

APPROVED 10/06/2016 MINUTES

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING AT THE COMSTOCK COMMUNITY CENTER

180 SCHOOL ROAD, WILTON, CT 06897

IN ATTENDANCE

- Bethel Director of Public Works Douglas Arndt
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
- Danbury Absent
- Darien Planning and Zoning Director Jeremy Ginsberg
- Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel

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

- Redding Absent
- Ridgefield Absent
- Sherman Absent
- Stamford Transportation Planner Emily Provonsha
- Weston Absent
- Westport Town Engineer Peter Ratkiewich
- Wilton Director of Planning Robert Nerney

New Milford Town Planner Kathy Castagnetta, Darien Director of Public Works Edward Gentile, Jr., Roxane Fromson of CTDOT, and WestCOG staff members Kristin Hadjstylianos, James Dobson, Robert Brinton, Michael Towle, Robert Sachnin and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM by Robert Sachnin. Stephanie Scavelli distributed information regarding the Norwalk Transit District's service and fare changes proposed to be effective on or after January 1, 2017.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

PRESENTATIONS

CTDOT POLICY ON ROUNDABOUTS: A presentation on CTDOT roundabout policy was made by CTDOT Principal Engineer William Britnell, PE. He reviewed the evolution of the Department's roundabout policy from strongly opposed to strongly in favor today.

He then gave a PowerPoint presentation that overviewed roundabouts recently completed in Connecticut as well as those in the planning stages. Importantly, the significant decrease in accident rates attributed to retrofitting with roundabouts nationally has now been documented for Connecticut's completed roundabout projects, he said.

And as the Department gains experience, more complex designs are being approved. The example was a proposed safety project for the Route 82 corridor in Norwich where medians will be installed to limit left turns out of businesses, those vehicles then proceeding right to one of six consecutive roundabouts to make their left turn.

The Department welcomes municipal proposals for roundabouts, he said. The initial CTDOT review will look for high accident rates, high left turn volumes, more than four intersection legs, or other odd intersectional geometry. There was then considerable discussion, after which Mr. Britnell was thanked for his presentation.

REGIONAL TRAFFIC COUNTING SERVICE: A presentation on the new WestCOG regional traffic counting service was then made by Jamie Dawson. Newly acquired WestCOG video equipment is attached to a sign post or utility pole near the intersection under study, public sign post rather than privately owned utility pole preferred to facilitate use.

Batteries allow for 48-hours of continuous recording, such that data gathered for two adjacent 24 hour periods is preferred, recharging the cameras for split dates also feasible. The completed video is forwarded to a business that generates traffic tables by turning movements, vehicle size & multi-modal counts. Samples of resulting spreadsheets were displayed.

Assisting with remediating high accident locations is the program's top priority. Mr. Dawson stated that there is at present no charge for this regional service, a direct cost savings to municipalities. He distributed the application form for the service. The presentation was followed by discussion.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Transportation Alternatives Program: Rob Sachnin reviewed the status of the FFY 2016-2020 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) solicitation. 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. The application process was reviewed, with project proposal summaries requested by 10/13/2016.

2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Rob Sachnin noted that the 2018-2021 draft list of TIP projects has been received from CTDOT and is being reviewed. Drafts will be circulated to TAG members for their review.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 9/14/2016 Minutes: On a motion made by Mike Yeosock and seconded by Jim Michel, the minutes of the 9/14/2016 TAG meeting were unanimously approved by SWRMPO town representatives.

Transportation Improvement Program: Rob Sachnin reviewed a proposed TIP amendment from CTDOT regarding Project #56-316 affecting I-95 in Greenwich and Stamford. The project includes seven miles of pavement rehabilitation, selected median barrier replacement, movement of illumination into the median, and some bridge rehabilitation.

As noted in an agenda attachment the seven components of Project #56-316 total to \$177,532,000 in federal National Highway Performance Program funding and accompanying State matching funds. There was discussion.

Then on a motion made by Jim Michel and seconded by Stephanie Scavelli, the TIP amendment regarding Project #56-316 for I-95 remediation was unanimously recommended for SWRMPO approval.

Public Participation and Title VI Plan

Jon Chew reviewed the draft update which had been distributed earlier. The new document will be a combination of current SWRMPO and HVMPO policies, standardized into one text for both organizations, he said.

Rob Sachnin noted that due to differences between current MPO adoption policies for public participation policy components, SWRMPO has two additional steps required prior to simultaneous public distribution of the draft by the MPOs. These are a TAG recommendation for preliminary approval to SWRMPO, followed by SWRMPO preliminary approval to enable the simultaneous public review process.

Then on a motion made by Peter Ratkiewich and a second by Jim Michel, the draft document was recommended to SWRMPO for its preliminary approval.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM. A supplemental session for discussion of SWRMPO LOTCIP funded project activities followed.