

HVMPO
HOUSATONIC VALLEY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
APPROVED 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 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 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.