

SWRMPO
SOUTH WESTERN REGION
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

APPROVED 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 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 Shippan 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 at 11:30 AM before the WestCOG meeting scheduled for 1/23/2017 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.