion with members. The comments made by WestCOG members are summarized below.

Several members had estimated the cost increase for providing their public health services under the DPH consolidation mandate. In all examples, the new cost was hundreds of thousands of dollars higher than the current expenditure. Members noted that the consistent theme of the regionalization movement in Connecticut has been to lower municipal costs; it is therefore perplexing that the CT DPH regionalization proposal seeks to increase costs.

Further, as local public health department outcomes in the area are already good if not excellent, how can municipal leaders justify a dramatically increased local expenditure? Related to this was the view that taxpayers will not favor mandated increases being reallocated regionally to those municipalities with lower health outcomes.

It was stated that if economies of scale are part of the rationale for the consolidation effort, then the savings should be estimated in some detail for the proposal to be evaluated. Ms. Blaschinski confirmed that before and after cost comparisons had not been attempted. As for the proposed regional management structure, it was viewed as diluting local supervision the proximity of which promotes quality service.

A further concern of WestCOG members was that county boundaries in Connecticut are archaic and not suitable as the bounds for any new regional service. Members also noted little evidence that state legislators were favoring the CT DPH proposal. After further discussion Ms. Blaschinski was thanked for her visit.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Weston resident Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg commented that legislators are considering a mandate for the introduction of temporary housing into each municipality and that this initiative should be monitored.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 10/20/2016 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Pat Llodra and seconded by Susan Chapman, the minutes of the meeting of 10/20/2016 were unanimously approved, except for abstentions by Curtis Read, Harry Rilling, Clay Cope, and Nina Daniel who were not present at that meeting.

Meeting Schedule for 2017: The draft 2017 Meeting Schedule as attached to the agenda was then reviewed. On a motion made by Stephen Dunn and seconded by Curtis Read, the schedule was unanimously approved.

Title VI Civil Rights and Public Participation Plan: It was agreed to omit a staff presentation on this matter as the document was discussed at the immediately preceding MPO meeting. On a motion made by Pat Llodra and seconded by Curtis Read the “Draft Public Participation Plan for WestCOG, HVMPO and SWRMPO” was unanimously approved. Harry Rilling left the meeting at this point.

Consultant Agreement for Norwalk Main Avenue Transportation Plan: Jon Chew presented an overview of the planning study, which will document this key corridor’s traffic congestion issues allowing grant applications for remediation to be formulated. He conveyed Harry Rilling’s support for the study.

Council approval was then requested of an agenda attachment entitled “Resolution Authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with Urban Engineers, Inc. to Prepare a Transportation Plan for Main Avenue in Norwalk, CT.” After brief discussion and on a motion made by Susan Chapman and seconded by Jayme Stevenson, the requested resolution was unanimously approved.

Proposal for Uniform Dues Formula: Pat Llodra, representing the Executive Committee and following up on her presentation at the last Council meeting, reviewed three draft dues formulas attached to the agenda.

The original proposal had shown municipal dues apportioned 50% by the municipal percent of the region’s population, the other 50% by the municipal percent of the region’s land area. She said that due to comments received this base option has been supplemented with two variations; population at 55% with land area at 45%, and population at 60% with land area at 40%.

There was discussion. The result was a request for an additional factor, a uniform, identical flat fee for Council membership, be considered in the formula. Pat Llodra agreed that tables with this factor will be prepared for review at the next meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Nominating Committee for Officers: After discussion four members agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for upcoming officers. These were Steve Dunn, Julia Pemberton, Peter Tesei, and Clay Cope. Matt Knickerbocker requested that they also consider an officer rotation policy, whereby the recommendation is for officers to move up one position with the Committee focused upon filling officer slots thereby vacated.

Legislative Committee and Breakfast: Francis Pickering stated that the annual Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for 8 AM on Monday, January 23, 2017 at the office of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association, 27 Governor Street in Ridgefield. The Legislative Breakfast will be followed by MPO and WestCOG meetings. Members requested early receipt of the Legislative Agenda.

Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Update: Rob Sachnin provided an update on this state funded program for improving transportation in municipalities. Due to changes in cost estimates and project schedules, staff will recommend some adjustments to the capital program at the January WestCOG meeting.

Geographic Information Systems Update: Carl Zimmerman provided a demonstration of the WestCOG GIS web portal now open for review and comment. Staff review of the accuracy of hundreds of thousands of building footprints is largely complete. The new topographic data, accurate to within one inch, is suitable for engineering applications, a great advantage for municipalities, he said. There was a discussion of municipal parcel map layers and how they may be integrated into the regional GIS system.

RETIREMENT OF DAVID HANNON

Chairman Knickerbocker then presented retiring Deputy Director David Hannon with a certificate of appreciation from the Council for his twenty-seven years of outstanding service. There were then individual comments of appreciation to Dave, followed by applause.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Knickerbocker stated that the next WestCOG meeting will be held on January 23, 2017 at the office of the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association. There being no further business, on a motion made by Pat Llodra and seconded by Jim Marpe and voted unanimously the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Municipality	Population	% of Total Population	Land Area (square miles)	% of Total Land Area	Current Dues
Bethel	19,529	3.2%	16.8	3.2%	\$ 14,969
Bridgewater	1,696	0.3%	16.2	3.0%	\$ 3,180
Brookfield	17,143	2.8%	19.8	3.7%	\$ 14,282
Danbury	84,657	13.9%	42.1	7.9%	\$ 32,354
Darien	21,787	3.6%	12.9	2.4%	\$ 7,003
Greenwich	62,695	10.3%	47.9	9.0%	\$ 23,314
New Canaan	20,387	3.3%	22.1	4.1%	\$ 8,747
New Fairfield	14,126	2.3%	20.5	3.8%	\$ 13,048
New Milford	27,276	4.5%	61.6	11.6%	\$ 18,272
Newtown	28,922	4.7%	57.8	10.9%	\$ 17,466
Norwalk	88,485	14.5%	22.8	4.3%	\$ 23,497
Redding	9,293	1.5%	31.5	5.9%	\$ 11,092
Ridgefield	25,244	4.1%	34.4	6.5%	\$ 19,486
Sherman	3,581	0.6%	21.8	4.1%	\$ 3,440
Stamford	128,874	21.1%	37.7	7.1%	\$ 34,232
Weston	10,387	1.7%	19.8	3.7%	\$ 6,136
Westport	27,899	4.6%	20.0	3.8%	\$ 9,797
Wilton	18,714	3.1%	27.0	5.1%	\$ 9,271

610,695	100.0%	532.7	100.0%	\$ 269,586
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Total Budget

\$ 300,000

*** Dues - 50% pop 50% area	2017/18 Dues	2018/19 Dues
\$ 9,527	\$ 12,248	\$ 9,527
\$ 4,978	\$ 4,079	\$ 4,978
\$ 9,786	\$ 12,034	\$ 9,786
\$ 32,648	\$ 32,501	\$ 32,648
\$ 8,984	\$ 7,993	\$ 8,984
\$ 28,887	\$ 26,101	\$ 28,887
\$ 11,231	\$ 9,989	\$ 11,231
\$ 9,242	\$ 11,145	\$ 9,242
\$ 24,045	\$ 21,159	\$ 24,045
\$ 23,379	\$ 20,423	\$ 23,379
\$ 28,154	\$ 25,825	\$ 28,154
\$ 11,152	\$ 11,122	\$ 11,152
\$ 15,887	\$ 17,686	\$ 15,887
\$ 7,018	\$ 5,229	\$ 7,018
\$ 42,270	\$ 38,251	\$ 42,270
\$ 8,127	\$ 7,131	\$ 8,127
\$ 12,484	\$ 11,141	\$ 12,484
\$ 12,199	\$ 10,735	\$ 12,199

