

South Western Region

Metropolitan Planning Organization

APPROVED SWRMPO MINUTES

For the 3/16/2017 Meeting

Held at the Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association

27 Governor Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877

Chairman Jayme Stevenson - Vice Chairman Robert Mallozzi

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Darien	First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Chairman
Greenwich	Deputy Public Works Director James Michel (by phone)
New Canaan	First Selectman Robert Mallozzi (by phone)
Norwalk	Chief of Staff Laoise King
Stamford	Transportation Bureau Chief James Travers
Weston	First Selectman Nina Daniel
Westport	First Selectman James Marpe
Wilton	Absent
Transit	Norwalk Transit District CEO Kimberlee Morton
CTDOT	Supervising Planner Roxane Fromson (non-voting)
MPO Staff	Executive Director Francis Pickering (non-voting)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bethel First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read, Brookfield First Selectman Stephen Dunn, New Milford Mayor David Gronbach, Newtown Public Works Director Frederick Hurley, Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Sherman First Selectman Clay Cope, HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner, former Connecticut Congressman Robert Steele and former Weston First Selectman Woody Bliss representing the Coalition Against Casino Expansion in Connecticut.

In addition, Patricia Cimarosa and Martin Fox of the Westport Transit District, Westport Town Meeting Transit Committee Member John Suggs, Kayleigh Lombardi and Sean Gbio of the CT Partnership for Strong Communities, HARTransit Planner Harrison Wenchell, Weston Town Attorney Patricia Sullivan, Eversource representative Garrett Sheehan, Newtown Town Engineer Ronald Bolmer, WestCOG staff members Kristin Hadjstylianos, Michael Sullivan, William Kenny, Nicole Sullivan, Kristin Floberg, Robert Sachnin and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER

SWRMPO Chairman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

Visit us online at westcog.org

1 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482 T 203-316-5190 • F 253-252-8543

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jim Marpe introduced Patricia Cimarosa and Martin Fox of the Westport Transit District and Westport Town Meeting Transit Committee Member John Suggs, noting their role as advocates for improving public transit services in Westport. The Chairman introduced new staff member Kristin Floberg, who was welcomed by the Council.

CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Kristin Hadjstylianos and Michael Sullivan then made a PowerPoint presentation on their progress in preparing a federally required Congestion Management Process for the region (CMP). The CMP uses analytical tools to define and identify congestion within the two MPO areas. The point is to have a modern data set meeting federal standards, upon which the transportation planning process can prioritize strategies to address congestion, they said.

The process starts with an analysis of the higher level limited access roadways, with data presented for I-95, Route 7 and the Merritt Parkway. An Executive Briefing for each corridor was distributed, then summarized in a PowerPoint presentation.

Funding commitments and opportunities to reduce congestion were summarized. Plans were outlined for future use of CMP analytic tools to promote additional investments. A short question and answer period followed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

FTA Section 5310 Grant Solicitation: Richard Schreiner reviewed the current Federal Transit Administration 5310 Grant Program solicitation, referring to an agenda attachment dated 2/28/2017 and entitled "Section 5310 Grant Program." Nine applicants have expressed interest thus far, he said.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2/23/2017 Meeting Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Jim Marpe and seconded by Nina Daniel, the minutes of the meeting of 2/23/2017 were unanimously approved, with Laoise King abstaining.

TIP Amendments Notated as SWRTIP #Am2017-003: As requested by Jayme Stevenson, Rob Sachnin reviewed two CTDOT requested Transportation Improvement Program amendments. These were attached to the agenda as a memo entitled "SWRMPO FFY2015-2018 TIP" and summarized by him as follows:

1. **CTDOT Project #173-472** to improve signs along the Merritt Parkway. Originally endorsed by SWRMPO in January of 2016, now returned to the MPO as the federal funding share has increased, the proposed update would include the installation, replacement and relocation of variable message signs (VMS) in Greenwich, Norwalk and Westport.

Mr. Sachnin noted that the current VMS on the Merritt Parkway was installed in 1993 and has exceeded its useful life. He also stated that the upgrade is supported by the Merritt Parkway Advisory Committee.

Specific location in Greenwich: replacement northbound near the Riversville Road Bridge. Norwalk locations: relocation northbound near Exit 38, new location northbound near Exit 41, and new location on Route 7 southbound near the Merritt Parkway interchange. Westport: southbound replacement near Exit 41. CT DOT proposes to utilize funds from the federal NHPP Category at \$5,500,000, 100% federal for construction to be programmed in federal fiscal year 2017, he said.

2. CTDOT Project #158-215 will undertake safety and operational improvements at three intersections on Route 1 in Westport. There are elevated accident rates at the three Route 1 intersections to be upgraded, which are Fresh Market Driveway near Rayfield Road, the intersection of Roseville Road and Hillspoint Road, and Bulkley Avenue North and South intersections.

Proposed improvements include the addition of left turn lanes, upgrades to traffic signal equipment, and the addition of new curbs and sidewalks. CT DOT proposes to utilize funds from the federal STPB Category at \$250,000, split as 80% federal and 20% state for a preliminary design phase, the funds to be programmed in federal fiscal year 2017, he said.

Jim Marpe stated that the high accident rates at these locations are well known, include a pedestrian fatality, and that the Town of Westport is supportive of the proposed improvements. Discussion continued after which on a motion made by Jim Marpe and seconded by Laoise King, SWRMPO voted unanimously to endorse the two TIP amendments presented using attached Resolution #2017-003.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Jayme Stevenson stated that the next MPO meeting will be held at 11:30 am before the WestCOG meeting scheduled for 4/20/2017 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 11:55 am.