

Housatonic Valley  
Metropolitan Planning Organization  
**APPROVED HVMPO MINUTES**

For the 1/23/2017 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	Absent
Brookfield	First Selectman Stephen Dunn
Danbury	Absent
New Fairfield	Absent
New Milford	Mayor David Gronbach
Newtown	First Selectman Patricia Llodra
Redding	First Selectman Julia Pemberton
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chairman
Sherman	Absent
Transit	HARtransit Development Director Richard Schreiner
CTDOT	Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
MPO Staff	Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

#### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Greenwich First Selectman Peter Tesei, New Canaan First Selectman Robert Mallozzi, Norwalk Chief of Staff Laoise King, Stamford Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, Weston First Selectman Nina Daniel, Westport First Selectman James Marpe, Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, Norwalk Transit Chief Executive Officer Kimberlee Morton, HARtransit Planner Harrison Wenchell and Operations Manager Robert Yastremski.

Also Newtown First Selectman's Intern John Board, Norwalk Transit Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli, Eversource representatives Tracy Alston, Cathy Larson and their Associate, Brookfield Project Manager Greg Dembowski, Ellen Grant of Senator Blumenthal's office, other citizens, WestCOG staff members Robert Brinton, Patricia Payne, Elizabeth Esposito, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Nicole Sullivan, William Kenny, Patty Payne, Robert Sachnin, Carl Zimmerman and Jonathan Chew.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM which was immediately after the Legislative Breakfast.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### INFORMATION ITEMS

**Update on Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):** Rob Sachnin provided an update on the TAP application process, the prioritized recommendations for which were approved

by the MPO at its December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Initial reactions are expected from CTDOT in April, he said.

Before that date, CTDOT will be contacting applicants for additional information as may be needed. The state staff review is to include confirming project purpose and need, reviewing cost estimates, and assessing “critical path” issues such as sequencing of permits and utility coordination. A discussion followed.

**Congestion Management Process (CMP) Reports:** Rob Sachnin reviewed two short reports distributed to members and entitled “CMP Executive Briefing for I-95” and “CMP Executive Briefing for I-84.” Joint products of the WestCOG GIS and Transportation Departments, he said the reports serve as tools for evaluating deficiencies within the transportation system and the effectiveness of improvement projects over time.

Francis Pickering noted that the I-84 data will feed into the staff’s involvement with the recently initiated I-84 Danbury widening study. Average speed change diagrams for both corridors were also presented.

The I-95 report documented that congestion has worsened since 2014, with the average southbound speed in 2014 of 53.5 mph decreasing to 48.8 mph in 2015. And on I-84 through Bethel, average travel speeds decreased by at least 10 mph for westbound vehicles, Mr. Sachnin said.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval of 12/15/2016 Meeting Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Steve Dunn, the minutes of the HVMPO meeting of 12/15/2016 were unanimously approved.

**Transportation Improvement Program Amendment:** As requested by Rudy Marconi, Rob Sachnin reviewed the CT DOT requested TIP amendment. This was attached to the agenda as a memo entitled “HVMPO FFY2015-2018 TIP” and was summarized by him as follows:

**HVTIP #Am2017-001**, for CTDOT Project #170-3439 statewide, request of funds from the STPA federal category at \$660,000 total of which 80% is federal and 20% state, for federally eligible engineering charges for CTDOT and their consultant VHB such as project oversight, administration and review.

These resources will allow for processing of recently submitted TAP projects, the current services contract with VHB expiring soon, he said. There was brief discussion. Then on a motion made by Steve Dunn and seconded by Matt Knickerbocker, HVTIP #Am2017-001 was unanimously approved.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was a second opportunity provided for public comment, of which there was none.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Rudy Marconi stated that the next meeting would be held at 11:30 AM before the WestCOG meeting scheduled for 2/23/2017 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 10:10 AM.