\$ 300,000	\$ 284,793	\$ 300,000
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Proportional Share of Budget

pop	land
50%	50%

DRAFT WestCOG LOTCIP - Housatonic Valley Region Program - 01/23/17				
	Municipality	Project	Amount	Balance
Known Funding (FY14-FY16), less admin costs*				\$9,644,710
Existing Commitments				
FY14	Brookfield	"Four Corners" Intersection & Bike/Ped Improvements	(\$837,000)	
FY14	New Fairfield	Candlewood Corners Drainage Project	(\$693,000)	
FY14	New Milford	Still River Drive Roundabout	(\$1,119,175)	
FY15	Newtown	Toddy Hill Road Bridge Replacement	(\$2,596,000)	
FY16	New Milford	Wellsville Avenue Bridge Reconstruction	(\$1,381,000)	
FY16	Ridgefield	Farmingville Road Multi-Use Trail	(\$1,100,000)	
FY16	Bethel	Downtown TOD Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvements	(\$1,500,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$418,535
Authorized funding available to CTDOT, to be requested. Less admin. costs**				\$4,378,580
Existing Commitments				
FY17	Danbury	White Street Intersection Improvements	(\$2,650,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$2,147,115

*Based on 6/28/16 CTDOT LOTCIP Program Summary. Also accounts for 3% admin. cost for FY14 - FY16.

**assumes admin. cost at 3%

TAG: COG Approval Recommended 01/11/2017

COG:

 Adjusted Project

DRAFT WestCOG LOTCIP - Southwestern Region Program - 1/23/17

State Fiscal Year	Municipality	Project	Amount	Balance
Available Funding (FY14-16), less admin. costs*				\$18,117,290
FY14	Stamford	Fiber Optic Trunk Cable	(\$5,459,061)	
FY14	Norwalk	(1) Hamilton Ave Staircase	(\$600,000)	
FY15	Norwalk	SoNo Streetscape	(\$2,069,045)	
FY15	Greenwich	Frontage Rd	(\$1,080,000)	
FY15	Stamford	(1) West Ave & West Main St	(\$2,000,000)	
FY16	Darien	(1) Noroton Ave & West Ave	(\$1,200,000)	
FY16	Westport	(1) Riverside Ave	(\$607,115)	
FY16	Norwalk	Traffic Signal System Upgrade - Phase 3 (Pedestrian Items Only)	(\$500,000)	
FY16	Stamford	(2) Greenwich Ave & Pulaski St Roundabout	(\$2,100,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$2,502,069
Authorized funding available to CTDOT, to be requested. Less admin. costs**				\$8,111,140
FY17	Greenwich	Sound Beach Ave Bridge & Roundabout	(\$4,900,900)	
FY17	Westport	(2) Main St	(\$575,175)	
FY17	Greenwich	(1) Davis Ave	(\$2,500,000)	
FY17	Stamford	(3) Strawberry Hill Rd & Rock Spring Rd	(\$1,750,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$887,134
CTDOT Requested Appropriation (FY18), less admin. costs**				\$6,795,820
FY18	Greenwich	(2) Glenville Rd & Brookside Dr	(\$1,750,000)	
FY18	Westport	(3) Compo Rd South	(\$300,000)	
FY18	New Canaan	(1) Locust Ave Parking	(\$2,000,000)	
			Remaining Balance	\$3,632,954
(Overprogramming from April 2016 Solicitation)				
	Greenwich	(3) Lake Ave & Rock Ridge Ave	(\$1,000,000)	
	Stamford	(4) Atlantic St & Main St	(2,000,000)	
	Stamford	(5) Atlantic St & Broad St	(\$500,000)	
	Stamford	(6) Broad St & Summer St	(\$500,000)	


*Based on 6/28/16 CTDOT LOTCIP Program Summary. Also accounts for 3% admin. cost for FY14 - FY16.

**assumes admin. cost at 3%

(#) to left of project name indicates the municipal priority

TAG: COG Approval Recommended 01/11/2017

COG:

 Adjusted Project