

APPROVED 9/14/2016 MINUTES

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Held at the Comstock Community Center, 180 School Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

IN ATTENDANCE

- Bethel Director of Public Works Douglas Arndt
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
- Danbury Senior Design Engineer Tom Altermatt
- Darien Absent
- Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel

- New Canaan Town Planner Steven Kleppin
- New Fairfield Zoning Enforcement Officer Evan White
- New Milford Town Engineer Daniel Stanton
- Newtown Absent
- Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
- Norwalk TD Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli

- Redding Absent
- Ridgefield Town Engineer Charles Fisher
- Sherman Absent
- Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief Joshua Benson
- Weston Land Use Director Tracy Kulikowski
- Westport Town Engineer Peter Ratkiewich
- Wilton Director of Planning Robert Nerney

ALSO ATTENDING

Sarah Crosby and Nikki Cantatore of Harbor Watch, Michael Jastremski of the Housatonic Valley Association, New Canaan Senior Engineer Joseph Zagarenski, Westport Director of Public Works Stephen Edwards, Roxane Fromson of CTDOT, and WestCOG staff members James Dobson, Thomas Wittig, Robert Brinton, Elizabeth Esposito, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Carl Zimmerman, Michael Towle, David Hannon, Robert Sachnin, and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM by Robert Sachnin. He introduced new WestCOG staff members James Dobson, Thomas Wittig, Robert Brinton and Kristin Hadjstylianos, overviewing their roles in the organization.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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There was no public participation.

PRESENTATION

Assistance to Municipalities to Prepare their Separate Storm Sewer System Plans (MS4): A presentation on this topic was made by Dr. Sarah Crosby, PhD, Director of Harbor Watch, a Westport based water quality advocacy group.

Her remarks described the water quality research and educational programs of Harbor Watch, including use of the group's state certified bacteria lab to assist municipalities requesting water sampling.

Harbor Watch has no water quality enforcement role, she said. There is also cooperation with the work of the Housatonic Valley Association. Questions and answers followed.

Mike Towle then reviewed the services that WestCOG is providing to municipalities to meet the federal MS4 stormwater management plan preparation requirements. These include development of municipal plan sectional templates, identification of missing legal authority, and sample methodologies to meet various federally required components of the municipal MS4 plan. Results of the planning survey of MS4 needs are now coming in, he said.

An overview of the process was described as follows:

Stormwater Plan Minimum Control Measures

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement/Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff
5. Post Construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping

Structure

- Checklist of requirements
- No unnecessary language
- Describe how the town currently meets requirements or how it will do so.
- If town meets the requirement, provide documentation

Remaining Process

- WestCOG staff finalizes draft end of September
- DEEP to review in October
- Towns review and comment October - November
- Update November-December
- Obtain DEEP approval December
- Distribute for municipal use

Carl Zimmerman then overviewed the steps WestCOG is taking to provide the municipal maps required for inclusion in the eighteen municipal plans. An update was also provided on MS4 related pilot studies in Bethel and Stamford. Questions and answers followed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Transportation Funding Opportunities: Rob Sachnin reviewed the FFY 2016-2020 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Known in earlier years as the "Transportation Enhancement" program, some of the rules and procedures for this popular funding category have changed, he said. Then revisions were summarized on a handout and were included in an email distributed on this topic.

He noted that in accordance with CTDOT solicitation guidelines, up to three new and three existing applications, along with a prioritized list of contingency projects, may be submitted by each of WestCOG's two MPOs: six per MPO. The initial funding estimate is \$1.3 million to be available for projects in the HVMPO area and \$2.5 million to be available in the SWRMPO area.

The most important action for municipalities is to submit project proposal summaries to him by 10/13/2016, Mr. Sachnin said. The short form for this submission was then reviewed. Full applications will be needed by mid-November.

It is then expected that the Technical Advisory Group will make prioritized recommendations at its November meeting, then to be acted upon by the two MPOs at their December meeting. A discussion followed.

2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Rob Sachnin then addressed this topic, noting that the 2018-2021 list of TIP projects is expected from CTDOT shortly. These will be circulated to TAG members for their review. The TIP list is the capital program that CTDOT and the MPOs jointly recognize as the plan for obligation of federal transportation funds, he said.

Status of CTDOT Corridor Studies: Rob Sachnin reviewed a recently received policy statement from CT DOT on this topic, noting that CT DOT will not be soliciting applications for corridor studies this year. Reasons are reduced staff levels, increased work load, and additional tasks related to the Community Connectivity Program, Road Safety Audits and the statewide Ramp Up Program.

MPO Consolidation by Proposed Federal Rulemaking: Rob Sachnin updated members on this topic. A proposed federal rule would shift MPO boundaries to follow the federally defined "urbanized area" boundary, cutting across the nine new Connecticut planning region boundaries and the New York State boundary.

He stated that SWRMPO and HVMPO met jointly on August 12 to address this topic with US Representative Himes, and US Representative Estes and others. The TAG will be updated as the issue develops.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 7/12/2016 Minutes: on a motion made by James Michel and seconded by Peter Ratkiewich, the minutes of the 7/12/2016 meeting were unanimously approved, with an abstention by Robert Nerney.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion items raised by the TAG: There was no additional discussion.

Future presentations and items of interest: It was noted that when the TAG meets in October CT DOT Principal Engineer William Britnell is to present the Department's new Roundabout Policy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM. It was followed by a break-out session for HVMPO members to discuss the direction of their LOTCIP funding.