

Housatonic Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization
APPROVED HVMPO MINUTES
For the 2/23/2017 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	First Selectman Susan Chapman
New Milford	Mayor David Gronbach
Newtown	First Selectman Patricia Llodra
Redding	First Selectman Julia Pemberton
Ridgefield	First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chairman
Sherman	First Selectman Clay Cope
Transit	HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner
CTDOT	Absent
MPO Staff	Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Greenwich Selectman John Toner, Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief James Travers, Weston First Selectman Nina Daniel, Westport First Selectman James Marpe, Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, and Norwalk Transit Chief Executive Officer Kimberlee Morton.

Also Former Weston First Selectman Woody Bliss, HARTransit Planner Harrison Wenchell, Weston citizen Dr. Margaret Wirtenberg, Norwalk Transit Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli, Eversource representatives Tracy Alston and Garrett Sheehan, WestCOG staff members Nicole Sullivan, William Kenny, James Bastian, Robert Sachnin, Carl Zimmerman and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rudy Marconi called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Former Weston First Selectman Woody Bliss, representing the CT Alliance Against Casino Expansion, spoke to current legislative trends authorizing casinos on non-Indian land. While this appears to be an issue for the Greater Hartford Area, the I-95 Corridor through WestCOG is the more lucrative market and we must prepare our opposition, he said. There was discussion. Past SWRMPO and HVMPO traffic impact studies were cited.

Clay Cope stated that he is seeking assistance from WestCOG and from the adjacent COG to the north to examine options for increasing the geographic area of cell service in Sherman and adjacent areas.

The chairman welcomed new staff member James Bastian.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant Program: Richard Schreiner reviewed the current 5310 Grant Program solicitation, referring to an agenda attachment entitled "Section 5310 Grant Program." This provides funding for capital and operating expenses to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities, he said. Questions were answered followed by brief discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 1/23/2017 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Pat Llodra and seconded by Matt Knickerbocker, the minutes of the HVMPO meeting of 1/23/2017 were unanimously approved, Clay Cope abstaining.

Transportation Improvement Program Amendment HVTIP #Am2017-002: As requested by Rudy Marconi, Rob Sachnin reviewed the two CT DOT requested TIP amendments, detailed in an agenda attachment entitled "HVMPO FFY2015-2018 TIP" and summarized as follows:

1. **CT DOT Project #18-135** for improvements at three locations along Route 202 in Brookfield; at Shop Rite/Chick-fil-A, at Beverly Drive, and at the southern junction of Old New Milford Road. All three have been under WestCOG study and have abnormally high accident rates, he said.

The CT DOT request is to utilize funds from the STPO Category at \$900,000 for preliminary design to be programmed in federal year 2017. Steve Dunn expressed his support for the project, having been told by the DOT Commissioner that the coordinated endorsement provided by Brookfield's boards and commissions was important in obtaining his support.

2. **CTDOT Project #174-418** to replace traffic control signals at 12 locations, four of which are within the HVMPO area: Bethel Route 6 at Payne Road, New Fairfield Route 37 at Route 39, Newtown I-84 westbound Exit 10 at Church Hill Road, and Newtown Route 34 at Bennett's Bridge Road and Grays Bridge Road.

CT DOT is to utilize funds from the STPA Category at \$495,000 total of which 100% is federal for preliminary design and to be programmed in federal fiscal year 2017, Mr. Sachnin said.

There were some questions answered, then on a motion made by Pat Llodra and seconded by Matt Knickerbocker, the HVMPO unanimously endorsed the two TIP amendments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Rudy Marconi stated that the next MPO meeting would be held at 11:30 AM before the WestCOG meeting scheduled for 3/16/2017 at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association in Ridgefield. Then on a motion made by Susan Chapman and seconded by Clay Cope, it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 am.