

1/11/2017 APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

Held at the Comstock Community Center, 180 School Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

### IN ATTENDANCE

- Bethel Town Planner Beth Cavagna
- Brookfield Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
- Danbury Senior Design Engineer Tom Altermatt
- Darien Planning and Zoning Director Jeremy Ginsberg
- Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel
- New Canaan Absent
- New Fairfield Absent
- New Milford Town Engineer Daniel Stanton
- Newtown Director of Planning George Benson
  
- Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
- Norwalk TD Manager of Planning Stephanie Scavelli
- Redding Absent
- Ridgefield Town Engineer Charles Fisher
- Stamford Stamford Traffic Engineer Robert Zaitooni
- Weston Land Use Director Tracy Kulikowski
- Westport Town Engineer Peter Ratkiewich
- Wilton Director of Planning Robert Nerney

### ALSO ATTENDING

William Buckley of Harbor Point, Danbury Planning Director Sharon Calitro, New Milford Town Planner Kathy Castagnetta, Roxane Fromson of CTDOT, and WestCOG staff members Robert Brinton, Michael Towle, Robert Sachnin, Elizabeth Esposito, and Jonathan Chew.

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by Robert Sachnin.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### PRESENTATION

#### **MS4 Update and Resources Available to Municipalities**

A presentation on this topic was made by WestCOG Associate Planner Michael Towle. He reviewed the services WestCOG is providing to municipalities to meet the federal MS4 stormwater management plan preparation requirements. HVA is

assisting in the north and Harbor Watch in the south. Questions and answers followed.

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Rob Sachnin provided an update on the Transportation Alternatives Program. The prioritized recommendations approved by the Technical Advisory Group at its November meeting were then approved by the two MPOs at their December meeting, he said.

Reactions are expected from CTDOT in March or April. Roxane Fromson stated that before that date, the Department will be contacting applicants for additional information as needed. A discussion followed.

## ACTION ITEMS

**Approval of 10/6/2016 and 12/6/2016 Minutes:** on a motion made by Peter Ratkiewich and seconded by Michael Yeosock, the minutes of the meetings of 10/6/2016 and 12/6/2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Transportation Improvement Program (SWR):** Rob Sachnin lead the discussion on this topic, noting that the TIP list is the capital program that CTDOT and the MPOs jointly structure the plan for obligating federal transportation funds.

For review today was Norwalk Project #102-296. This CTDOT requested TIP amendment is for resurfacing, bridge and safety improvements on 6.1 miles of the Merritt Parkway, from Exit 37 at Route 124 in New Canaan easterly through Norwalk, to the Newtown Turnpike in Westport near Exit 41.

An agenda attachment noted this project is the final stage of Parkway maintenance, and was carefully designed to preserve character and aesthetics in conformance with the Merritt Parkway Guidelines.

The planned Parkway maintenance includes selective pavement replacement and resurfacing, bridge improvements, shoulder widening, drainage improvements, guiderail replacement, and removal of fixed objects within the recommended clear zone or their protection with new guiderail.

The request is for funding of the preliminary design phase, at a total of \$2,000,000 of which 80% is to be federal and 20% state. The TAG action requested is to review and recommend endorsement by SWRMPO using Resolution #2017-001, this amendment to be known as SWRTIP #Am2016-009.

There was discussion. Then on a motion made by Robert Nerney and seconded by James Michel, the TIP amendment was unanimously recommended for endorsement by SWRMPO.

**Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) Adjustments:** Robert Sachnin reviewed two spreadsheets attached to the agenda, the first entitled “Draft WestCOG LOTICIP – Housatonic Valley Region Program” and the second “Draft WestCOG LOTICIP – South Western Region Program.”

The project dollars available for FY2014 thru FY2016 for Housatonic Valley was shown as \$9,644,710 and for South Western \$18,117,290.

He noted the inevitability in this type of process of program changes due to timing of project segments and minor scope changes. There was then a discussion of the projects shown and adjustments needed.

There was then a motion to recommend WestCOG approval of recommended staff changes, made by Peter Ratkiewich, seconded by Robert Nerney, voted all aye.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Discussion items raised by the TAG:** Jim Michel raised the issue of ADA accessibility rules as they are applied to the municipal sidewalk system; have there been lawsuits against municipalities not preparing town wide upgrade plans? There was considerable discussion.

**UConn T2 Training:** Upcoming training opportunities from the UConn Technology Transfer Center were discussed.

**Future presentations and items of interest:** Hugh Hayward and team from CTDOT will attend the March TAG meeting for a review of LOTCIP.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.