

APPROVED MINUTES OF 3/7/2017
Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

Held at the Comstock Community Center
180 School Road, Wilton, CT 06897

Representing Voting Members of the South

Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization:

- Darien Planning and Zoning Director Jeremy Ginsberg
- Greenwich Deputy Commissioner of Public Works James Michel
- New Canaan Absent
- Norwalk Assistant Principal Engineer Michael Yeosock
- Norwalk TD Absent
- Stamford Transportation Bureau Chief James Travers
- Weston Land Use Director Tracy Kulikowski
- Westport Town Engineer Peter Ratkiewich
- Wilton Director of Planning Robert Nerney

Representing Voting Members of the Housatonic

Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization:

- Bethel Director of Public Works Douglas Arndt
- Bridgewater Absent
- Brookfield Director of Public Works Ralph Tedesco
- Danbury Public Works Director Antonio Iadarola
- HARTransit Development Director Richard Schreiner
- New Fairfield Absent
- New Milford Public Works Director Michael Zarba
- Newtown Public Works Director Frederick Hurley
- Redding Absent
- Ridgefield Town Engineer Charles Fisher
- Sherman Absent

Also In Attendance:

From the CTDOT Bureau of Engineering and Construction Hugh Hayward, William Grant, Jeffrey Pfaffinger, from the CTDOT Bureau of Planning Roxane Fromson, Brookfield Project Manager Greg Dembowski, Harrison Wenchell of HARTransit, New Milford Town Engineer Daniel Stanton, Newtown Town Engineer Ronald Bolmer and Danbury Engineering Department Traffic Engineer Abdul Mohamed and Office Manager Dot Stasny.

In addition, Stamford Traffic Engineer Mani Poola, Westport Transit District Alternate John Suggs, Westport resident Morley Boyd, Frank Petrie of the Greenwich Department of Public Works, and WestCOG staff members Robert Brinton, Michael Towle, Kristin Floberg, Robert Sachnin, Carl Zimmerman, Elizabeth Esposito, Jamie Bastian, Kristin Hadjstylianos and Jonathan Chew.

CALL TO ORDER / PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by Robert Sachnin. There was no public participation.

LOTICIP PRESENTATION

Representatives of CTDOT managing Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) funding were introduced. These were Hugh Hayward, Principal Engineer, assisted by William Grant, Project Manager, and Jeffrey Pfaffinger, Project Engineer.

Hugh Hayward gave a PowerPoint presentation on the origins of state funded LOTICIP resources, their current status and expected direction. This is a major source of funding for the higher functional classifications of roads in each municipality, he said.

The LOTICIP resource statewide is \$45 million allocated each year for FY14 and FY15, \$74 million allocated for FY16 and FY17, then \$62 million and \$64 million requested in the current budget for FY18 and FY19. There was considerable discussion, after which the presenters were thanked for their attendance.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

FTA Section 5310 Grant Solicitation: Richard Schreiner reviewed the current Federal Transit Administration 5310 Grant Program solicitation for both MPO areas, referring to an agenda attachment dated 2/28/2017 and entitled "Section 5310 Grant Program."

He explained that this resource provides funding for capital and operating expenses to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. Senior Center directors have been notified. Nine applicants have expressed interest thus far, he said. A brief question and answer period followed.

MS4 Update and Resources Available: 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.

Mr. Towle reviewed an agenda attachment entitled "MS4 Update" outlining the procedure for submission of plans to CTDEEP by the 4/1/2017 due date, registration procedure and activities template. Questions followed.

GIS Update / Snow Plow Route Optimization Study: Carl Zimmerman addressed these topics, first providing an update on GIS developments. He then proceed to discuss the upcoming regional snow plow routing study, distributing a document entitled "Draft Snowplow Study Overview."

Mr. Zimmerman noted that cooperating communities elsewhere have obtained savings by adjusting public works snow removal practices along town lines to make them more efficient. There is also an opportunity to apply systems data to identify routing efficiencies within a municipality, he said.

The effort will engage an OPM funded consultant to recommend route optimization. The presentation was followed by considerable discussion.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 1/11/2017 Minutes: on a motion made by Mike Yeosock and seconded by Ralph Tedesco, the minutes of the TAG meeting of 1/11/2017 were unanimously approved, with an abstention by James Travers.

LOTICIP Program Adjustments: Robert Sachnin reviewed a spreadsheet attached to the agenda entitled “WestCOG Housatonic Valley Region LOTICIP Program 3/17/2017.” He noted the inevitability of program changes due to timing of project segments and minor scope changes.

Mr. Sachnin reviewed the two revisions thereon: a) Newtown Toddy Hill Road Bridge Replacement increased from \$2,596,000 to \$3,200,000, and 2) the Bethel Downtown TOD and Streetscape at \$1,500,000 moved from FY2016 to FY2017.

There was a discussion of the projects shown and adjustments needed. Then on a motion made by Mike Zarba and seconded by Ralph Tedesco, the requested LOTICIP program adjustments were unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion Items, Future Presentations and Upcoming Meetings: There was discussion of undertaking a comprehensive survey of pavement conditions and the variability of pavement management practices by municipality. Roxane Fromson agreed to research the availability of CTDOT grants for this activity.

There was also a discussion of preparations for any possible surge in federal road and traffic improvement funds if the current national administration favors this topical area.

The WestCOG “Ladders of Opportunity” summary report will be presented at the next TAG meeting. The list of upcoming WestCOG related meetings was reviewed, next TAG meeting scheduled for 4/4/2017, if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.